

FALL SEMESTER 2012 SYLLABUS

Mus 1513/1514 Voice Performance Study

1513: one credit hour

1514: two credit hours

Prof. Amy Reiff
B-144
Studio B-133: (202) 994-1228
areiff@gwu.edu

Music Office,
(202) 994-6245

COURSE DESCRIPTION/OBJECTIVES

Performance study in voice will include individual instruction in vocal technique, performance preparation and basic musicianship skills that will foster independent and self-motivated learners. This study will also foster the student's critical understanding of both the act of performance and the reception of repertoire.

EXPECTED LEARNING OUTCOMES

On completing study at the 1 level in this area students will be able to:

Musicianship

1. Display and use practical musicianship skills in vocal sightreading/music preparation.

Performance

2. Perform repertoire from at least 2 style and 2 periods, at least one of which is in a foreign language
3. Perform repertoire that represents sustained technical development
4. Display secure and somewhat consistent vocal technique
 - Breath support
 - Alignment
 - Registration
 - Articulation (and diction)
5. Use knowledge of the period style, the musical affect and performance practice to achieve a basic level of informed expression
6. Participate in a select ensemble

Critical Understanding

7. Understand performance choices and support those choices in a statement or in response to questions at performance exam.
8. Speak with a perceivable argument.

GRADING POLICY

- Lessons/Repertoire = 75% (each lesson is graded and the lowest grade is discarded, the rest are averaged for this component of your grade)
- Written Assignments, All-Voice Attendance, and Studio Recital = 25% (*see checklist*)

Progress in Lessons

Only a student who has made truly excellent progress will be given an A. In this studio to earn an A you must engage in the study of Voice at both the technical and intellectual level. Your lessons will be successful in direct relationship to the amount and quality of time spent practicing and preparing for your lesson each week.

FALL SEMESTER 2012 SYLLABUS 1513 and 1514 (continued)

CLASS REQUIREMENTS

(Repertoire, Written Assignments, All-Voice Recital, Studio Recital, Memorization)

1. Repertoire

1513: *Minimum* of three songs, two to be memorized by your final lesson.

1514: *Minimum* of four songs, three to be memorized by your final lesson.

2. Readings – As assigned by instructor – *if* assigned by instructor.

3. “Midterm” – Song Reports: One for *each assigned song*. **Due:** Friday, October 26, 4:00 p.m.

4. Required Attendance at All-Voice Recital: Friday, November 16, 7:30 p.m. Location TBA

5. Research/Writing Vocal Performance Reviews (500-1000 words each)

1513: *One Vocal Performance Review* **Due:** Friday, December 7, 4:00 p.m.

1514: *Two Vocal Performance Reviews* **Due:** Friday, December 7, 4:00 p.m.

6. Perform one memorized song on Studio Recital.

Date and Location: TENTATIVE: December 7, 5:00, B-120, Phillips

PLEASE NOTE: *At the end of your third semester of study, you must do a VPE (Voice Performance Exam) to audition for the 2000 level of Voice Study. You get two chances (in other words, two semesters) to advance to 2000 level. Determination for advancement is made on the basis of demonstrated vocal technique and music preparation ability.*

The first VPE does not count in any way toward your final course grade.

IMPORTANT: *If you do not pass to 2000 level after your first VPE, then you are “on probation,” and must audition again the following semester. At this second attempt, the VPE counts 25% toward your final grade. All class assignments count 25% toward final grade, and actual lessons count 50% toward your final grade.*

VPE – DATE TBA, during Final Exam Period _____

General Lesson Protocol

Students are expected to attend every lesson ready for the physical activity of singing, music and materials in a 3-ring binder, and with a pencil on hand. *Have 2 copies of each of your songs; one for you, and one for accompanist/professor.* Be on time and well prepared. Come with questions.

GENERAL NOTE: **Communication will be made primarily through your GWU email account. Please plan on checking this account regularly and responding promptly. Thank you.**

CLASS POLICIES

Department of Music Performance Study Attendance Policy – and How it Relates to Grading.

Lessons per semester = 13

Faculty are not obligated to schedule make-up lessons for those missed due to student absences, either excused or unexcused, (including illness, vacation, etc.). Excused absences can include religious holidays, poor health, (with a note from the health center or other medical professional), family emergency, or other events determined in advance by the faculty. There will be no negative impact on a student's grade for excused absences.

In the event of instructor cancellation, a make-up date will be scheduled.

Faculty and students should agree upon the best means of communicating attendance information.

If a student registers after the first (or second) scheduled lesson, that lesson (or lessons) will not be taught, nor count against the student's grade or attendance.

An instructor may substitute one instructor-led event for a lesson, such as a studio recital or workshop.

Unexcused absences will effect a semester grade in the following manner:

- *One unexcused absence – the impact on the semester final grade will be at the discretion of the instructor.*
- *Two unexcused absences – the grade will be lowered by one full grade (ex. from A to B)*
- *Each subsequent absence – lowers the grade one incremental step (ex. from B to B-)*

Late Assignments – Don't do it, as excessive tardiness could result in grade markdown.

I will accept any assignment early!

University Policy on Religious Holidays:

1. Students should notify faculty during the first week of the semester of their intention to be absent from class on their day(s) of religious observance;
2. Faculty should extend to these students the courtesy of absence without penalty on such occasions, including permission to make up examinations;
3. Faculty who intend to observe a religious holiday should arrange at the beginning of the semester to reschedule missed classes or to make other provisions for their course-related activities

[NOTE: for other university policies on teaching, see <http://www.gwu.edu/~academic/Teaching/main.htm>]

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

I personally support the GW Code of Academic Integrity. It states: "Academic dishonesty is defined as cheating of any kind, including misrepresenting one's own work, taking credit for the work of others without crediting them and without appropriate authorization, and the fabrication of information." For the remainder of the code, see: <http://www.gwu.edu/~ntegrity/code.html>

SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM*DISABILITY SUPPORT SERVICES (DSS)*

Any student who may need an accommodation based on the potential impact of a disability should contact the Disability Support Services office at 202-994-8250 in the Marvin Center, Suite 242, to establish eligibility and to coordinate reasonable accommodations. For additional information please refer to: <http://gwired.gwu.edu/dss/>

UNIVERSITY COUNSELING CENTER (UCC) 202-994-5300

The University Counseling Center (UCC) offers 24/7 assistance and referral to address students' personal, social, career, and study skills problems. Services for students include:

- crisis and emergency mental health consultations
 - confidential assessment, counseling services (individual and small group), and referrals
- <http://gwired.gwu.edu/counsel/CounselingServices/AcademicSupportServices>

SECURITY

In the case of an emergency, if at all possible, the class should shelter in place. If the building that the class is in is affected, follow the evacuation procedures for the building. After evacuation, seek shelter at a predetermined rendezvous location.