

## Syllabus

MUS 1513/1514

Fall 2012

Vocal Performance Study

## Professor Steve Wellman

Studio B-134 Phillips Hall

202-994-9033

Email: wellman@gwu.edu

---

---

### Course Description

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. Study at this level will reflect a balance of technical advancement, repertoire depth, and an integrated academic component.

### Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes:

On completing study at the 1500 level in this area students will be able to:

1. Display and use practical musicianship skills in vocal sight-reading
2. Develop practical knowledge of the basic elements of singing including proper singing habits, breath support and registration
3. Perform repertoire from at least 2 styles and 2 periods in at least 2 languages
4. Perform repertoire that represents sustained technical development
5. Display secure and somewhat consistent vocal technique
6. Use knowledge of the period style, the musical affect and performance practice to achieve a basic level of informed expression
7. Participate in a select ensemble
8. Understand performance choices and support those choices in a statement or response to questions at performance exam

### Grading

- Lessons = 80% (each lesson is graded based on completion of assignments such as learning songs, preparing translations and other assignments given each week)
- Written Assignments through Blackboard = 10%
- Studio recital = 10%

### General Lesson Protocol

Students are expected to attend every lesson ready to sing, with music and any other required materials. Please be on time and well prepared.

### Course Requirements

- 1 credit lesson – minimum of three songs from memory. 2 credit lesson – minimum of six songs from memory
- Listening/video assignment – all first and second semester voice students must watch one of these two videos: “The Singer’s Voice-The Vocal Folds”, “The Singer’s Voice-Breathing”. They are provided in the music lab.
- Studio recital – All students will participate. This is a performance event. You must memorize your songs and have them ready for a complete performance, with all the preparation that is required to achieve that end.
- Attendance at Performances. Four music performances, one of which must be the All Voice Recital. You will need to turn in the program for each performance you attend.
- Research/Writing: Two listening reports, one from a live performance and one from a recorded performance. Research repertoire and translate songs as assigned.
- Readings: As assigned by instructor.

### Progress in Lessons

Only a student who has made excellent progress will be given an A. To earn an A in this studio, you must engage in the study of the 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.

### **Department of Music Performance Study Attendance Policy**

- Lessons per semester – 13
- The department of music is not obligated to schedule make-up lessons for those missed due to student non-attendance, including illness, vacation, etc., whether excused or non-excused. In the event of an instructor cancellation, a make-up date will be scheduled.
- If a student registers after the scheduled lessons begin, any lessons missed 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/workshop
- Unexcused absences will result in a reduction of grade. One absence will affect that week's lesson grade, two absences will reduce the semester grade by one letter and each absence over two will result in a step reduction.

### **University Policy on Religious Holidays**

- 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;
- Faculty should extend to these students the courtesy of absence without penalty on such occasions, including permission to make up examinations;
- 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.

### **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) 202-994-8250

Any student who may need an accommodation based on the potential impact of a disability should contact the Disability Support Services office 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 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.