

**Vocal Jazz Syllabus**

Mus 1571,1572

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**Professor Alison Crockett**

Jazz Performance Techniques - voice

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**Fall 2012****Mus 1571,1572 Jazz Performance Techniques - voice****Course Description**

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

1. Read at a fundamental level.
2. Technique: develop practical knowledge of the basic elements of vocal technique and jazz styles to include:
  - Proper singing habits
  - Correct posture and breath support
  - Feeling of swing and swing phrasing
  - Basic arranging and chart writing
3. Repertoire: play a variety of literature and styles with an understanding of the proper technique associated with those styles
  - 1 credit lesson – Minimum of three songs representing a variety of styles and periods. Two from memory
  - 2 credit lesson – Minimum of five songs representing a variety of styles and periods. Three from memory
4. Research/Writing: One listening, concert report or another similar assignment at the discretion of the teacher. Research repertoire as assigned.

**Textbook**-As assigned by instructor

**Department of Music Performance Study Attendance Policy**

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 an instructor cancellation, a make-up date will be scheduled.

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

## **(Syllabus Crockett Mus 1571/1572 P.2)**

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, workshop, or jam session.

Unexcused absences will affect 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–)

### **General Lesson Protocol**

Students are expected to attend every lesson with vocally warmed up, music and materials in a 3-ring binder, and a pencil. Be on time and well-prepared.

### **Course Requirements**

**1 credit lesson** – Minimum of five tunes selected from attached 0-level repertoire list. Ability to write out charts in appropriate key.

**2 credit lesson** – Five tunes selected from 0-level repertoire list and a minimum of three additional tunes of the instructor's choosing. Ability to write out charts in appropriate key.

**Paper** – You are required to write a 2 one page essays based off the 2 performances/jam sessions that you see outside of the university.

**Listening/video assignment** – as assigned by instructor (most songs must have corresponding recordings that student must learn)

**Tests** – mid-term evaluation during lesson and final at last lesson

**Studio/All Voice recital** – All students will participate either as a performer or audience member. 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. If not performing, this performance may be used as basis for writing assignment.

### **Jam Session Attendance**

All students are required to attend and participation in the Friday Jam Session a minimum of six times per semester. In the event of a class schedule conflict, a comparable number of performance or events may be approved by the instructor. This is a performance event. You must know your tune(s), and have them ready for a complete performance, with all the preparation that is required to achieve that end.

### **(Syllabus Crockett Mus 1571/1572 P.3)**

**Attendance at Performances** . One professional jazz vocal performance, and two GWU recitals/performances. You will need to turn in the program after you attend or give some proof (like ticket stub or small writing assignment) that you were there.

### **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.

### **General Lesson Protocol**

Students are expected to attend every lesson with their instrument in functioning order, music and materials, and a pencil. Be on time and well-prepared.

### **Grading**

*Final studio grade will be determined by:*

*Weekly Lesson Assessment = 70% - Each lesson is graded and the lowest grade is discarded, the rest are averaged for this component of your grade; assignments and studio recital participation will be included in this component*

*Research/listening/transcription assignments = 20%*

*Jam session attendance = 10%*

### **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>"

**(Syllabus Crockett Mus 1571/1572 P.4)**

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

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.