

Studio Policies and Syllabus for Vocal Technique - Fall 2024

MUS 1114 - 001
Credit: 1

Place: FAB 200
Time: M/W/F @ 11:00am - 11:50am

Instructor:

Dr. Andrew Alegría
Office: FAB 200A
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Email: andrew.alegria@sulross.edu

Office Hours:

M/W/F 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM or by appointment

Course Description: This course covers three areas: basic theory of singing, including the body's relationship to singing; lyric diction for choral ensembles and soloists; and vocal/choral rehearsal techniques.

Student Learning Outcomes:

- * SLO 1: All students will demonstrate the ability to integrate appropriate musical expression into performance.
- * SLO 2: All students will demonstrate the ability to research and prepare appropriate program notes.
- * SLO 3: All students will demonstrate the ability to evaluate and critique a musical performance.

Objectives

1. The student will understand the basic anatomy of singing.
2. The student will scan the body for singing difficulties using body mapping.
3. The student will apply and demonstrate specific vocal exercises.
4. The student will integrate body mapping and voice to improve singing function.
5. The student will understand and analyze components of music using appropriate terminology.
6. The student will synthesize information about music and singing.
7. The student will sing in an expressive manner consistent with healthy use of the voice.
8. The student will assess the singing of other singers as well as their own singing.

Marketable Skills:

The music student graduating with a BM in music (instrumental or vocal performance; instrumental or vocal education; or music business) should have the following Marketable Skills:

1. Ability to collaborate and network with others to achieve a shared goal, utilizing problem solving, flexibility and improvisation, and consideration of others' thoughts and creative processes.
2. Proficiency in public speaking and writing about music, especially in teaching basic musical concepts to all ages and incorporating technology for presentation and production.*
3. Ability to prepare and perform a program of age-appropriate, relevant, and diverse repertoire, as an individual or part of an ensemble, to an audience, advocating for the arts through engaging with and serving the community.
4. Experience using problem solving skills and abstract thinking to analyze compositions and examine their aesthetic through musical and extra-musical concepts, such as historical context and text setting.
5. Ability to create and disseminate basic marketing and public relations materials, as well as resumes, websites, and digital portfolios.

Marketable Skills specifically addressed by this course indicated with *

Required Materials

- Blackboard access
- Notebook and pencil/pen

Required Text Book:

Bickel, Jan E.. *Vocal Technique: A Physiologic Approach*. 2nd ed. San Diego: Plural Publishing, Inc., 2017.

Attendance: There are two types of absences: unexcused and excused. Regardless of the type of absence, students are responsible for the weekly readings and lectures. **DO NOT** schedule doctor's appointments, trips, etc., which conflict with class time. **DO NOT** take off early or return late from scheduled college vacations.

The tardy policy concerns students who arrive during or after class has begun. The sign-in sheet will be on the filing cabinets to the left as you enter room 200 (choir room). A tardy is equivalent to 1/3 an absence. Even if you know you will be more than 10 minutes late, still arrive. There is so much information to learn.

Excused absences include university activities and sickness. For both categories, an email must be sent to Dr. Alegría by either an SRSU professor, the SRSU university system, or a letter from your physician. Remember, a severe illness needs hospitalization or follow-up visits with a physician. Unless you are contagious, have a fever, or have projectile bodily fluids, make plans to come to class. You may sit in the back of the classroom, away from your classmates, while still taking notes.

Dr. Alegría will decide unexcused absences on a person-by-person basis. Known conflicts should be submitted by email as soon as possible. This includes but is not limited to mental health day, mental health week, forgetting about class, hanging out with friends and/or family, car problems, house problems, pet problems, personal illness in which the student does not plan to see the doctor (e. g. headaches, tummy-aches, toothaches, bowel movement problems, etc...).

- Each student will receive three unexcused absences for the whole semester. (A)
- Upon the 4th unexcused absence, you will be dropped one letter grade. (B)
- Upon the 5th unexcused absence, you will be dropped another letter grade. (C)
- Upon the 6th unexcused absence, you will be dropped another letter grade. (D)
- Upon the 7th unexcused absence, you will be dropped another letter grade. (F)

Grade Weighting

Grading Categories	Weighting
Exams	
Exam 1	15%
Exam 2	15%
Exam 3	15%
Final Exam:	15%
Homework	20%
Quizzes	10%
Active Participation and Attendance at Choir Concert	10%

Grade Scale

Letter Grades and Percentage Equivalent			
A	90 - 100	D	60 - 69.9
B	80 - 89.9	F	0 - 59.9
C	70 - 79.9		

Professional Communication Policy

- * All communication with me should be done by **SRSU Email**. Although I may remember our conversations, it is best for you to email me to remind me of what we discussed. I also understand that text messages are a valid way of communication, but SRSU only accepts emails as a legitimate form of communication.
- * You are expected to check your SRSU Email regularly.

SRSU Disability Services:

Sul Ross State University (SRSU) is committed to equal access in compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act of 1973. It is SRSU policy to provide reasonable accommodations to students with documented disabilities. It is the student's responsibility to initiate a request each semester for each class. Alpine students seeking accessibility/accommodations services must contact Mary Schwartze Grisham, M.Ed., LPC, SRSU's Accessibility Services Coordinator at 432-837-8203 (please leave a message and we'll get back to you as soon as we can during working hours), or email mschwartze@sulross.edu Our office is located on the first floor of Ferguson Hall (Suite 112), and our mailing address is P.O. Box C-122, Sul Ross State University, Alpine, Texas, 79832.

COURSE CALENDAR

You should take notes while reading each chapter to prepare for class discussion. Your active class participation demonstrates that you have read the text.

Week 1

Aug. 26 - 30 - Syllabus

Chapter I: Answers to Questions Before Developing a Vocal Technique

Week 2

Mon., Sep. 02 - No Class [Labor Day]

Sep. 04 - 06 - Chapter I: Answers to Questions Before Developing a Vocal Technique

Week 3

Sep. 09 - 13 - Chapter II: Anatomy of the Singer's Instrument: Design and Function

Week 4

Mon., Sep. 16 - Chapter II: Anatomy of the Singer's Instrument: Design and Function

Wed., Sep. 18 - Review Exam I

Fri., Sep. 20 - Exam I (Chapters I - II)

Week 5

Sep. 23 - 27 - Chapter III: Establishing Correct Posture for Singing

Week 6

Sep. 30 - Oct. 04 - Chapter IV: Breath Management for Singing

Week 7

Oct. 07 - 11 - Chapter V: The Physiology of Vocal Tone Production

Week 8

Mon., Oct. 14 - Chapter V: The Physiology of Vocal Tone Production

Wed., Oct. 16 - Review II

Fri, Oct., 18 - Exam II (Chapters III - V)

Week 9 - [Midterms]

Oct. 21 - 25 - Chapter VI: An Introduction to Articulation and Lyric Diction for Singers

Week 10

Oct. 28 - Nov. 01 - Chapter VI: An Introduction to Articulation
and Lyric Diction for Singers

Week 11

Nov. 04 - 08 - Chapter VII: Developing Beautiful Tone Quality, Resonance, & Freedom

Week 12

Mon., Nov. 11 - Chapter VII: Developing Beautiful Tone Quality, Resonance, & Freedom

Wed., Nov. 13 - Review Exam III

Wed., Nov. 15 - Exam III (Chapters VI - VII)

Week 13

Nov. 18 - 20 - Chapter VIII: Keeping Your Voice Healthy

Fri., Nov. 22 - Chapter IX: Beyond Vocal Technique: Becoming an Artistic Performer

Week 14

Mon., Nov. 25 - Chapter IX: Beyond Vocal Technique: Becoming an Artistic Performer

Nov. 27 - 29 - No Class (Thanksgiving Holiday)

Week 15

Mon., Dec. 02 - Chapter IX: Beyond Vocal Technique: Becoming an Artistic Performer

Wed., Dec. 04 - Review for Final Exam

Homework: Study for Final Exam

Final Exam (Chapters I - IX)

Tues. Dec. 10

10:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m

FAB 200 (Choir Room)

Disclaimer - Dates May Change:

Due to class accommodations, scheduled dates for assignments, tests, projects, and products may change. Assignments are also subject to revision depending on the class's progress.