



MUSC 3150

Division: Fine Arts

Department: Music

Course: MUSC 3150

Title: Vocal Pedagogy and Methods

Catalog Description:

This course is designed to teach those pursuing a bachelors degree in vocal performance how to sing and how to teach others to sing using correct principles and techniques. It is open to all who have been admitted to the B. Mus. Program, but is required for those completing the vocal performance track.

General Education Requirements: N/A

Semesters Offered: TBA

Credit/Time Requirement: Credit: 2; Lecture: 2; Lab: 0

Clock/Hour Requirements: 0

Offered for Non-Credit: No

Prerequisites: Admission to B. Music program or permission of instructor.

Justification:

Many graduates of music programs in performance find that they must earn at least a portion of their living by teaching students, either in the private studio or at charter or public schools. This course prepares all vocal music performance majors to teach students how to sing, using correct techniques and principles. In this way it is similar to courses taught in brass, string, woodwind and percussion pedagogy that prepare students to teach others to play. Courses of this type are commonly taught at other Utah colleges offering degrees in music education and vocal performance.

Student Learning Outcomes:

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- employ correct postural techniques, including feet, body and head alignment, and usage of the Alexander Technique of posture strengthening
- learn to breathe correctly for singing and employ all of the muscles available for both support and control of the tone
- learn the correct positioning of the throat, lips, tongue and teeth to create the optimal vocal resonance;
- learn the correct formation of vowels and consonants in English, Italian, French and German, and be able to correctly spell these words using the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA)
- learn to memorize vocal music and to perform it using proper performance practice

- learn to teach others all of the above principles, through a mentor/student relationship established with fellow classmates

Content:

- Posture
- The Alexander Technique
- The Feldenkreis Technique
- The muscles of inhalation and exhalation
- The muscles of breath control
- The muscles of the singing mechanism
- Vowel formation and types
- Common vocal literature
- Analysis of a piece of vocal music for study
- The International Phonetic Alphabet
- Pronunciation and common musical phrases in German, French and Italian
- Presentation skills and performance practices
- The voice teacher/student relationship: a unique bond

General Education Outcomes:

9) Respond with informed sensitivity to an artistic work or experience.

Students will learn musical literature from a wide range of composers. They will learn about the stylistic and historical importance of the music, and the correct performance practices associated with it. In addition, they will learn and teach music in various languages, and will learn how to pronounce and translate these languages for their own performance and to teach others. Students are tested in these skills using written and singing exams, as well as teaching presentations.

Key Performance Indicators:

Students in this course will be assessed using the following methods:

- Tests: written midterm and final exams;
- Group activity: private "mini-lessons";
- Presentations: pedagogical presentations;
- Participation: class attendance.

Representative Text and/or Supplies:

Miller, Kenneth. *Principles of Singing*. Prentice-Hall, current edition.

Vennard, William. *Singing: The Mechanism and Technique*. Carl Fischer, current edition.

Optimum Class Size: 15

Maximum Class Size: 25

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Signatures:

I hereby submit this course syllabus:

Steve Meredith, DMA, Associate Professor

I hereby find this course consistent with the goals and resources of the Music Department:

Steve Meredith, DMA, Associate Professor, Chair

I hereby find this course consistent with the goals and resources of the Fine Arts Division:

Vance Larsen, MM, Associate Professor, Dean

I have discussed the need for library resources related to this class with the person submitting the syllabus:

Lynn Anderson, MLIS, Technical Services Librarian (Main Campus)

Michelle Olsen, MLS, Campus Librarian (Richfield Campus)