

Applied Voice Instruction – AMUS 1201-101

AMUS 1202-101

AMUS 2201-101

AMUS 2202-101

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AMUS 4201-101

AMUS 4202-101

Midwestern State University Spring 2026 Syllabus

General Information

Instructor: Dr. Bret Smithey

Course Number: MUSC

Class Location: FA-C117K

Class Times: TBA

Class Dates: 1/20-5/4

Email: bret.smithey@msutexas.edu

Phone: (940) 397-4789

Office: Fain C117K

Course Description The purpose of this course is to provide students with a broad spectrum of information about the singing voice. This class will include technique, pedagogy, repertoire selection, long-term career development, practice methods, group studio instruction and entrepreneurship. Lessons will be tailored to the goals and needs of each individual student. Applied Voice lessons are a once-per-week meeting between the student and the teacher. This course is designed for Bachelor of Music Performance, Music Education majors and minors. The course may be repeated for credit.

Course Objectives and Student Learning Outcomes

Satisfactory completion of the course will document that students have demonstrated the ability to: Demonstrate healthy vocal technique and development of performance skills. Develop effective communication skills through acting, diction and the understanding of assigned texts. Apply vocal and performance techniques to assigned repertoire. Build a working knowledge of repertoire for young singers in all vocal categories through studio participation. Develop healthy and consistent practice strategies and habits. Practice regularly with a collaborative pianist to build performance skills. Learn a variety of classical repertoire in English, German, French, Italian, and Spanish. Access a broad knowledge of genres outside the traditional classical repertoire. Perform in studio class and assigned Departmental Recitals.

Course Requirements

Applied Voice lessons require a weekly meeting between student and the applied professor. Some of these lesson times will be supplemented with private and group coaching with pianist, Sandra Cunningham. All assigned repertoire must be scanned and stored in a google drive folder. This folder will be shared with the voice professor and pianist. Daily practice is required for this class. Please keep a practice schedule and document your practice times so we can track your efficiency in your practice sessions. All students enrolled in this class are required to perform in at least one departmental recital. These recitals are scheduled on Mondays at 4:00pm. The final jury requires a memorized performance of at least 3 songs. Jury requirements are based on each individual's progress and may vary.

Student Assessment

Students will be graded according to their lesson preparation and their development and improvement throughout the term as well as performances and end of semester juries.

Weekly Preparation – 70%

Quality of preparation, consistency of preparation, consistency in progress, literature and technical material covered. Students will receive a letter grade for each scheduled lesson. Grades will be assigned as follows:

Recital Performance – 15%

All students are required to perform at least once each semester at Student Recital (Wednesdays 4:00-4:50pm). The performance will be graded on musicianship, professionalism, and technical proficiency. Students in their first semester of Applied Percussion are exempt from performing for this course.

Jury – 15%

All students are required to perform a jury at the end of the semester. The jury will be based on the instruments and materials covered throughout the semester. Grading of the performance will be based on overall musicianship, professionalism, technical proficiency, and improvement over the course of the semester. Juries will take place on December 9-10, 2024.

Attendance

You must attend each of the weekly scheduled lessons throughout the semester. Absences will be excused for the following reasons: Illness, death in the family, or an approved and school-sponsored trip. Any other reasons will be considered on a case-by-case basis. In order for any of these absences to be excused, I must be notified in advance.

Curriculum and Materials

The curriculum for this course will be determined collaboratively by the teacher and the student in order to address the specific goals of each individual student. You will be

required to buy a substantial number of method books, pieces of music, recordings, implements, and instruments. Plan for this every semester as there are no “textbooks” required for this course. All of these materials will help you when you leave MSU.

Communication

Please feel free to contact me by email (bret.smithey@msutexas.edu) at any time. Do not wait until your next lesson to tell me that you did not understand an assignment or could not retrieve the required materials. If you let me know ahead of time, I will be more likely to be able to help resolve the situation. If I contact you, a response is expected within 24 hours.

Other Information

Disability and Accommodations

If a student (1) needs class accommodation(s) because of a documented disability, (2) has an emergency medical condition that may interfere with class performance, or (3) requires special handling in case the building must be evacuated, he/she is encouraged to contact the office of Disability Support Services in room 168 Clark Student Center (940) 397-4140 and make an appointment with the professor as soon as possible.

Student Conduct

Behavior that interferes with either the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or the ability of other students to benefit from the instruction will result in the instructor removing the disruptive student(s) from the class, either temporarily or permanently (instructor drop), and assigning a final lower grade, up to and including an F. In addition, and depending on the nature of the behavior or conduct, the student(s) may be subject to further disciplinary actions as per MSU policies.

Privacy Statement

Federal privacy law prohibits the instructor from releasing information about students to certain parties outside of the university without the signed consent of the student. Thus, in almost all cases the professor will not discuss a students’ academic progress or other matters with his/her parents. Please do not have them call. Regardless of these important legal considerations, the professors’ general policy is to communicate with the students, not their parents, even when a student has signed a consent form. College students are adults and are expected to behave accordingly.

Academic Dishonesty

Academic dishonesty including plagiarism and giving or receiving unauthorized assistance is prohibited. Plagiarism is (1) the use of source material of other persons (either published or unpublished, including the Internet) without following the accepted techniques of giving credit or (2) the submission for credit of work not the individual’s to whom credit is given. If a student in the class plagiarizes material, appropriate disciplinary action will be taken. The Student Honor Creed developed and adopted by the MSU Student Government reinforces the discouragement of plagiarism and other unethical behaviors. The first statement of the creed reads, “As an MSU student, I

pledge not to lie, cheat, steal, or help anyone else do so.” Plagiarism is lying, cheating, and stealing.

Campus Carry

Senate Bill 11 passed by the 84th Texas Legislature allows licensed handgun holders to carry concealed handguns on campus, effective August 1, 2016. Areas excluded from concealed carry are appropriately marked, in accordance with state law. For more information regarding campus carry, please refer to the University’s webpage at MSU Campus Carry Rules/Policies.

COVID-19 Vaccinations and Face Coverings

Scientific data shows that being fully vaccinated is the most effective way to prevent and slow the spread of COVID-19 and has the greatest probability of avoiding serious illness if infected in all age groups. Although MSU Texas is not mandating vaccinations in compliance with Governor Abbot’s executive orders, we highly encourage eligible members of our community to get a vaccination. If you have questions or concerns about the vaccine, please contact your primary care physician or health care professional.

Campus Closure Policy

If Midwestern State University authorizes campus closing procedures, lessons will be rescheduled at the discretion of the instructor.