

**Course Syllabus: Applied Voice**  
**Spring Semester 2024**  
AMUS-1201-201

Midwestern State University, Akin Auditorium Room 101

**Contact Information**

**Instructor: Dr. Darla Diltz**

Studio: Akin Auditorium, Hardin Administration Building, Room 101

Office Hours: by appointment via weekly schedule

Monday 11:30-1; Tuesday 1-3; Wednesday 11:30-1 and 4:00-5:30, Thursday 9:00-11:00; Friday by appointment.

Cell phone: 865-386-3907

Email: darla.diltz@msutexas.edu

\*If you do not receive a response via phone or email within 48 hours, please contact me again.

**Course Description**

This syllabus serves as the guide for all degree recitals in the voice area.

AMUS-4962-102 Vocal Performance Degree Recital

AMUS-4961-103 Recital for Education and B.A. Majors

Please refer to the music student handbook for details on due dates for printed programs, program notes and a timeline for preparation.

**Credit Hours**

Varies by course number

**Course materials**

Sheet music that is in the public domain may be provided to you by the instructor. Sheet music under copyright restrictions must be obtained by the student. You are responsible for providing appropriate copies for your assigned pianist.

All assigned music must be organized in a 3-ring binder and stored digitally in an online folder.

**Attendance**

Students are expected to attend class meetings regularly. It is important that you communicate with your instructor prior to an absence. To cancel or reschedule a lesson, you must contact your assigned teacher a minimum of 24 hours before the scheduled time. Make-up lessons are not guaranteed but may be accommodated with some prior communication. You are also welcomed to communicate with other students in your studio to switch times with advanced notice.

One excused absence is allowed but will not be given a make-up lesson. Attendance and class participation are the primary criteria for the final grade. Each absence after the first unexcused absence will result in a lower final grade.

### **Collaborative Pianist Rehearsals**

Each student is required to rehearse with the assigned collaborative pianist a minimum of 6 times. Rehearsals are scheduled and coordinated by Dr. Diltz and released in a weekly schedule update. It is your responsibility to be proactive and schedule these rehearsals in advance. Each singer is required to bring an extra copy of the assigned repertoire to the rehearsal. Sandra will keep a scanned or paper copy of your music.

There are no make-up rehearsal times available for collaborative pianist coaching. If you need to cancel your scheduled time, please give Sandra Cunningham 24 hours' notice. At minimum, please always communicate your attendance or absence.

### **Course Objectives**

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.

### **Student Assessment**

#### **Grades will be based on the following criteria:**

Performance in the final recital. 20%

Regular attendance and participation in lessons. 40%

Scheduling and attending a minimum of 8 rehearsals with your assigned collaborative pianist. 10%

Organization of assigned repertoire (in binder, digital folder, copies give to assigned pianist) 10%

Attendance and participation in studio classes and departmental recitals. 10%

Organization of assigned and discussed vocalizes throughout the semester. 10%

#### **Final recital performance:**

All enrolled voice students in the Education, Performance or B.A. Music degree plans are expected to complete an applied vocal recital.

Education and B.A. majors will prepare a minimum of 30 minutes of music to be performed by memory.

Performance majors will prepare a 50-60 minute recital of music to be performed by memory.

All selections prepared for the recital must be approved by the private teacher. Music may be presented from any genre, as long as it is prepared professionally.

## **Communication**

You are welcomed to contact me at any time with questions or concerns. If you do not hear back from me via email within 24 hours, please do not hesitate to contact me again by email or phone/text.

## **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 individuals 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.

### **Social Justice**

Social justice is one of Midwestern State University's stated core values, and the professor considers the classroom a place where students are treated with respect as human beings, regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, national origin, religious affiliation, sexual orientation, political beliefs, age, or ability. Moreover, diversity of thought is appreciated and encouraged, provided the students can agree to disagree. The professor's expectation is that ALL students consider the classroom a safe environment.

## 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.

## Important Dates

Last Day to drop with a grade of "W:" February 28, 2024 at 4:00 p.m.

## Desire-to-Learn (D2L)

Extensive use of the MSU D2L program is a part of this course. Each student is expected to be familiar with this program as it provides a primary source of communication regarding assignments, examination materials, and general course information. You can log into D2L through the MSU Homepage. If you experience difficulties, please contact the technicians listed for the program or contact your instructor.

## Inclement Weather Statement

Key decision-makers will monitor weather projections and communicate with local news agencies and WFISD leadership to make a delay or cancellation decision. Notification occurs through official campus channels and in communication with the local news networks. MSU channels include MSU Alert, MSU Safety app, Postmaster, website headers, MSU Police, and the Office of Marketing and Public Information. The timeline is as follows:

Event	Time	Day	Decision
Inclement weather occurs during regular work/class day	3:30 PM	Day of inclement weather	Cancel classes/events after 5 PM
Overnight inclement weather expected	8 PM	Day before inclement weather	Close campus or delay opening
Delay called the day before but change to closure due to the extent of weather impact	6:15 AM	Day of delay	Close campus

No cancellation or delay decision made the night before	5:30 AM	Day after no decision made the night before	Close campus or delay opening
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### Delay/closure times are as follows:

MWF class day: Delay to either 10 AM or 11 AM; all classes prior to opening do not meet.

TuTh class day: Delay to 11 AM; all classes prior to opening do not meet

Saturday or Sunday: Delay to either 10 AM or 11 AM; classes may start after campus is open.

When campus is closed, we will not meet for class. If assignments are due on a day that campus is closed, the deadline for exams, quizzes and projects will be delayed. The new deadline will be reflected on D2L and via campus email.

### Jury and Sophomore Barrier Information

Performance during recital lab is a component of your applied lesson grade. During the first semester of study, the jury component of your grade may be completed outside the Departmental Recital requirement by participation in studio class.

Successful completion of the **Sophomore Barrier Exam** is required before the student may enroll in 3000 level applied study. This 20-minute barrier exam takes place at the conclusion of the fourth semester of applied study during jury week. **This jury will include a larger selection of memorized music (5-8 songs) and one selection that you must prepare on your own with no help from the instructor or the collaborative pianist. This performed selection may be from any genre, but must reflect your individual goals and healthy vocal technique.**

### Hearing Loss and Health Statement

As a musician, your hearing is one of your most valuable assets. Unfortunately, high exposure to sound-producing activities can lead to noise-induced hearing loss. While this can be temporary, it can lead to tinnitus (ringing in the ears), permanent loss of hearing (particularly in the higher frequencies), and deafness. In addition to affecting a student's enjoyment of music, it also may render them incapable of continuing as a professional musician or music educator.

Musicians are also susceptible to musculoskeletal and vocal injury, particularly overuse injury. Failure to take adequate precautions can greatly shorten a student's performing career.

Means to minimize risks associated with hearing loss and performance-related injuries will be discussed during applied lessons and/or masterclasses. Faculty members can only present information to students and offer resources and assistance in seeking professional medical help when needed. The student has the final responsibility to take proper precautions.

**Notice**

Changes in the course syllabus, procedure, assignments, and schedule may be made at the discretion of the instructor.