



Applied Voice Instruction Syllabus

Midwestern State University College of Fine Arts

Spring 2026

AMUS 1201-101

AMUS 1202-101

AMUS 2201-101

AMUS 2202-101

AMUS 3201-101

AMUS 3202-101

AMUS 4201-101

AMUS 4202-101

General Information

Instructor: Dr. Darla Diltz

Course Number: AMUS 1201-101

Class Location: Hardin Administration Building, Room 101 (Akin Auditorium)

Class Time: By appointment

Email: darla.diltz@msutexas.edu

Phone: (865) 386-3907

Office: Fain Instrumental Music Hall 104A Office

Hours: posted on studio door.

Course Description and Objectives

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 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 pianists, Sandra Cunningham, Alyssa Ham and Dr. Sungsoo Cho.

All assigned repertoire must be scanned and stored in a google drive folder. This folder will be shared with the voice professor and pianist. When a song is assigned, it is the students responsibility to add the scanned music to a shared folder within 7 days of the assignment.

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.

*First semester students are exempt from this policy.

The final jury requires a memorized performance of at least 4 songs. Jury requirements are based on each individuals progress and may vary.

Freshman requirements (semesters 1 and 2)

4 songs each semester

Sophomore requirements

5-6 songs each semester. Sophomore barrier juries are required during the 4th semester of study. This is a 20 minute jury.

Junior and Senior requirements

6 songs each semester

Credit Hours

Varies by course number

Course Objectives and Student Learning Outcomes

Specific learning objectives for the course derive from the Texas SBEC Standards/Test Frameworks for <https://tea.texas.gov/texas-educators/certification/educator-testing/allmusic.pdf> and the <https://tea.texas.gov/texas-educators/certification/educator-testing/ppr-ec-12-standards.pdf>. This course provides music education students with a knowledge base of the environment in which they may teach. These objectives are consistent for both music education and performance degree plans.

Satisfactory completion of the course will document that students have 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.

Discuss the historical relevance and historical timeline of assigned repertoire (SBEC Pedagogy & Professional Responsibilities Standard I; SBEC Music Domain IV Competency 009).

Apply vocal and performance techniques to assigned repertoire.

Build a working knowledge of repertoire for young singers in all vocal categories through studio participation. (SBEC Pedagogy and Professional Responsibilities Standard I, III; SBEC Music Domain IV Competency 009).

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.

Student Assessment

Students will be graded according to their lesson preparation, consistency in progress, repertoire development, technical understanding of their instrument and overall improvement throughout the semester.

Weekly preparation and attendance 70% (see below)

Recital Performance and Studio participation 20%

Final Jury 10%

Grades will be based on the following criteria:

Performance in the final jury. **10%**

Regular attendance and participation in lessons. **20%**

Scheduling and attending a minimum of 6 rehearsals and/or studio classes with your assigned collaborative pianist. **20%**

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

Attendance and participation in studio classes and departmental recitals. **20%**

Improvement and attention to assigned repertoire and discussed vocalizes during the semester. **20%**

Attendance

You are required to attend all 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.

In order for any of these absences to be excused, I must be notified **48 hours in advance**. **The final grade for this course will be reduced by one letter for each unexcused absence after the first. Alternatively, documentation of the excused absence is required. (Doctor's note, Dean's note, etc)**

In addition to attending each lesson, all students enrolled in applied lessons are required to attend all voice related concerts as well as the Music at Akin series of concerts.

Make-up lessons are not given but may be accommodated with some prior communication. You are also welcome to communicate with other students in your studio to switch times with advanced notice.

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 or your assigned pianist. It is your responsibility to be proactive and schedule these rehearsals in advance. Each singer is required to bring their own printed or digital copy of the assigned repertoire to the rehearsal. Your pianist will keep a scanned copy of your music. Please always send your scanned repertoire to your pianist in advance.

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

Curriculum and Course Materials

The curriculum for this course will be determined collaboratively by the teacher and the student to address each individual students' specific goals. Assignments are cumulative and must be stored in a digital folder. You are required to locate and purchase your own music for each assignment. The digital folder will create a resource for each student as they begin their own applied lesson studios.

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. It is not the responsibility of the instructor to provide copies or scans of music. Students enrolled in applied lessons should be capable of locating and obtaining their own sheet music resources.

A list of suggested repertoire is included in the **Appendix**.

Communication

You are welcome to contact me at any time via email. I check messages regularly. If you do not get a response within 24 hours, please text me. Technically, you may text at any time. However, please observe basic etiquette and do not text very early or very late in the day unless it is an emergency.

Email is preferred.

If you have issues with your assignments, do not wait until your next lesson to resolve the issue. Please reach out for help.

Other Information:

Academic Success Accommodation Policies

In accordance with Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Midwestern State University endeavors to make reasonable accommodations to ensure equal opportunity for qualified persons with disabilities to participate in all educational, social, and recreational programs and activities. After notification of acceptance, students requiring accommodations should make application for such assistance through Disability Support Services,

located in the Clark Student Center, Room 168, (940) 397-4140. Current documentation of a disability will be required in order to provide appropriate services, and each request will be individually reviewed. For more details, please go to Disability Support Services. <https://msutexas.edu/student-life/disability/>

Important Dates

Please refer to the official university academic calendar:

<https://msutexas.edu/registrar/calendars.php>

Last day for term schedule changes: August 29, 2024 at 4 p.m.

Last Day to drop with a grade of "W:" November 25, 2024 at 4 p.m. Refer to: Drops, Withdrawals & Void

Change of Schedule

A student dropping a course (but not withdrawing from the University) within the first 12 class days of a regular semester or the first four class days of a summer semester is eligible for a 100% refund of applicable tuition and fees. Dates are published in the Schedule of Classes each semester. 8/27/24

Refund and Repayment Policy

A student who withdraws or is administratively withdrawn from Midwestern State University (MSU) may be eligible to receive a refund for all or a portion of the tuition, fees and room/board charges that were paid to MSU for the semester. HOWEVER, if the student received financial aid (federal/state/institutional grants, loans and/or scholarships), all or a portion of the refund may be returned to the financial aid programs. As described below, two formulas (federal and state) exist in determining the amount of the refund. (Examples of each refund calculation will be made available upon request)

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 law prohibits the instructor from releasing information about students to parties outside the university without the signed consent of the student. Thus, in almost all cases the instructor will not discuss a student's academic progress or other matters with his/her parents without the proper release from students.

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 4 matthew.luttrell@msutexas.edu agree to disagree. The professor's expectation is that ALL students consider the classroom a safe environment.

Campus Carry Policy

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. Campus Closure Policy If Midwestern State University authorizes campus closing procedures, rehearsals for this course will be canceled. If the campus is closed for the date of a concert, the concert will be rescheduled to a later date.

Weather Delays and School Cancellations

In the event of delayed openings or campus closure, we will NOT go to an online model. Wear your pajamas, drink some coffee/tea/cider/cocoa, and get some rest. We'll start up again on the next meeting time.

Hearing Loss 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 musical 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 master classes. 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

Appendix

Graded Repertoire and Vocal Literature Resources for Singers

Texas UIL Solo and Ensemble 2024-2025 Prescribed Music List <https://www.uiltexas.org/pml/>

Teaching Musical Theater Songs: A Graded Repertoire List Journal of Singing

1996 Jan/Feb (volume 52 issue: 3. Page 25)

*A scan of this article will be provided in the studio and via D2L

The Royal Conservatory. Vocal Series, 2019 Edition

This set of books includes 11 volumes of standard repertoire for all classical voice types.

General Bibliography

Coffin, Berton. *Singer's Repertoire*, v. 1-5, Scarecrow Press, 1960.

Doscher, Barbara. *From Studio to Stage: Repertoire for the Voice*. Crouch Books, 2002.

Emmons, Shirley. *The Art of the Song Recital*. Prospect Heights: Waveland Press, 2002.

Espina, Noni. *Repertoire for the Solo Voice: A Fully Annotated Guide to Works for the Solo Voice Published in Modern Editions*. Scarecrow Press. 1977.

Espina, Noni. *Vocal Solos for Christian Churches*. 3rd Edition. Scarecrow Press, 2016.

Goleeke, Tom. *Literature for Voice: An Index of Songs in Collections and Source Book for Teachers of Singing*, v. 1-2. Scarecrow Press, 2000.

Hames, Elizabeth and Michelle Blumsack. *Progressive Vocal Repertoire*. EM Music Publishing, 2013.

Kagen, Sergius. *Music for the Voice, Revised Edition: A Descriptive List of Concert and Teaching Material*. Indiana University Press, 1969.

Kimball, Carol. *Song: A Guide to Art Song Style and Literature*, revised edition. Milwaukee: Hal Leonard Corporation, 2005

Lentini, Dana. **Teaching the Child Singer: Pediatric Pedagogy for Ages 5-13**. Hal Leonard, 2020.

Lust, Patricia. *American Vocal Chamber Music, 1945-1980: An Annotated Bibliography*. Greenwood Publishing, 1985.

McTyre, Ruthann Boles. *Library Resources for Singers, Coaches, and Accompanists: An Annotated Bibliography, 1970-1997*. Greenwood Publishing, 1998.

Vaccari, Nicola. *Method Books in volumes: high soprano, soprano, tenor; mezzo-soprano, alto, baritone*. Schirmer, 1986.