



Course Syllabus: Applied Voice Instruction

Lamar D. Fain College of Fine Arts

AMUS 1201-101 / 1202-101 / 2201-101 / 2202-101

AMUS 3201-101 / 3202-101 / 4201-101 / 4202-101

Fall 2026 | August 24 to December 4, 2026

Contact Information

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Lesson Location: Fain Fine Arts Center, Room 105B, unless otherwise arranged

Lesson Time: One weekly lesson scheduled individually by appointment

Course Description

Applied Voice Instruction provides individualized study of the singing voice through weekly one-on-one lessons. The course serves students whose primary work may be in the School of Music, the Department of Theatre, or another degree program. Instruction emphasizes healthy and sustainable vocal function, musicianship, diction and text, stylistic versatility, acting and storytelling, repertoire development, collaborative skills, practice strategies, and performance preparation. Repertoire and assessment are adapted to the student's degree plan, previous training, current level of study, and professional goals while maintaining common standards for preparation, growth, and performance.

The course may be repeated for credit across as many as eight semesters of applied study. Expectations increase progressively as the student advances through the applied sequence.

Enrollment Classification and Degree Requirements

1. Music Performance / Primary Voice students pursue vocal study according to the technical, repertoire, jury, barrier, recital, and degree requirements established by the School of Music.
2. Music Major / Music Minor / Secondary Voice students pursue vocal study according to the requirements attached to their degree plan, minor, applied level, and area of concentration.
3. Theatre / Musical Theatre / Non-Music Major students pursue vocal study with primary emphasis on musical theatre technique, stylistic versatility, acting through song, audition and performance preparation, musicianship, and sustainable vocal use.

Students enrolled in a School of Music degree program or performance-based music minor remain responsible for all applicable School of Music requirements. When a School of Music requirement exceeds the minimum expectation stated in this syllabus, the School of Music requirement takes precedence.

Credit Hours

Credit hours vary by course number and registration.

Course Objectives and Student Learning Outcomes

1. Demonstrate healthy, sustainable vocal coordination appropriate to the student's current level of development.
2. Apply accurate pitch, rhythm, phrasing, dynamics, and other musicianship skills to assigned repertoire.
3. Communicate text clearly through diction, pronunciation, textual understanding, and intentional performance choices.
4. Demonstrate stylistic awareness appropriate to assigned repertoire, including musical theatre, classical, and other genres as applicable to the student's course of study.
5. Develop consistent, efficient, and healthy practice strategies that support independent musical and vocal growth.
6. Collaborate effectively with pianists, coaches, directors, and other musical partners when applicable.
7. Build a cumulative body of repertoire that increases in quantity, variety, difficulty, and professional usefulness over successive semesters.
8. Demonstrate measurable semester growth through repertoire completion, performance experience, and a final jury or adjudication assessment.

Textbook & Instructional Materials

No single textbook is required. Students are responsible for obtaining and organizing the materials necessary for assigned repertoire.

1. Legally obtained sheet music or scores for all assigned repertoire. Public-domain music may be supplied by the instructor when appropriate.
2. A shared digital repertoire folder organized by the student and accessible to the instructor and, when applicable, the assigned collaborative pianist.
3. A physical binder or reliable digital system for bringing music, notes, translations, cuts, and performance markings to lessons and rehearsals.
4. Access to a device capable of making practice recordings and completing the end-of-semester video adjudication when required.
5. Appropriate accompaniment materials, including pianist copies or instructor-approved accompaniment tracks when applicable.

Practice and Study Expectations

Applied study requires consistent work between lessons. Students are expected to practice on most days of the week using healthy, goal-oriented strategies appropriate to their level. Practice quality, preparation, and evidence of application are assessed more heavily than a specific number of minutes.

1. Vocal exercises and technical coordination assigned in lessons.

2. Pitch, rhythm, score, and musicianship preparation.
3. Text analysis, diction, pronunciation, translation, and memorization.
4. Acting, intention, physical communication, and storytelling work.
5. Listening, recording review, rehearsal with accompaniment, and reflection on performance goals.

Repertoire Requirements

The minimum repertoire requirement is cumulative and increases with continued applied study. The table below establishes the minimum number of new repertoire selections to be substantially completed during each semester. Departmental or degree-specific requirements may require additional repertoire.

Table 1: Minimum Repertoire by Semester of Applied Study

Semester of Applied Study	Minimum New Repertoire	Developmental Emphasis
Semester 1	4 selections	Foundational technique, musicianship, contrasting repertoire
Semester 2	4 selections	Foundational technique, musicianship, contrasting repertoire
Semester 3	5 selections	Expanded stylistic range and independence
Semester 4	5 selections	Expanded stylistic range and independence
Semester 5	6 selections	Professional range, advanced coordination, repertoire breadth
Semester 6	6 selections	Professional range, advanced coordination, repertoire breadth
Semester 7	6 selections	Professional repertoire development and specialization
Semester 8	6 selections	Professional repertoire development and specialization

Definition of Completed Repertoire

A selection counts toward the semester repertoire requirement when the student demonstrates the following:

1. Accurate and secure pitches and rhythms appropriate to the student's level.
2. Secure text, diction, pronunciation, and musical markings.
3. Application of the semester's technical work and healthy vocal coordination.
4. Stylistic and interpretive choices appropriate to the repertoire.
5. A level of preparation that is ready for studio presentation, coaching, jury, audition, or other instructor-approved performance use.

Extended works, unusually substantial selections, role preparation, or other major repertoire projects may count as more than one selection at the instructor's discretion.

Repertoire Variety by Track

For Theatre / Musical Theatre / Non-Music Major students, repertoire breadth should develop progressively:

1. Semesters 1-2: repertoire representing at least two contrasting musical theatre styles. Across the first year, students should encounter both traditional or legit musical theatre and contemporary musical theatre.
2. Semesters 3-4: repertoire representing at least three stylistic categories, including traditional or Golden Age musical theatre, contemporary musical theatre, and at least one additional contrasting style appropriate to the student.
3. Semesters 5-6: repertoire representing at least four distinct stylistic areas, with increasing attention to gaps in the student's audition book, vocal versatility, and professional casting needs.
4. Semesters 7-8: repertoire representing at least four distinct styles, selected increasingly for professional usefulness, audition readiness, showcases, productions, or graduate study.

For School of Music students, repertoire will satisfy the stylistic, linguistic, historical, technical, and recital expectations established by the School of Music and the student's degree program. Classical repertoire in multiple languages and historical periods will be assigned as appropriate. School of Music requirements supersede the musical theatre repertoire distribution described above.

Collaborative Pianist Expectations

1. Students assigned a collaborative pianist are expected to complete a minimum of six rehearsals or coachings during the semester unless a different School of Music requirement applies.
2. Students are responsible for communicating with the assigned pianist, scheduling rehearsals in advance, and arriving prepared.
3. The pianist should receive legible, complete music in advance whenever possible.
4. Canceled pianist rehearsals are not guaranteed a make-up time. Students should provide at least 24 hours' notice whenever possible.
5. Students who are not assigned a School of Music collaborative pianist will complete equivalent accompaniment preparation as determined by the instructor.

Performance Experience Requirement

All students must complete at least one instructor-approved performance experience during the semester using assigned or approved repertoire. This requirement is separate from the final adjudication and is intended to demonstrate the application of lesson work in a performance setting.

1. Studio class or studio recital.

2. Master class or public studio presentation.
 3. Approved public performance on or off campus.
 4. An MSU Theatre production or other university performance when the instructor approves the repertoire or role in advance as meeting applied-voice goals.
 5. A School of Music departmental recital or other approved School of Music performance.
 6. For Theatre / Musical Theatre / Non-Music Major students, participation in a School of Music jury alongside classical voice students, when space and School of Music procedures allow and the instructor approves participation.
- For School of Music students, this performance experience does not replace any departmental recital, recital-attendance, barrier, degree recital, or jury requirement attached to the student's degree plan. For Theatre / Musical Theatre / Non-Music Major students, an approved School of Music jury may satisfy the live performance experience requirement; the end-of-semester video adjudication remains required unless the instructor formally approves an alternative.

Grading

Table 2: Course Grade Components

Assessment	Weight	Description
Weekly Lesson Preparation & Vocal Development	45%	Attendance, preparation, technical application, responsiveness to coaching, and measurable progress.
Semester Repertoire Completion	20%	Completion of the required quantity, quality, variety, and organization of assigned repertoire.
Collaborative & Performance Engagement	15%	Pianist preparation when applicable and completion of the required performance experience.
Final Jury / Adjudication Assessment	20%	End-of-semester performance assessment appropriate to the student's program of study.
Total	100%	Final course grade.

Minimum Requirements for a Passing Grade

1. Complete the required final jury or adjudication assessment unless an excused circumstance is resolved through an instructor-approved alternative.
2. Complete at least 75% of the minimum semester repertoire requirement, rounded up to the next whole selection.

3. Complete the required performance experience or an instructor-approved equivalent.
4. Students subject to School of Music jury, barrier, recital, or other degree requirements must also satisfy those requirements as directed by the School of Music.

Weekly Lesson Evaluation

Weekly preparation and development will be evaluated using the following evidence:

1. Attendance, punctuality, and professional communication.
2. Evidence of consistent practice and preparation between lessons.
3. Application of assigned technical concepts and vocalizes.
4. Musical, textual, and stylistic preparation of assigned repertoire.
5. Organization of music and readiness to work efficiently during the lesson.
6. Responsiveness to coaching, self-assessment, and measurable progress over time.

Final Jury / Adjudication Assessment

School of Music Students

Students whose degree plan requires a School of Music voice jury will complete the official jury, barrier, or recital-related assessment required by the School of Music. Repertoire, memorization, faculty evaluation, and jury procedures will follow current School of Music policies. The School of Music jury grade will serve as the Final Jury / Adjudication Assessment for this course.

Theatre / Musical Theatre / Non-Music Major Students

Students in Theatre, Musical Theatre, or other non-music degree programs will complete an end-of-semester video jury due by the end of the day on Friday, December 4, 2026. The video jury is the formal adjudication assessment for the semester.

1. Prepare and submit three memorized, contrasting selections drawn from the semester's completed repertoire.
2. Selections should be performed in full unless the instructor has approved an audition cut or other abbreviated version.
3. Accompaniment may be provided by a live pianist or an instructor-approved accompaniment track.
4. The recording must clearly present the singer and accompaniment. Editing, pitch correction, or post-production that alters the musical or vocal performance is not permitted.
5. Submission will be made through the instructor-designated D2L location or shared digital folder by the stated deadline.

Table 3: Theatre / Musical Theatre Video Jury Criteria

Criterion	Weight	Evidence
Vocal Function & Technical Coordination	25%	Healthy, efficient, and consistent coordination appropriate to the student's level.
Musicianship	20%	Pitch, rhythm, phrasing, dynamics, tempo, and musical accuracy.
Style & Genre	15%	Choices appropriate to the musical language, genre, period, and performance tradition.
Acting & Storytelling	15%	Clear intention, point of view, stakes, specificity, and communication through song.
Diction & Text	10%	Clarity, pronunciation, textual understanding, and expressive use of language.
Collaboration & Accompaniment	5%	Coordination with pianist or accompaniment and musical responsiveness.
Memorization & Preparation	5%	Security, readiness, and evidence of completed preparation.
Professional Presentation	5%	Focused, intentional, and appropriate performance presentation.

Letter Grade Scale

Grade	Percentage
A	90-100%
B	80-89%
C	70-79%
D	60-69%
F	Below 60%

Attendance

Applied Voice is built around weekly individual instruction, and attendance is essential. Students are expected to attend every scheduled lesson and to communicate promptly when an absence is unavoidable.

1. To cancel or request a lesson change, contact the instructor at least 24 hours in advance whenever possible. Emergencies should be communicated as soon as reasonably possible.
2. Make-up lessons for student absences are not guaranteed. When appropriate, students may arrange an approved lesson-time swap with another studio student and notify the instructor in advance.

3. Lessons canceled by the instructor will be rescheduled or otherwise made up.
4. Excused absences may include illness, family emergency, or approved university-sponsored travel. Documentation may be requested when appropriate.
5. After the first unexcused absence, each additional unexcused absence may reduce the final course grade by one letter grade.
6. Persistent attendance, preparation, or progress concerns may result in a Student Improvement Plan.

Student Improvement Plan

When a student demonstrates persistent difficulty meeting course expectations in areas such as attendance, preparation, repertoire completion, technical development, collaboration, or performance readiness, the instructor may establish a Student Improvement Plan. The plan will identify specific goals, benchmarks, and deadlines intended to clarify expectations and support successful completion of the course. The Student Improvement Plan is maintained as a separate document from this syllabus.

Late Work and Make-Up Assessments

Because much of the course is performance-based, missed deadlines should be addressed before the deadline whenever possible. Late video juries, repertoire documentation, or other required submissions may receive a grade reduction unless the student has communicated an excused circumstance and received an approved alternative deadline. Missed School of Music juries are governed by School of Music procedures.

Desire-to-Learn (D2L)

D2L may be used for syllabus distribution, announcements, jury instructions, video submission, and course documentation. Students are responsible for checking university email and D2L regularly for course communication.

Recording Lessons and Performances

Students may make audio or video recordings of their own applied lessons for personal practice and review with instructor permission. Such recordings may not be shared, posted, transmitted, or published without the prior consent of all individuals recorded. Disability-related recording accommodations will be honored through the appropriate university process.

Important Dates and Semester Benchmarks

1. August 24, 2026: Fall classes begin and weekly applied lessons begin according to individual studio schedules.
2. August 27, 2026: Final day of Change of Schedule and Late Registration for the Fall 2026 long semester.
3. September 4, 2026: Initial semester repertoire plan should be established; assigned music should be obtained and the shared repertoire folder organized.

4. October 16, 2026: Mid-semester repertoire benchmark. Students should have at least half of the semester minimum repertoire at a functional working level.
 5. November 6, 2026: Theatre / Musical Theatre / Non-Music Major students should have an approved plan for satisfying the semester performance experience. Students who have already completed an approved performance need only document it.
 6. November 23, 2026 at 4:00 p.m.: Last day to withdraw from the long semester with a grade of W.
 7. November 25 to 29, 2026: Thanksgiving Holidays.
 8. December 4, 2026: Last day of classes. Theatre / Musical Theatre / Non-Music Major video jury is due by the end of the day. Documentation of the required performance experience is also due unless the student has been approved to complete that requirement through a School of Music jury during the jury period.
 9. School of Music jury dates and times: Announced separately by the School of Music. Students subject to School of Music jury requirements are responsible for their assigned jury schedule and all related procedures.
- Official university dates are published in the [MSU Academic Calendar](#).

Student Handbook

Refer to: [Student Handbook](#)

Academic Misconduct Policy & Procedures

Academic dishonesty includes cheating, collusion, plagiarism, and the submission for credit of work that is not the student's own. Students are responsible for following university policies governing academic integrity and conduct.

Refer to: [Office of Student Conduct](#)

Moffett Library

Moffett Library provides books, journals, databases, multimedia materials, research assistance, study spaces, and other resources that may support score research, repertoire study, historical context, and academic work.

Refer to: [Moffett Library](#)

Change of Schedule

Students are responsible for following university procedures and deadlines for schedule changes, drops, withdrawals, and related tuition or fee adjustments. Current dates are published in the official Academic Calendar and Schedule of Classes.

Refund and Repayment Policy

A student who withdraws or is administratively withdrawn from Midwestern State University may be eligible for a refund of all or a portion of tuition, fees, and room or board charges. Financial-aid recipients may be subject to additional repayment requirements. Students should consult current university policy for details.

Services for Students with Disabilities

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 educational, social, and recreational programs and activities. Students seeking accommodations should contact Disability Support Services and communicate approved accommodations to the instructor as early as possible.

Refer to: [Disability Support Services](#)

Emergency Aid Resources for Basic Needs

Unexpected life circumstances can affect a student's ability to meet basic needs such as housing, food, transportation, healthcare, technology, or course materials. Students are encouraged to use university support resources when needed.

Refer to: [Student Emergency Support and Resources](#)

Campus Carry

University policies regarding concealed carry and prohibited locations apply to this course and all instructional spaces. Students are responsible for following current Midwestern State University campus carry rules and applicable law.

Refer to: [Campus Carry Rules and Policies](#)

Active Shooter and Emergency Preparedness

The safety and security of the campus community is a shared responsibility. Students are encouraged to review current MSU Police Department emergency-preparedness information, including guidance for responding to an active aggressor.

Refer to: [MSUReady](#)

Grade Appeal Process

Students who wish to appeal a final course grade should consult the current Midwestern State University catalog and applicable academic policies.

Instructor Class Policies

1. Bring assigned music and lesson materials to every lesson in a format that allows efficient work.
2. Communicate repertoire, pianist, scheduling, and performance concerns promptly rather than waiting until the next lesson when a deadline is affected.
3. Treat lessons, rehearsals, studio presentations, and juries as professional environments characterized by preparation, respect, and constructive collaboration.
4. Vocal health concerns should be communicated promptly. The instructor may modify or suspend singing tasks when vocal use is not appropriate and

may recommend that the student seek qualified medical evaluation when necessary.

Notice: Changes in course procedures, assignments, assessment details, or dates may be made at the discretion of the instructor when necessary. Students will be notified of substantive changes through university email, D2L, or direct studio communication.