

Course Syllabus: Opera Workshop Midwestern Opera

Theatre Spring 2026

Lamar D. Fain College of Fine Arts

Department of Music

MUSC-1931-280

MUSC-2931-280

MUSC-3931-280

MUSC-4931-280

Midwestern State University, Akin Auditorium, Room 101
Choir Room and private studios by appointment

Contact Information

Instructor: Darla Diltz

Studio: Akin Auditorium, Hardin Administration Building, Room 101

Office Hours: by appointment via weekly schedule

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.

Music Director/Collaborative Pianist: Dr. Sung-Soo Cho

Email: sungsoo.cho@msutexas.edu

Phone: 646-509-9360

Collaborative Pianist/Coach: Sandra Cunningham (if enrolled in private voice lessons)

Email: Sandrawcunningham@gmail.com

Phone: 940-704-4026

Course Description

Opera Workshop is designed to provide live performance opportunity of opera and related vocal styles. Spring 2026 Repertoire will include repertoire selected to best showcase each individual singers needs.

Singers will also be assigned 1-2 opera scenes. Scenes must be memorized by March 18th. Opportunities are available for student directed scenes.

Credit Hours

Varies by course number

Course materials

Sheet music that is available in the public domain will be provided to you in a digital folder.

Sheet music that is in copyright must be purchased.

All assigned music must be organized in a 3-ring binder and stored digitally in an online folder. Having an organized digital folder for your repertoire is required and is 5% of your final grade. If you cannot properly read your music on your chosen electronic device, you must procure a printed paper copy. Please do not use your phone for music access.

Attendance

Students are expected to attend class meetings regularly. It is important that you communicate with the instructor prior to being absent. The weekly schedule will be updated by 10:00 am each Tuesday morning, if not before.

Please do not attend your applied lesson while sick or experiencing upper respiratory symptoms. If you are sick, please contact the professor to reschedule your lesson.

Grading and Assessment

Attendance 40%

Attendance and participation with Collaborative Pianist 30%

Digital repertoire folder 5%

Opera Performance 25%

Important Dates

Please refer to the official university academic calendar:

https://msutexas.edu/registrar/_assets/files/pdfs/acadcal2223.pdf

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.

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).

Classroom Policies

Please refer to: Student Handbook-2020-21

Academic Misconduct Policy and Procedures

Cheating, collusion, and plagiarism (the act of using source material of other persons, either published or unpublished, without following the accepted techniques of crediting, or the submission for credit of work not the individual's to whom credit is given).

Academic misconduct includes, but is not limited to:

- Using any part of another person's homework for academic credit (You are encouraged to use your fellow students when you are confused and need clarification about an assignment or concept; however, you may not copy another person's homework, quiz, or exam. You should be prepared to explain your process if questioned why you submitted identical work as a classmate.)
- Using a paper or homework assignment in more than one class without the instructor's permission (This includes the resubmission of a homework assignment when retaking a course. If you failed to pass a course previously, do not rely upon your previous homework to help you succeed.)
- Accessing or sharing restricted information through electronic means without the instructor's permission (Sites like Chegg won't help you much in music theory class, but please be advised that their use is a violation of the academic dishonesty policy.)

Additional guidelines on procedures in these matters may be found in the Office of Student Conduct.

Airborne Illness Policies

In order to mitigate the potential spread of the COVID-19 virus and other airborne illnesses, please refer to the official MSU coronavirus page: <https://msutexas.edu/coronavirus>. If you are experiencing illness or symptoms of Covid-19 or other airborne illnesses, please do not come to the studio. Contact the professor to reschedule or meet on Zoom.

Alcohol and Drug Policy

To comply with the Drug Free Schools and Communities Act of 1989 and subsequent amendments, students and employees of Midwestern State are informed that strictly enforced policies are in place which prohibits the unlawful possession, use or distribution of any illicit drugs, including alcohol, on university property or as part of any university sponsored activity. Students and employees are also subject to all applicable legal sanctions under local, state and federal law for any offenses involving illicit drugs on University property or at University-sponsored activities.

Attendance Policies

All students are expected to attend synchronous face-to-face sessions in the classroom. A synchronous Zoom option or an asynchronous option will be available to students who are currently ill/quarantined or who have direct conflicts with the class time (e.g. medical appointment). Students who need one of

these options for a particular date should send an email to the instructor by 8 a.m. of the day they will miss.

Attendance for both options will be taken through D2L. An attendance assignment will be posted in the course for every class session. If you attend a synchronous face-to-face session, you will submit a photo with a daily posted image during class or you will log into the day's Kahoot. If you attend a synchronous Zoom session, you will be required to submit a screenshot of the posted image or log into the day's Kahoot. If you view an asynchronous video of a class session, you will be required to submit a screenshot of the day's posted image.

Students who have failed to submit attendance assignments for 3 or more consecutive classes will be reported to the Early Alert monitoring system. Students who have failed to submit attendance assignments for 6 or more total classes by March 1st will be dropped from the course for nonattendance.

All course content is posted on the course site on D2L. There is no need to ask what was missed during a particular session, as a video from each class will be posted in the attendance assignment for that day.

If you encounter any emergencies during a particular week that make any of the attendance options impossible, please contact the instructor via email as soon as possible. Please designate a roommate or loved one who will email your professors in case you become incapacitated and cannot attend class. The instructor is unable to reply to your designee unless you have signed a FERPA release form in the registrar's office allowing them access to your educational records.

Campus Carry Rules/Policies

Refer to: Campus Carry Rules and Policies

Grade Appeal Process

Update as needed. Students who wish to appeal a grade should consult the Midwestern State University Undergraduate Catalog

Notice

Changes in the course syllabus, procedure, assignments, and schedule may be made at the discretion of the instructor. Students will be notified of any changes on D2L.

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:

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.

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.