



Course Syllabus: Singing for the Actor I, II, III, and IV

College of Fine Arts

THEA 1011

Fall 2025; MWF 1:00pm-1:50pm

Contact Information

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Course Description

An introductory course that teaches the student how to make their voice sound more powerful, how to use vocal technique to expand their range and expression, and how to become more confident in vocal performances. This course is a fantastic starting point for any student wanting to make the most of their voice.

This performance-based course bridges the worlds of applied voice, ensemble studio, and acting. Students will strengthen their vocal technique while developing the skills to interpret, stage, and perform songs authentically as singing actors. Emphasis will be placed on connecting music, text, and character; preparing a balanced repertoire portfolio across eras of the musical theatre canon; and cultivating collaborative skills through peer feedback and ensemble work. Students will also learn how to prepare songs through deliberate and consistent practice methods, developing habits that support both technical mastery and expressive artistry. The course culminates in solo performances, scene work, and the opportunity to participate in a community-based cabaret alongside the Musical Theatre Acting class (THEA 4233).

Course Objectives

- **Strengthen** healthy vocal technique and apply it across diverse musical theatre styles.
- **Interpret, stage, and perform** songs authentically by connecting music, text, and character.
- **Explore and prepare** a balanced repertoire portfolio across eras of the musical theatre canon
- **Employ** deliberate and consistent practice methods to prepare repertoire effectively.

- **Integrate** acting technique, vocal performance, and musical analysis to create character-driven performances.
- **Develop** collaborative skills through peer feedback, ensemble participation, and studio-style performance settings.
- **Demonstrate** professionalism in preparation, rehearsal discipline, and performance, cultivating habits for long-term growth as a singing actor.

Textbook & Instructional Materials

- Three-Ring Binder to organize repertoire and practice log/journal
- Texts and instructional materials to be provided by the instructor through D2L and MSU email which include but are not limited to
 - Digital sheet music to be printed and catalogued by the student
 - Digital practice log pages to be printed and catalogued by the student
- Recommended but NOT required texts:

Acting the Song: Performance Skills for the Musical Theatre. 2nd ed. By Tracey Moore and Allison Bergman. Allworth Press, 2016.

ACTIONS: The Actors' Thesaurus. By Marina Caldarone and Maggie Lloyd-Williams. Nick Hern Books, 2004.

Student Handbook

Refer to: MSU Student Handbook 2023-2024

<https://msutexas.edu/student-life/assets/files/handbook.pdf>

Conduct Statement

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's removing the disruptive student(s) from the class, either temporarily or permanently (instructor drop), and receive a final lower grade, up to 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.

Academic Misconduct Policy & Procedures

The university policy and procedures for academic dishonesty are outlined in the current Student Handbook in Appendix E. No cheating, collusion, or plagiarism will be tolerated in this class. Any student engaging in an academic dishonesty act will be sanctioned appropriately.

AI Policy

The MSU Student Handbook covers Academic Honesty under University Policies and Procedures. Academic dishonesty is defined as cheating, collusion, and plagiarism.

- Cheating is (1) the use of any unauthorized assistance, (2) dependence upon the aid of sources beyond those authorized by the instructor, or (3) acquisition, without permission, of tests or other academic material.

- Plagiarism is the use of another person's published or unpublished work without full and clear acknowledgment.
- Collusion is collaboration with another person in preparing work offered for credit if the faculty member in charge does not authorize that collaboration.

Use of AI to assist in the completion of assignment will not be allowed or tolerated in this course.

Student 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.

Title IX Statement

Obligation to Report Sex Discrimination under State and Federal Law

Midwestern State University is committed to providing and strengthening an educational, working, and living environment where students, faculty, staff, and visitors are free from sex discrimination of any kind. State and federal law require University employees to report sex discrimination and sexual misconduct to the University's Office of Title IX. As a faculty member, I am required to report to the Title IX Coordinator any allegations, personally observed behavior, or other direct or indirect knowledge of conduct that reasonably may constitute sex discrimination or sexual misconduct, which includes sexual assault, sexual harassment, dating violence, or stalking, involving a student or employee. After a report is made, the office of Title IX will reach out to the affected student or employee in an effort to connect such person(s) with resources and options in addressing the allegations made in the report. You are also encouraged to report any incidents to the office of Title IX. You may do so by contacting:

Laura Hetrick
Title IX Coordinator
Sunwatcher Village Clubhouse
940-397-4213
laura.hetrick@msutexas.edu

You may also file an online report 24/7 at
https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?MSUTexas&layout_id=6

Should you wish to visit with someone about your experience in confidence, you may contact the MSU Counseling Center at 940-397-4618. For more information on the University's policy on Title IX or sexual misconduct, please visit
<https://msutexas.edu/titleix/>

Pregnant and Parenting Students

To support the academic success of pregnant and parenting students and students with pregnancy related conditions, the University offers reasonable modifications based on the student's particular needs. Any student who is pregnant or parenting a child up to age 18 or has conditions related to pregnancy, may contact MSU's designated Pregnancy and Parenting Liaison to discuss support available through the University. The Liaison can be reached by emailing ruby.garrett@msutexas.edu or calling 940-397-4500. Should a student communicate with me that they are pregnant or have a pregnancy related condition or may need additional resources related to pregnancy or parenting, I will communicate that student's information to the Title IX Coordinator, who will work with the student and others, as needed, to ensure equal access to the University's education program or activity.

A pregnant student, a parenting student, or a student with pregnancy related conditions may be provided with supportive measures, based on the student's individualized needs, analogous to those provided to a student with a temporary medical condition, and provided such supportive measures do not fundamentally alter the nature of an education program or activity. Such supportive measures may include, but are not limited to:

For pregnant students:

- (1) Providing breaks during class to express breast milk, breastfeed, or attend to health needs associated with pregnancy or related conditions, including eating, drinking, or using the restroom;
- (2) Excusing intermittent absences to attend medical appointments;
- (3) Providing access to online or homebound education, including the providing of access to instructional materials and video recordings of lectures (to the extent such materials, recordings are made available to any student with an excused absence);
- (4) Facilitating changes in schedule or course sequence, including extensions of time for coursework and rescheduling of tests and examinations and/or providing opportunity to make up missed assignments/assessments (such time extensions shall be applied in the same manner as the University grants and provides ADA/504 accommodations for additional time);
- (5) Allowing a student to sit or stand, or carry or keep water nearby;
- (6) Offering counseling;
- (7) Facilitating changes in physical space or supplies (for example, access to a larger desk or a footrest);

- (8) Allowing the student to maintain a safe distance from substances, areas, and activities known to be hazardous to pregnant individuals or unborn children;
- (9) Providing elevator access;
- (10) Facilitating a voluntary leave of absence from the University if the student is in good academic standing at the time the student takes a leave of absence, and facilitating a return to the student's degree or certificate program without being required to reapply for admission if the student remains in good academic standing; or
- (11) Making other necessary changes to policies, practices, or procedures.

For Parenting Students:

- (1) Facilitating priority registration to the extent the University provides early registration for any other group of students; or
- (2) Facilitating a voluntary leave of absence from the University if the student is in good academic standing at the time the student takes a leave of absence, and facilitating a return to the student's degree or certificate program without being required to reapply for admission.

Grading

Grades will be comprised of class participation (20%), Performance 1 (15%), Performance 2 (15%), Scene Performance (15%), practice log/journal (15%), repertoire book completion (10%), and a final reflective paper (10%). The student is allowed two absences per semester. Three late arrivals equal one absence. Any additional absences will result in a 10% reduction from the final grade. 90% or above=A, 80% or above =B, 70% or above=C, 60% or above=D and 59% or below=F.

Table 1: Percentages allocated to each assignment

Assignments	Percentage
Class Participation	20%
Performance #1	15%
Performance #2	15%
Scene Performance	15%
Practice Log/Journal	15%
Repertoire Book Completion	10%
Final Reflective Paper	10%
Total Percentage	100%

Table 2: Total percentage for final grade.

Grade	Percentage
A	90% or above
B	80%-89%
C	70%-79%
D	60%-69%
F	Less than 60%

Performances

Three times during the semester, you will present prepared performances for the class. These are not intended to demonstrate perfection, but rather your growth through preparation, practice, and application of class concepts. Each performance gives you the opportunity to explore vocal technique, strengthen your ability to connect music and text, and gain experience presenting your work in front of an audience.

Performances will be evaluated on preparation, vocal technique, acting integration, and presentation. Written and verbal feedback will be provided after each performance, and a rubric will be shared in advance, so expectations are clear. Together, these performances will count as 45% of your final grade.

Practice Log & Journal

Throughout the semester, you will keep a practice log or journal to track your work outside of class. This log is not about the number of hours spent but about consistency, reflection, and deliberate practice. Each entry should include the date, the material you worked on, and short notes on your progress, challenges, or discoveries. The goal of this journal is to help you develop effective practice habits and encourage self-awareness in your growth as a singer-actor.

Check-ins will take place three times during the semester, and your complete journal will be submitted on the last class day. Blank journaling pages will be provided for you to use, though you may also keep your entries digitally if preferred. The practice log will count as 15% of your final grade.

Repertoire Book

By the end of the semester, you will assemble a small repertoire book consisting of four contrasting songs drawn from different eras of the musical theatre canon, with the option of including one additional pop or classical piece if appropriate for your growth. The purpose of this assignment is not to master every piece to performance level, but to begin building a balanced collection of material that reflects your vocal and dramatic range.

Throughout the semester, you will receive coaching and guidance in selecting and preparing these pieces. Your final submission will confirm that all repertoire has been chosen, prepared to a working level, and documented in your book. The repertoire book will count as 10% of your final grade.

Reflective Paper

At the end of the semester, you will submit a reflective paper in place of a final exam. This paper should be a minimum of three pages, double-spaced, in 12-point font. The purpose of this assignment is to give you an opportunity to reflect on your growth as a singing actor over the course of the semester. You should discuss the challenges you faced, the practice habits you developed, the tools you found most useful, and the ways in which you connected music, text, and performance.

This paper is not about "getting it right" academically, but about articulating your process and growth honestly. A rubric will be provided in advance to guide your writing. The reflective paper will be due during the scheduled final exam period on Monday, December 8, at 1:00 p.m., and it will count as 10% of your final grade.

MSU Productions and Extra Credit

Attend the MSU plays and musicals this semester *Blithe Spirit* and *Schoolhouse Rock Live!* Your ticket is free to both of these shows with your validated Midwestern Student ID. Seating may be limited for these productions, please ensure you reserve your tickets early. An analysis bonus paper analyzing the use of voice and diction in the production will be due within one week of the productions final performance. (an additional 5% will be added to your final grade) Papers are due within one week of the closing of the show. Must write papers for both shows to receive credit.

Late Work

Late work will be accepted with a letter grade deduction for each day it is late.

Make Up Work/Tests

Students with approved absences (school travel, doctors note) will be given one week to make up missed assignments and tests.

Important Dates

Last day to drop a class with 100% refund: September 8, 2025

Deadline to file for December graduation: September 22, 2025

Deadline to file for May graduation: October 6, 2025

Last Day to drop with a grade of "W:" November 24, 2025

Refer to: [Drops, Withdrawals & Void](#)

Desire-to-Learn (D2L)

The 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.

Attendance

Students are expected to attend all meetings of the classes in which they are enrolled. A student with excessive absences may be dropped from a course by the instructor. The student is allowed two absences per semester. Three late arrivals will equal one absence. Any additional absences will result in a 10% reduction from the final grade.

Sickness Policy

Your health and the wellbeing of the class are priorities. If you have a fever, please remain home until it has broken. If you test positive for COVID-19, follow the recommended quarantine period; upon returning, mask-wearing is strongly recommended for several days, though not required. For serious or ongoing medical conditions, seek medical care and provide documentation so that I can best support your learning experience.

Weather Policy

In the event of a university closure due to weather, class may be moved to a virtual format (via Zoom, Teams, etc.) if a lecture or discussion was scheduled. If the missed class was a practicum day, it may be canceled. Updates will be communicated through D2L and university email.

Instructor Class Policies

Course Requirements

1. **Participation:** Active participation is expected in all group lessons, individual coaching sessions, and performance classes. Your consistent engagement is essential for both your personal growth and the collaborative nature of this course. Students are expected to contribute as performers, engaged listeners, and supportive peers.
2. **Preparation and Practice:** Students are expected to come to class with all assigned material prepared and memorized by the designated performance dates. Regular rehearsal and deliberate practice outside of class are necessary to support your in-class work. You will keep a practice log/journal to track this preparation and reflect on your growth throughout the semester.
3. **Performances and Repertoire:** Each student will present two prepared performances during the semester and one collaborative scene performance. In addition, all students will complete a repertoire book consisting of four contrasting songs, with the option of including an additional pop or classical piece. Performances and repertoire selections are intended to demonstrate preparation and growth, not perfection.
4. **Final Reflection:** In place of a written exam, students will submit a reflective paper (minimum three pages) during the final exam period. This

paper will allow you to articulate your process and growth as a singing actor, supported by class experiences and practice habits.

General Notes

This class is an opportunity to step away from the outside world and fully engage in the study and practice of singing for the stage. Devices may be used for notetaking, storing music, keeping practice logs or journals, and for use during lessons as directed. Please refrain from texting, browsing, or social media during class. Being fully present allows you to connect with your peers, the repertoire, and the work we are creating together.

Students should wear comfortable clothing and footwear suitable for movement, rehearsal, and performance work. On days when you are performing, dress in a way that supports your presentation while still allowing for freedom of movement and breath.

No gum or food is permitted in class. Please always bring water to drink.

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) exists in determining the amount of the refund. (Examples of each refund calculation will be made available upon request).

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 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](#).

College Policies

Campus Carry Rules/Policies

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.

Smoking/Tobacco Policy

College policy strictly prohibits the use of tobacco products in any building owned or operated by WATC. Adult students may smoke only in the outside designated-smoking areas at each location.

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.

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.

Course Schedule:

Week	Planned Activities
Week 1 (Aug 25–29)	Mon: Group intro, syllabus, schedule and rep overview Wed: 2 students (diagnostic coaching) Fri: 2 students (diagnostic coaching)
Week 2 (Sept 1–5)	Mon: No Class – Labor Day Wed: 2 students (diagnostic coaching) Fri: 2 students (diagnostic coaching)
Week 3 (Sept 8–12)	Mon: Group lesson – Alignment, Breath, and Support Wed: 2 students (begin Blue/Green) Fri: 2 students (Blue/Green)

Week	Planned Activities
Week 4 (Sept 15–19)	Mon: 2 students (Blue/Green) Wed: 2 students (Blue/Green) Fri: Group Performance – Blue/Green works-in-progress Practice Log Check-in #1
Week 5 (Sept 22–26)	Mon: Group lesson – Resonance & vowels Wed: 2 students (Blue/Green) Fri: 2 students (Blue/Green)
Week 6 (Sept 29–Oct 3)	Mon: 2 students (final coaching before Perf 1) Wed: 2 students (final coaching before Perf 1) Fri: Performance 1 – Prepared solo (Blue OR Green)
Week 7 (Oct 6–10)	Mon: Group lesson – Registration / mix / belt Wed: 2 students (begin Red/Purple) Fri: 2 students (Red/Purple)
Week 8 (Oct 13–17)	Mon: 2 students (Red/Purple) Wed: 2 students (Red/Purple) Fri: Group Performance – Red/Purple works-in-progress
Week 9 (Oct 20–24)	Mon: Group lesson – Phrasing & lyric-driven acting Wed: 2 students (Red/Purple) Fri: 2 students (Red/Purple)
Week 10 (Oct 27–31)	Mon: 2 students (Red/Purple) Wed: 2 students (Red/Purple) Fri: Group Performance – Red/Purple works-in-progress
Week 11 (Nov 3–7)	Mon: 2 students (Red/Purple) Wed: 2 students (Red/Purple) Fri: 2 students (Red/Purple)
Week 12 (Nov 10–14)	Mon: 2 students (final coaching before Perf 2) Wed: Performance 2 – Prepared solo (Red OR Purple) Fri: Workshop (TBD) with Guest Instructor (instructor away)
Week 13 (Nov 17–21)	Mon: Workshop (TBD) with Guest Instructor (instructor away) Wed: Scene coaching – assign groups & begin staging (pair 1) Fri: Scene coaching (pair 2)
Week 14 (Nov 24–26)	Mon: Scene coaching (pair 3) Wed: No Class – Thanksgiving Break Fri: No Class – Thanksgiving Break
Week 15 (Dec 1–5)	Mon: Scene coaching (pair 4) + cabaret prep Wed: Scene run-throughs Fri: Scene Performances + Optional Cabaret Preview Practice Log Final Submission Due
Finals Week (Dec 8)	Mon (1:00 PM): Final class meeting Reflective Paper Due (min. 3 pages; rubric provided) End-of-semester celebration

Important Dates

Activity	Date	Percentage of Final Grade
Performance #1	Friday, Oct. 3rd	15%
Performance #2	Wednesday, Nov. 12th	15%
Guest Instructor	Friday Nov. 14 th and Monday Nov. 17 th	N/A
Performance #3 + Practice Log& Journal Due + Repertoire Book Due	Friday Dec. 5 th	15%, 15%, 10%
<i>Cabaret Style</i> Performance	TBD	OPTIONAL
Reflective Paper	Monday Dec. 8 th	10%