



Course Syllabus: Singing for the Actor
College of Fine Arts
THEA 2011-201
Fall 2023; MWF 2:00pm-2:50PM

Contact Information

Instructor: Dr. Grace Edgar

Office: 105

Office hours: MWF 10:00AM-11:00AM, T 1:00PM-3:00PM and by appointment

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Course Description

The student will learn about vocal anatomy and healthy vocal production. The student will develop vocal technique for singing and learn to communicate effectively on stage through the application of exercises, and the performance of two songs and a scene. Additionally, this course will be an exploration of the art of acting the song, particularly as it relates to musical theatre. Students will watch a musical and write an assessment paper as well as write a final reflective paper.

Course Objectives

- Develop healthy vocal technique.
- Work on communicating effectively with clear diction.
- Apply acting technique and character development to create complete performances.
- Expand knowledge of the musical theatre canon.
- Deepen knowledge of music theory and how music reflects characterization.

Textbook & Instructional Materials

- One version of *Singer's Musical Theatre Anthology* depending on your voice type.
- Yoga mat or towel for floor work.
- Three-ring binder
- Journal

Student Handbook

Refer to: [Student Handbook-2020-21](#)

Academic Misconduct Policy & Procedures

Academic Dishonesty: Cheating, collusion, and plagiarism (the act of using source material of other persons, either published or unpublished, without following the accepted techniques of crediting, or the submission for credit of work not the individual's to whom credit is given). Additional guidelines on procedures in these matters may be found in the Office of Student Conduct.

[Office of Student Conduct](#)

The use of generative AI tools (such as ChatGPT) is not permitted in this course; therefore, any use of AI tools for work in this class may be considered a violation of Texas Tech's Academic Integrity policy and the Student Code of Conduct since the work is not your own. The use of unauthorized AI tools will result in referral to the Office of Student Conduct.

Grading

The student's grade will be 20% class participation, 15% performance of 1st song, 15% performance of 2nd song, 15% performance of a scene, 15% performance of song in an informal musical theatre cabaret, 10% assessment paper of a musical, and 10% final reflective paper.

The student is allowed three 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 (Singing in class)	20%
Performance of Song #1	15%
Performance of Song #2	15%
Performance of Scene #1	15%
Musical Assessment Paper	10%
Performance in Musical Theatre Cabaret	15%
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%

Class Participation

The class will be structured as private 25-minute voice lessons on Monday and Wednesday, and a group studio class on Friday. Come prepared to sing and receive instruction on improving your vocal technique as well as musicianship and characterization.

Assignments and Quizzes

Throughout the semester, homework and quizzes regarding vocal anatomy, vocal technique, vocal health, and the singer's artistic identity will be assigned. Assignments should be uploaded into [D2L](#). Assignments are due by 2:00pm and late work will not be accepted. Additional assignments are part of your class participation grade.

Performances

There will be two song performances and a scenes performance which will take place during class time and be performed for the class. The last performance will be an invited musical theatre cabaret on December 8, 2023 at 5PM.

Musical Assessment Paper

The student will watch a musical that they have never seen before and write a 2-3-page paper discussing what they learned about vocal technique, musical theatre history, or acting. The paper will be two to three pages in length, double-spaced in a 12-point font. Your musical assessment paper will count as 10% of your final grade.

Final Reflective Paper

There will be a reflective final paper due on December 13, 2023 by 7:45PM as an upload to [D2L](#). This paper will be reflective on your experiences and improvement in Singing for the Actor class throughout the semester. You will give examples of techniques and tools you learned that were helpful to your development as a singer. The paper will be two to three pages in length, double-spaced in a 12-point font. Your reflective final paper will count as 10% of your final grade.

MSU Productions and Extra Credit

Attend the Midwestern plays this semester *Hope and Gravity* and *The Marriage Proposal & The Bear*. 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 of vocal production paper covering the performance of one of the actors (additional 5% added to your final grade) can be submitted one week after the production closes.

Late Work

Late work will not be accepted with the exception of an emergency.

Make Up Work/Tests

No make-up work or tests will be accepted with the exception of an emergency.

Important Dates

Last day for term schedule changes: August 31, 2023

Deadline to file for December graduation: September 25, 2023

Deadline to file for May graduation: October 2, 2023

Last Day to drop with a grade of "W:" October 30, 2023 by 4PM

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

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 Dr. Edgar.

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 Dr. Edgar. The student is allowed three absences per semester. Three late arrivals will equal one absence. Any additional absences will result in a 10% reduction from the final grade.

Instructor Class Policies

1. Participation: Daily participation in class activities and discussions. Always be warmed-up physically and vocally, and prepared to sing.

2. Daily Vocal Practice: Schedule and commit to at least 30 minutes of uninterrupted vocal practice six days a week. Turn your cell phone off or to airplane mode during this time.

3. Reading: Assigned reading is to be completed before the beginning of the week for the material covered during the week.

4. Writing: There will be two papers as well as two opportunities to write a bonus paper.

General Notes

Cell phones need to be turned to airplane mode during all classes and private sessions. Please record when you are singing in class or in a private session, so you can listen back for improvement.

Wear comfortable clothes and shoes suitable for movement and floor work during class and private sessions. Please wear audition dress when you perform your song.

No gum or food. Please always bring water to drink.

Songs will be selected and assigned by Dr. Edgar. These assignments are made thoughtfully to showcase a particular strength, focus on a particular area for improvement, and ensure that you are developing a variety of repertoire. Songs suggestions can be made by the student, but may not be best for development. I ask you to trust me as your devoted teacher and set up a meeting if you have concerns about your song assignment.

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

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

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 Dr. Edgar.

Course Schedule:

Week	Assignment
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Week 1 8/28-9/1	Syllabus Individual Warm-Up Sessions Song Assignment #1
Week 2 9/6-9/8	Work Song #1
Week 3 9/11-9/15	Work Song #1
Week 4 9/18-9/22	Work Song #1
Week 5 9/25-9/29	Work Song #1 Perform Song #1
Week 6 10/2-10/6	Song Assignment #2
Week 7 10/9-10/13	Work Song #2
Week 8 10/16-10/20	Work Song #2 Musical Assessment Paper Due
Week 9 10/23-10/27	Work Song #2
Week 10 10/30-11/3	Perform Song #2 Assign Scenes
Week 11 11/6-11/10	Work Scenes #1
Week 12 11/13-11/17	Block Scenes #1
Week 13 11/20-11/22	Rehearse Scenes #1
Week 14 11/27-12/1	Rehearse Scenes #1
Week 15 12/4-12/8	Rehearse Musical Theatre Cabaret Perform Musical Theatre Cabaret, December 8, 2023 5PM
Week 16 12/13	Reflective Paper Due by 7:45PM

Important Dates

Assignment Due	Date	Percentage of Final Grace
Song Performance #1	September 29, 2023	15%
Musical Assessment Paper	October 20, 2023	10%

Song Performance #2	October 30, 2023	15%
Scene Performance #1	December 6, 2023	15%
Performance in Musical Theatre Cabaret	December 8, 2023 at 5PM	15%
Reflective Final Paper	December 13, 2023 by 7:45PM	10%