

THFM-2922-002 (3 credit hours)
INTRODUCTION TO MUSIC AND SINGING

Winter 2014
Tuesdays/Thursdays 10:00-11:15 a.m.
Room: OT09

Instructor: Donna Fletcher
Phone: 489-9095 (home)
E-mail: fletcher_hickerson@shaw.ca
Office Hours: by appointment

Course Description

Introduction to Music and Singing (THFM-2922-002) focuses on the study of elemental music basic skills (rhythm and ear training, sight singing, and score reading), development of healthy vocal technique and rehearsal skills, audition technique, repertoire selection, and the integration of character development into the performance of selections from the Music Theatre repertoire. All grading practices will reflect the expectations which would be put upon a professional actor working under a professional contract. **These expectations include: being on time and prepared to work at the appointed start time of class; being prepared to perform when called upon; being prepared to take direction and re-direction; coming to class with all assigned homework prepared and assignments completed; being an engaged and supportive co-worker; and being vocally and physically prepared to participate in all in-class exercises, music rehearsals, discussions and master classes.**

Term Goal

Our term goal is to present a concert in early April which will consist of vocal solos from the Music Theatre repertoire. Songs will be assigned by the instructor according to vocal skill level and dramatic suitability for a role. Each artist will be featured and will develop and rehearse his/her selection according to a set of specific criteria. Within these assigned pieces students will work to develop their skills of song interpretation, vocal technique, text, and character analysis as they affect their vocal production.

Required Text

None

Suggested Text

On Singing Onstage by David Craig (Applause, 1990, rev. ed.)

Mark Breakdown

2 Song Presentations	20%
(Late January and mid February. Includes working in an ensemble as well as a soloist. Marking will be based on voice production, pitch accuracy, rhythmic precision, and text interpretation. Each presentation will be worth ½ of 20%. Date subject to change based on class progress.)	
2 Text and Character Analysis assignments.....	15%
(Early February and Early March. Dates subject to change based on class progress.)	
3 Basic Skills Tests and 3 assignments	25%
(Includes rhythm, ear training, musical terms, sight singing, and score reading. Please see tentative schedule. Dates subject to change based on class progress. All 6 grades are equally weighted; each of the assignments/tests is worth 1/6 of 25%.	
Preparation and Class Participation	15%
(As this is a performance-based course, students will be assessed on the quality and degree of real, in-class performance, product of preparation, and participation.)	
Final Exam/Performance	25%
(Includes performance of a solo song and ensemble choral piece. Marking will be based on voice production, pitch accuracy, rhythmic precision, and text interpretation.)	
Total	100%

CONVERSION SCALE

For the calculation of the final grade the following conversion table will be used:

A+	90 – 100%	GPA	4.5	C+	65 – 69.9%	GPA	2.5
A	85 – 89.9%	GPA	4.25	C	60 – 64.9%	GPA	2.0
A-	80 – 84.9%	GPA	4.0	D	50 – 59.9%	GPA	1.0
B+	75 – 79.9%	GPA	3.5	F	below 50%	GPA	0
B	70 – 74.9%	GPA	3.0				

Work not submitted will be graded as 0%.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE (subject to change)

January	Week One – Two	Introduction to Music Rudiments & Singing, First Basic Skills assignment (1/6 of 25%)
	Week Two – Three	First Basic Skills test (1/6 of 25%) and Song Selection
	Week Three – Four	Second Basic Skills assignment (1/6 of 25%) and test (1/6 of 25%) Group song presentation (1/2 of 20%)
February	Week One – Two	Song and character analysis assignment (15%)
	Week Two	Song Performance (15%) and Second Song Selection
	Week Four	Voluntary Withdrawal Date (March 3, 2014)
March	Week One – Two	Third Basic Skills assignment (1/6 of 25%)
	Week Two - Four	Song and character analysis assignment (15%)
	Week Four	In-depth vocal coaching of selected songs Final Basic Skills reading test (1/6 of 25%)
April	Week One	Final Public Performance/Presentation of selected songs and full ensemble piece (25%)

ATTENDANCE AND LATENESS (for 2nd- through 4th-year Performance classes)

Given that this is a practical studio course, extensive participation and professionalism are required. As a result, punctuality and attendance at class and in out-of-class rehearsals are of the utmost importance. Unexcused absences from lecture, lab, or rehearsal will be penalized at a rate of 2% per instance. Unexcused lateness for lecture, lab, or rehearsal will be penalized at a rate of 1% per instance. Attendance and punctuality will be recorded at the beginning of every class. After a **THIRD** late or absence, the instructor will schedule a meeting with the student to discuss withdrawal from the course. After a **FIFTH** unexcused absence the student will be required to meet with the Chair of the department to discuss withdrawal from the course.

In performance courses that cast and rehearse a show, unexcused lateness and absence will not be tolerated and may result in the recasting of your role after **ONE** incident.

Excused absences or lates require a medical note or prior arrangement with the instructor. It is at the instructor's discretion whether or not to excuse a non-medical absence. After **FIVE** excused absences the student will be required to meet with the Instructor to discuss whether it is realistic for him/her to continue in the course.

Given the rigorous, practical nature of studio courses, and the demands these courses make in terms of attendance and punctuality, students with chronic medical conditions that will require extensive absence

should meet with the instructor at the beginning of the term to discuss whether the course is appropriate for them.

"THE REAL THING" LECTURE SERIES

The Department of Theatre and Film continues its series of lectures which will be held on Wednesdays during the free period (12:30-13:20) in Theatre 1T15. Please note the dates in your diary **NOW**: Jan 15, Feb 12, Mar 12, 2014. This series will feature speakers from a range of areas in the performing arts: technical, performance, design, management, film, directing, playwriting, etc. These speakers will specifically address issues related to "the business of the business."

Attendance for potential Theatre Honours/majors and for Film majors is optional but highly recommended.

SERVICES FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Students with documented disabilities, temporary or chronic medical conditions, requiring academic accommodations for tests/exams (e.g., private space) or during lectures/laboratories (e.g., access to volunteer note-takers) are encouraged to contact Accessibility Services (AS) at 786-9771 or email accessibilityservices@uwinnipeg.ca to discuss appropriate options. Specific information about AS is available on-line at <http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/accessibility>. All information about a student's disability or medical condition remains confidential.

BUILDING SECURITY

The Asper Centre for Theatre and Film (which houses the Department of Theatre and Film) is open from 8:00 a.m.-5:30 p.m. weekdays. Students are permitted to be in the building between 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m. seven days per week **BUT PLEASE NOTE**: outside of regular building hours, it is **MANDATORY** that everyone in the building **EITHER** carry an access card **OR** have a booking confirmation form in their possession (hard copy or electronic). **ALL EVENING STUDENTS in the building for classes MUST have an access card.** If a Security Guard checks and you do not have proper accreditation, **you may be evicted.**

These rules are in place to protect our students and our equipment; please respect them.

ELECTRONIC COURSE OUTLINE ADDENDA

Students must check our website at <http://theatre.uwinnipeg.ca/tbooking.htm> and read the menu items called *Access Card/Building Use Policy* **AND** *Room Booking Instructions*. The link to the electronic *Online Room Booking Form* is also found at this location. Please read and note all instructions carefully.

GENERAL NOTES

This course outline should be considered a guideline only. Time constraints and other unforeseen factors may require that some topics be omitted or covered in less detail than indicated.

Archival records such as videotapes, sound recordings, and photographs may be made or taken during class or lab times. The University uses such materials primarily for archival, promotional, and teaching purposes. Promotional use may include display at open houses or conferences, or use in advertising, publicity, or brochures. In reading and accepting the terms in this course outline, students acknowledge consent for such use by the University. Should a student not wish to convey such consent, s/he should withdraw from this course immediately.

The University of Winnipeg promotes a scent-free environment. Please be respectful of the needs of fellow classmates and the instructor by avoiding the use of scented products while attending lectures.

Exposure to perfumes and other scented products (such as lotion) can trigger serious health reactions in persons with asthma, allergies, migraines, or chemical sensitivities.

Cellular phones **MUST** be turned off during classes and examinations; texting is **NOT** permitted in class.

Any student attending a test or final examination may be required to present proof of identity; photo identification is preferred.

It is the student's responsibility to retain a photocopy or computer disk copy of **ALL** assignments submitted for grading; in the event of loss or theft, a duplicate copy is required.

Students are strongly advised to read the section of the *University of Winnipeg Calendar* (found on-line at <http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/index/cms-filesystem-action/pdfs/calendar/RegulationsandPolicies.pdf>) for information on Registration, Grading, Academic Misconduct including plagiarism, and Appeals.

MONDAY, MARCH 3, 2014 is the final date to withdraw without academic penalty from courses which begin in January and end in April, 2014 (Winter 2014 Term).

STUDENT PARTICIPATION POLICY

Theatre is a communal art form in which a number of interdependent artists and crafts people co-operate to create a work of art. This fact is necessarily transferred to the learning situation, and is reflected in many of the Department's courses. Consequently, it is the Department's policy that students are required to: complete homework such as reading, line-learning, script analysis, prop lists, design drawings, etc.; attend classes; attend rehearsals both within and outside of class times; and, in short, to exhibit commitment towards the inevitably shared endeavours of our field of study.

Any student failing to fulfil these requirements is harmful to the progress of dedicated students and may, after due warning, be asked to withdraw from any individual Departmental course.

COURSE CONTENT NOTE

All Theatre and Film Classes

Dramatic Literature depicts a wide variety of human action, both elevated and base, public and private, physical and psychological, sexual and non-sexual, etc. The Department of Theatre and Film will not undertake to censor the subject matter of dramatic works.

Students who have concerns about dealing with the full range of content and style in drama/film are urged to discuss these concerns with the course instructor.

Performance-Related Classes

Much of an actor's work is based upon actual experiences of life which become translated into fictional circumstances. Because of this, the teaching of acting may involve encouraging the student to examine personal and even intimate areas of life to help him or her access life experiences appropriate to the demands of the work.

Dramatic literature depicts a wide range of human actions, both elevated and base, public and private, physical and psychological, sexual and non-sexual, etc. Acting students must learn to simulate life truthfully in interaction with other students in the safety of the acting class and the rehearsal hall through exercises, discussions, and directions which address rather than avoid truthful, particularized, personalized action.

Performance classes often require strenuous physical activity. Classes may also involve physical interaction between students as part of class exercises or character development and occasional physical contact by instructors for purposes such as the demonstration of a technique or to make a posture correction. Students are responsible for wearing clothing appropriate to these activities.

Students who have concerns about dealing with the full range of actions and subject matter involved in drama are urged to discuss these concerns with their course instructor.