Course Description
Opera Workshop is a class designed to help singers learn and practice performance skills. Learning centers around practical projects that culminate in either a scenes program or opera production performed publicly at the end of each semester.

Learning Objective
To provide performance experience and tools to help the student start on the track to becoming a proficient performer. A student who successfully meets all the requirements of the class will:
- Have a college or professional audition package in place
- Know how to prepare dramatic roles
- Successfully collaborate in rehearsal situations
- Begin to convincingly practice primary and general rules of acting singers
- Have the tools necessary for continued development in live performance

Students will be held to professional standards of conduct not professional standards of performance though professional standards of performance are our goal.

Major Course Requirements
Students must attend all scheduled classes and rehearsals. Students are expected to perform in class in the final performance of the semester. Students are also required to submit practice logs and performance evaluations as assigned in class.

Class Policies
Attendance and Late Policy - Each class is worth 50 points. Only university approved absences are excused. Students are expected to be to class at least 5 minutes early, warmed up, focused, and ready to perform. Late students will...
receive half of the days attendance points. Late is defined by anyone not ready to work by the official start of the class period. Students are responsible and required to catch up on material missed due to an absence. Students are expected to contact the instructor if they will miss or be late to class as soon as they know such will be the case.

*Appropriate dress* is crucial to the success of the class. Unless the character you are portraying in a performance assignment requires and exception you must be dressed in:
- Character or dance shoes (Closed toed shoes)
- Comfortable clothes that allow for a broad range of movement
- Low cut shirts or short skirts or shorts are not acceptable. If you are concerned with trying to keep yourself covered you cannot focus on what is being asked of you.

*The classroom must be a safe environment.* Physical and Emotional safety are paramount. If at any time you do not feel safe it is your responsibility to let the instructor know your concern so appropriate changes can be made. Sexual Harassment will not be tolerated and will be dealt with according to University Policy. Please ask for help inside or outside class time. DO NOT correct colleagues unless specifically asked to do so. Your role as a good colleague is to encourage and support. You are competing with yourself, not your colleagues. You should be on each others team.

Excuses for poor performance are not needed and are not accepted. They are irrelevant in performance. You are strongly encouraged to take appropriate risks. Appropriate risks are actions that stretch you and push you out of your comfort zone or stretch your artistic limits without risking the safety or legal boundaries of yourself or others. Risk taking is hard to do. Please respect those who extend themselves in this way by validating the risk taking whether or not the attempt was successful. This is a classroom where we are learning, risking, and making mistakes, not where we expect perfection.

**Required Text**

1st semester Students read and write a report on: *Talent is Overrated: What Really Separates World-Class Performers from Everybody Else* by Geoff Colvin

2nd Semester Students read and write a report on: *The Inner Game of Music* by W. Timothy Gallwey

3rd Semester Students read and write a report on: *Singer and Actor: Acting Technique and the Operatic Performer* by Alan E. Hicks

**Recommended Texts (Choose one, read and write a report)**

Acting for Singers by David F. Ostwald
Body Language by Julius Fast
Disabilities Accommodations

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please call or visit Disability Services at (361) 825-5816 in Corpus Christi Hall, Room 116.

If you are a returning veteran and are experiencing cognitive and/or physical access issues in the classroom or on campus, please contact the Disability Services office for assistance at (361) 825-5816.

Academic Integrity/Plagiarism.

University students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the highest standards of academic honesty. Academic misconduct for which a student is subject to penalty includes all forms of cheating, such as illicit possession of examinations or examination materials, falsification, forgery, complicity or plagiarism. (Plagiarism is the presentation of the work of another as one’s own work.) In this class, academic misconduct or complicity in an act of academic misconduct on an assignment or test will result in (                 ).

Dropping a Class

I hope that you never find it necessary to drop this or any other class. However, events can sometimes occur that make dropping a course necessary or wise. Please consult with me before you decide to drop to be sure it is the best thing to do. Should dropping the course be the best course of action, you must initiate the process to drop the course by going to the Student Services Center and filling out a course drop form. Just stopping attendance and participation WILL NOT automatically result in your being dropped from the class. (             ) is the last day to drop a class with an automatic grade of “W” this term.

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, as an academic community, requires that each individual respect the needs of others to study and learn in a peaceful atmosphere. Under Article III of the Student Code of Conduct,
classroom behavior that interferes with either (a) the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or (b) the ability of other students to profit from the instructional program may be considered a breach of the peace and is subject to disciplinary sanction outlined in article VII of the Student Code of Conduct. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior may be instructed to leave the classroom. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including classrooms, electronic classrooms, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc.

Grade Appeals

As stated in University Rule 13.02.99.C2, Student Grade Appeals, a student who believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. The burden of proof is upon the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, see University Rule 13.02.99.C2, Student Grade Appeals, and University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures. These documents are accessible through the University Rules.

Grades

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A (Excellent) = 92% - 100%
A- = 90% - 92%
B+ = 88% - 90%
B (Above Average) = 82% - 88%
B- = 80%-82%
C+ = 78%-80%
C (Average) = 72%-78%
C- = 70% - 72%
D (Below Average) = 60%-70%
F (Fail) = Below 60%

Course Schedule: (Schedule is Subject to Change. Changes will be announced ahead of time to the class.)

Week 1:
  F: Aug 24, 2012: Warm-up: Vulnerability Exercise intro
  Lecture: Syllabus - How to Practice - 4 Primary Rules - 10 General Rules-WWWWWW/Character Development

Week 2:
  Music Rehearsals
  F: Aug. 31, 2012: Assignment #3 to be performed in Class
  Music Rehearsals

Week 3
  Music Rehearsals
  F: Sept. 7, 2012: Music Rehearsals

Week 4
  T: Sept. 11, 2012: Music Rehearsals/ Staging Rehearsals

Week 5
  T: Sept. 18, 2012: Music Rehearsals/ Staging Rehearsals
  F: Sept. 21, 2012: Memorization Test

Week 6
  T: Sept. 25, 2012: Staging Rehearsals
  F: Sept 28, 2012: Staging Rehearsals

Week 7
  Staging Rehearsals
  F: Oct, 5, 2012 Staging Rehearsals
Week 8
  T: Oct. 9, 2012: Staging Rehearsals
  F: Oct. 12, 2012: Staging Rehearsals

Week 9
  T: Oct. 16, 2012: Staging Rehearsals
  F: Oct. 19, 2012: Solo Number Audition for Scenes

Week 10
  T: Oct. 23, 2012: Piano Tech Rehearsal

Week 11
  T: Oct. 30, 2012: Dress Rehearsal (Costumes + Make-up)
  W: Oct. 31, 2012: Opera Scenes Rehearsal In PAC 6-10PM
  TH: Nov. 1, 2012: Opera Scenes Rehearsal in PAC 6-10PM
  F: Nov. 2, 2012: Opera Scenes Performance in PAC Call: 6:00PM, GO:7:30PM
  Sat: Nov. 3, 2012: Opera Scenes Performance in PAC Call: 6:00PM, GO:7:30PM

Week 12
  T: Nov. 6, 2012: Lecture: How to Audition
     Option Assignment Performances
  F: Nov. 9, 2012: Option Assignment Performances

Week 13
  T: Nov. 13, 2012: Option Assignment Performances
  F: Nov. 16, 2012: Option Assignment Performances

Week 14
  T: Nov. 20, 2012: Option Assignment Performances
  F: Nov. 23, 2012: NO CLASS – THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY

Week 15
  T: Nov 27, 2012: Mock Auditions
  F: Nov 30, 2012: Mock Auditions

Week 16
  T: Dec 4, 2012: Mock Auditions – Guest Judge Day
Project Requirements

SELF EVALUATION FORMAT
For each performance assignment you are required to submit a self evaluation of what you thought was:

a) successfully executed in your performance
b) not executed successfully executed
c) what 2-3 principles you want to focus on improving in your next project presentation
d) How much and in what way did I prepare and practice for this assignment? How would I have practiced differently? How will I alter my practice for the next assignment?

* Concise, clear, bullet points are best.
* Evaluations are due the class period after each in class or public performance - Paper form required.

Assignment #1 & #2:
1. Read (Or listen to) : The Required Text Listed Above that matches the number of semesters you have taken this course. These books are not currently available in the campus bookstore so please order or buy them immediately. All are available through major book retailers.

2. Write a One page Summary outlining:
   A. What you thought the key points made by the Author were
   B. How this is relevant to what you do and what changes you will make to what you do because of what you learned.
   *** One page only. Either Bullet points or narrative style are acceptable. The depth of thought you gave to it is what I am looking for***

3. Repeat steps one and two except choose one of the books in the recommended texts section above that you have not previously read.

Points possible 100

Due Date for Writing Assignment #1 : October 1rst, 2012.
Due Date for Writing Assignment #2: The Last Day of Class

Assignment #3: 45 second Prelude - Acting with Music - No Singing
Choose a segment of music that is at least 45 seconds long and no longer than 2 minutes that does not have text associated with it. Prepare a solo fully staged scene to be performed on one of the days designated on the schedule for this assignment. Your grade will be:
50% Level of preparation
50% Self evaluation.

*Assignment #4: Opera/Musical Scene Ensemble
You will be assigned an ensemble number from an Opera or Musical. Prepare the piece in a fully staged style with your colleagues to be performed on one of the days designated on the schedule for this assignment. Your grade will be based on:
50% Level of preparation:
- Did you memorize your piece on time?
- Did you learn and improve on your blocking as assigned?
- Did you know exactly what you and others in your scene were saying?
- Did you know the context of your scene?
50% Self evaluation.

*Assignment Option #6: Directing Project
Choose an aria or solo from an Opera or Musical. Prepare the piece in a fully staged style to be performed on one of the days designated on the schedule for this assignment. Your grade will be based on:
25% Level of preparation as Director:
Translation sheet (If applicable)- to include original text, poetic translation, word for word translation, IPA, sub-text/inner-monologue in format to be described in class. You must provide sheet to instructor and copy for at least every other student. Song must be memorized. Thoughtful dramatic intent must be clear.
25% Self evaluation as Director.
25% Level of preparation as Singer:
Translation sheet (If applicable)- to include original text, poetic translation, word for word translation, IPA, sub-text/inner-monologue in format to be described in class. You must provide sheet to instructor and copy for at least
every other student. Song must be memorized.
Thoughtful dramatic intent must be clear.
25% Self evaluation as Singer

Performance Attendance x 2
Attend at least 2 live theatre performances (You may use 1 recital or choir performance) performance. Submit an evaluation and ticket stub or program. 50 points per performance.

Practice Log
You will submit fill out a practice form at:
http://authenticspectacle.squarespace.com/ipracticedlogin/?returnUrl=%2F
The log will be graded according to how well you met your practice goals for that week. You will get 50 points per week for weeks 2-15. No practice log will be due on week 16.

Jury
The jury grade I assign will have no influence or relation beyond this class. The other instructors judging juries will have no influence on the grade I will assign. Your grad will be determined as follows:

33% Preparation
33% Execution of Your Personal Goals: You must submit this by the last day of class.
33% Self Evaluation