Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi
Department of Music

MUEN 1157 001 (91440) Opera Workshop
Opera Main Stage Productions Ensemble Syllabus

Class Hours: MW 1:00-1:50; TR 12:30-1:45 Class Location: CA 136
Instructor: Marc Reynolds Contact Info: Phone 818-319-3813 Office: CA 141
Email marc@marcdreynolds.com Office Hours: TBA and by Appointment

Course Description
The Main Stage production class is devoted to the development of voice students interested in future opera careers or in developing practical experience in opera performance. Students are selected by audition for participation in any or all of the main stage activities. This course is devoted to the preparation and performance of operatic or musical theater works.

Student Learning Outcomes
- Prepare operatic or music theater roles musically and dramatically.
- Develop professional performance skills.
- Build practical experience that can be used on graduate school applications and professional resumes.
- Learn how to negotiate professional collaborative relationships.

Class Policies
Attendance: Students are required to attend all class periods unless excused by the director. Student are expected to be on time and prepared for the days activities

Proper Attire: Students are expected to come to rehearsals in proper attire. Rehearsal shoes and clothes are encouraged. Closed toed shoes and appropriate attire that allows students to move freely are required.

Attitude: 1. Student’s willingness to work at full capacity
2. Maintain a strong sense of discipline
3. Develop to the best of your ability
4. Cooperation and application
5. Maintain a positive working relationship with colleagues

Understanding the varying degrees of abilities, talents and personalities, students are expected to perform to the best of their ability in a professional manner.

Materials/Required Text
Students are expected to purchase their own music for all Main Stage activities. University-owned material checked out by students is the responsibility of the student, NOT the department of music. University-owned materials not returned will result in a hold on grades.
Course Schedule

The first weeks of the semester will be devoted to musical preparation. Individual and Ensemble coaching sessions will focus on all facets of musical preparation and will be scheduled accordingly.

Once literature has been assigned students are responsible for learning their own music. Students are expected to sing through their literature, completely off book at that time at an appropriate time. Those who are unable to do this will automatically lose a letter grade for the semester. Be aware that, in addition to affecting your grade and endangering your success in the program, being poorly prepared is also unfair to your fellow cast members.

Preparation for Main Stage productions is divided into two areas: musical preparation and staging.

The normal rehearsal for musical preparation and/or staging will take place during class time. Technical and dress rehearsal will take place in the evening for two weeks preceding the production itself. Other special rehearsals will be called on a limited by need basis.

Musical preparation will take place based on faculty/staff and student schedules, in addition to the above times.

All students not cast in a Main Stage production will be assigned to participate in the chorus and/or technical work (crew, costume shop, scenery, etc). No exceptions.

Important Dates are as follows:
Week 1: Music Rehearsal start
Week 2: Memory Check – All music must be memorized and off book
Week 3: Staging Rehearsals start
Week 4 – Tech Week: Staging and Music rehearsals.
Tech Week: Singers are required to attend rehearsals that will take place outside of normal class time and will be held from 6-10PM Monday – Friday the week before the performances.
Performance Week: Singers are required to attend all performances and should expect to keep the hours of 6-10PM available the week of performances and 8am – Noon available on the first day of performances for Educational performances.
The week following the performance is reserved for reviewing the performance experience.

GENERAL INFORMATION
Each student will need to fill out a schedule form to be used in scheduling rehearsals.
Students are required to keep their information current throughout the semester.
Rehearsal Schedules: Weekly rehearsal schedules will be posted in addition to all other opera related activities.
Students should check the postings daily since rehearsals can change daily.

ATTENDANCE
Students will participate in all assigned rehearsals and class activities unless excused by the Director of Opera.
GRADING
Grading is based on the following criteria:

a) All class work will be graded weekly, which includes but is not limited to class participation, class and performance preparation, all public performances. This will add up to 40% of the total grade.

b) Participation in any and all performance work (including roles, technical work, chorus, etc.). This will add up to 40% of the total grade.

c) Artist Journal will be kept daily and graded monthly based on consistency of entry and thoughtfulness of entries. This will add up to 20% of the total grade.

Final Grades will be calculated as follows:
A (Excellent) = 90% - 100%
B (Above Average) = 80% - 89%
C (Average) = 70%-79%
D (Below Average) = 60%-69%
F (Fail) = Below 60%

Attendance: Three unexcused absences to class or any rehearsal will result in lowering of the semester grade by one letter.

Tardiness: Three unexcused tardies to class or any rehearsal will result in lowering of the semester grade by a full letter grade.

Welcome to the Main Stage. May you all fulfill your talents and career goals. Please know we are here to help you achieve them.