Dr. Ellen Denham                      MUSI 3170 TR 11:00 - 11:50 am
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Office Hours: TBA

Voice Techniques for Instrumentalists  
TR 11:00 - 11:50 am CA 140 Section .001

Course Objectives:
1. Students will be able to describe the basic anatomy of the larynx.
2. Students will be able to identify the nature of vocal sound.
3. Students will be able to demonstrate proficiency in vocal production.
4. Students will be able to lead a vocal exercise and describe its purpose.
5. Students will be able to identify the ranges and characteristics of the human voice in various stages of growth.

Required Materials:
Basics of Singing 6th Ed.  
Jan Schmidt
IBSN#: 9780495115311

3 ring notebook, blank college-ruled paper, blank manuscript paper

Optional Materials:
Diagnosis and Correction of Vocal Faults  
James C. McKinney
IBSN#: 9781577664031

Basics of Singing Companion CDs  
IBSN#: 0495115320

Grading:
A: 90 – 100  B: 80 – 89  C: 70 – 79  D: 60 – 69  F: 0 – 59

No incompletes will be given. All assignments are due in class on the scheduled date. Late assignments will not be accepted. Celebrations will not be made up.

Assignments:
Vocal Exercises: Students will sign-up to lead vocal exercises on the first day of class. Every student will conduct 2 exercises with the class, each worth 25 points. You must turn in or email your exercises on the day you do them. You must do unique exercises that have not been brought before the class this term. (50 pts.)

1. Lead the class in a basic vocal exercise.
   a. The exercises will occur at the beginning of the class period.
   b. Exercise should be no more than 3 minutes.
   c. In order to receive full credit, you must:
      • demonstrate the exercise vocally before teaching it.
• indicate to the class when to breathe and when to execute the onset of the exercise (using gestures).
• accompany yourself on the piano.

2. Lead the class in an advanced vocal exercise.
   a. This exercise will occur at the beginning of the class period.
   b. Exercise should be no more than 5 minutes.
   c. These vocalises should be chosen to help remedy a specific vocal fault.
   d. In order to receive full credit, you must
      • be prepared to explain the purpose of this exercise.
      • demonstrate the exercise vocally.
      • evaluate class progress by giving verbal feedback, including suggestions as to how to improve the particular skill being taught.

Celebrations of Knowledge: There will be a minimum of 5 surprise Celebrations of Knowledge during the semester. Each Celebration will be worth 10 points. Celebrations will NOT be made-up in the event of absence. Your 5 highest grades will be used and the remainder will be dropped. (50pts.)

Recital Critique: Each student will write a two-page critique of a vocal recital. This critique will be typed, single-spaced in Times New Roman 12-point font and be attached to the program and any program notes. These critiques are due within two weeks of the given recital. In the critique comment specifically on topics covered in class (posture, breathing, tension or lack of, diction, facial expression, stage presence, interpretation, vocal health, vocal clarity, etc.). You may attend any TAMU-CC student or faculty voice recital (Wednesday recital hour is not acceptable). (50 pts.)

Notebook: You are required to keep a notebook which will be turned in at the final exam. Using labeled dividers, please divide your 3-ring notebook into the following sections (100 pts.):
1. Handouts, notes from class
2. Vocal Exercises (You will be provided with a packet of all the exercises from the semester) and any feedback on your exercises.
3. Graded Critique(s) and any notes
4. Journal Abstracts along with copies of the articles read or bibliographical information.
5. Graded Celebrations and Exams

Journal Abstracts: You will be required to research and write abstracts (one-page, double-spaced) of journal articles on various aspects of vocal technique that we will study in class. Each report is worth 25 pts. and there will be four reports completed during the
semester. These articles can be found in the library in hard copy or online (NATS Journal of Singing, Choral Journal, Music Educators Journal, etc.). If you question the appropriateness of an article, please seek approval before writing your report. Please submit ALL journal abstracts via email prior to class time on the due date. (100pts)

Exams: There will be 3 tests including:
1. Anatomy Test – (100 pts.)
2. Midterm* – (250 pts.)
3. Final* – (300 pts.)
*(These exams DO include a singing portion) All exams are cumulative.

Class Participation: It is expected that students will willingly participate in all class activities.

**Extra Credit may be earned at any time during the semester by submitting additional Journal Abstracts or Recital Critiques. Each additional assignment submitted has a maximum point value of 25. A maximum of 2 extra credit assignments may be submitted. Extra credit assignments may not count in lieu of completing required assignments.

ATTENDANCE POLICY: Students are expected to attend every class meeting and be on time. This class only meets once week and there are significant amounts of information to cover. Absences will be excused only for official university business (as is stated in the undergraduate catalog). An absence for medical reasons will require a doctor’s note. Two unexcused tardies will equal one absence. Note: Instructor reserves the right to adjust this attendance policy in extreme cases or emergencies.

0 absences – plus 25 points
1 absence – no grade deduction
2 absences – minus 25 points
3 absences – minus 50 points
4 absences – minus 150 points
5 absences – minus 200 points
6 absences – minus 300 points
7 absences – CANNOT PASS

Calendar

A calendar with assignment dates will be distributed on the first day of class.

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 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 Advising**
The College of Liberal Arts requires that students meet with an Academic Advisor as soon as they are ready to declare a major. Degree plans are prepared in the CLA Academic Advising Center. The University uses an online Degree Audit system. Any amendment must be approved by the Department Chair and the Office of the Dean. All courses and requirements specified in the final degree plan audit must be completed before a degree will be granted. The CLA Academic Advising Office is located in Driftwood #203. For more information please call 361-825-3466.

**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 your academic advisor, the Financial Aid Office, and me, before you decide to drop this course.** 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.

**Grade Appeals**
As stated in University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.03, *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 Procedure 13.02.99.C2.03, *Student Grade Appeals*. These documents are accessible online at: [http://academicaffairs.tamucc.edu/rules_procedures/assets/13.02.99.C0.03_student_grade_appeals.pdf](http://academicaffairs.tamucc.edu/rules_procedures/assets/13.02.99.C0.03_student_grade_appeals.pdf). For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Associate Dean’s office in the college in which the course is taught. For complete details on the process of submitting a formal grade appeal in CLA, please visit the College of Liberal Arts website, [http://cla.tamucc.edu/about/student-resources.html](http://cla.tamucc.edu/about/student-resources.html).

**Classroom/professional behavior**
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.

**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 a grade of an automatic zero.

**Statement of Academic Continuity**

In the event of an unforeseen adverse event, such as a major hurricane and classes could not be held on the campus of Texas A&M University–Corpus Christi; this course would continue through the use of Blackboard and/or email. In addition, the syllabus and class activities may be modified to allow continuation of the course. Ideally, University facilities (i.e., emails, web sites, and Blackboard) will be operational within two days of the closing of the physical campus. However, students need to make certain that the course instructor has a primary and a secondary means of contacting each student.