CASPER COLLEGE COURSE SYLLABUS
MUSC 1270  Voice I

Semester/Year: Spring 2016

Lecture Hours:  Lab Hours: 1  Credit Hours: 1-2

Class Day & Time: TBD  Room: MU 208

Instructor’s Name: Kristen Lenth

Instructor's Contact Information: Office Phone: 268-2685  Email: klenth@caspercollege.edu

Office Phone: (812)320-4451

Office Hours: TBA, MU 208

Course Description: 30- or 60-minute weekly private instruction in the specific instrument for majors and non-majors. Majors attend scheduled studio classes and perform a final jury. A course fee is assessed.

Statement of Prerequisites: Audition

Goal: The study of vocal production, literature, and related performance techniques.

Outcomes:
The student shall:
- Demonstrate knowledge of diverse cultures and historical perspectives
- Appreciate aesthetic and creative activities

The student shall also accomplish appropriate experiences in the following categories:
- Posture
- Proper breathing for singing
- Phonation
- Articulation
- Resonance
- Effective practice techniques
- Appropriate vocal repertoire
- Performance techniques and musicianship

Methodology: One half-hour or hour private lesson plus an assigned number of practice hours per week, in addition to related written assignments. Lesson day and time to be arranged.

Evaluation Criteria: Students will be evaluated based on three criteria:
- Lesson Attendance & Preparation: 70%
- Final Performance: 20%
- Concert Report, Practice Journal, and Other Assignments: 10%

Casper College may collect samples of student work demonstrating achievement of the above outcomes. Any personally identifying information will be removed from student work.
Required Text, Readings, and Materials:
Vocal Practice Journal by Joshua R. Mietz. It is available at Hill Music or online at

The book Soprano on her Head by Eloise Ristad will be required for all music majors and can be
purchased in the campus bookstore or through online retailers. Students are responsible for purchasing
their own music. I will assign a variety of texts containing literature most appropriate for the
individual student. Repertoire will be drawn from standard classic vocal repertoire, and in some cases
music theatre repertoire. Languages will include English, Italian, and other languages at the
instructor’s discretion.

Class Policies

Last Date to Change to Audit Status or to Withdraw with a W Grade: Refer to Casper College
Academic calendar.

Attendance: Attendance is required at all lessons. The student may have two or fewer excused
absences (illness, etc.) which must be arranged in advance with the instructor. The instructor will
make up one excused absence per semester. Any subsequent missed lessons or unexcused absences
will result in the final grade being lowered by a grade letter for each offence. The attendance policy
will be strictly enforced. Voice majors must also attend voice performance class, which is held on
Wednesdays at noon in MU 112 on the following dates:* 2/3, 2/24, 3/23, 4/13, and 4/27*. You must
also be prepared to sing for at least two of these classes during the semester.

Weekly Preparation: Students will be given a grade for each lesson which is based on the following
criteria: attendance, preparation, professionalism, and completion of a practice journal. Students must
comply with the minimum practice requirements set forth by the Casper College catalog. The catalog
requires at least 3 hours outside of class for 1 credit lessons and at least 6 hours outside of class for 2
credit lessons. Again, these are the minimum requirements.

Students must have all assigned semester repertoire learned by mid-term and memorized two weeks
before the final performance. Additional memorization deadlines will be added at the instructor’s
discretion. Students who are unprepared for lessons may be asked to leave and return when prepared.

Concert Report: Students shall attend a recital featuring vocalists and then write a concert report.
Specifics of these assignments are at the end of this document, and it will be due the Tuesday of finals
week.

Reading Assignments: Music majors will be given reading assignments from Soprano on her Head
during the course of the semester. Students keep a journal to go along with the text and will be
expected to participate in class discussions about the reading in voice performance class. These will
fall under “Other Assignments” in the Evaluation Criteria.

Final Performance: At the end of the semester, each student must give a final performance. For this
performance, at least four pieces from the semester repertoire must be memorized and confidently
performed. This will take place the week before final exams. For music majors, a jury will be
required which will take place during exam week.
**Student Rights and Responsibilities:** Please refer to the Casper College Student Conduct and Judicial Code for information concerning your rights and responsibilities as a Casper College Student.

**Chain of Command:** If you have any problems with this class, you should first contact the instructor to attempt to solve the problem. If you are not satisfied with the solution offered by the instructor, you should then take the matter through the appropriate chain of command starting with the Department Head/Program Director, the Academic Dean, and lastly the Vice President for Academic Affairs.

**Academic Dishonesty:** (Cheating & Plagiarism) Casper College demands intellectual honesty. Proven plagiarism or any form of dishonesty associated with the academic process can result in the offender failing the course in which the offense was committed or expulsion from school. See the Casper College Student Code of Conduct.

**Official Means of Communication:** Casper College faculty and staff will employ the student's assigned Casper College email account as a primary method of communication. Students are responsible to check their account regularly.

**ADA Accommodations Policy:** If you need academic accommodations because of a disability, please inform me as soon as possible. See me privately after class, or during my office hours. To request academic accommodations, students must first consult with the college’s Disability Services Counselor located in the Gateway Building, Room 344, (307) 268-2557, bheuer@caspercollege.edu. The Disability Services Counselor is responsible for reviewing documentation provided by students requesting accommodations, determining eligibility for accommodations, and helping students request and use appropriate accommodations.

**Calendar or schedule indicating course content:** All assigned repertoire must be learned by Midterm. This means the student should be able to sing through each song with the music with minimal mistakes. I may also assign specific memorization deadlines throughout the semester which must be followed. Unless otherwise specified, all music must be memorized and performance ready by the end of the semester.
Concert Report

Each student must attend one concert featuring vocalists during the semester and write a short report about the concert. Any concert sponsored by the Casper College Music Department (that features vocalists) is automatically approved. Any other performance you may be attending off campus needs approval from the instructor to count for this assignment. Also, you may not write a report on a recital in which you are a performer.

Due Date:
The concert report is due on the final lesson of the semester. Students are encouraged to turn in this assignment at their earliest convenience.

Content of the Concert Reports:
The goal of this assignment is to attend and appreciate live vocal performances, and to refine listening skills. The report should be at least two (2) pages long, typed, and double spaced. You must submit a copy of the program from the concert with your assignment. Examples of questions to be answered in the report may include, but are certainly not limited to:

- What types of music were performed?
- What was your favorite song? Your least favorite song?
- Comment on the voice of the vocalist(s). What did you like and dislike about the voice, and did you think they used good vocal technique? Please explain what you think the performer(s) did well technically and what you think they could improve upon.
- How did the performer(s) communicate and express the text and mood of the songs? If there were foreign language pieces, was it clear that the performer knows (or doesn’t know) what the text means?
- If there were English songs on the program, how was the diction? Could you understand what was being said?
- What is one thing that you learned from this performance?