CASPER COLLEGE COURSE SYLLABUS
MUSC 1270: Applied Voice

Semester/Year: Spring 2015

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

Class Day & Time: TBD Room: MU 205

Instructor’s Name: Veronica Turner

Contact Information: Office Phone: Email:
Office in MU 205 (307) 268-2649 (w) veronicaturner@caspercollege.edu
(406) 546 7882 (c)

Office Hours: By appointment only, please email to arrange!

Course Description: 30- or 60-minute weekly private instruction in the specific instrument. Scheduled studio classes and final jury are required. The 30-minute lesson is open to non-majors. The 60-minute lesson is open to non-majors with the permission of the instructor. A course fee is assessed.

Statement of Prerequisites: Audition

Goal: The goal of this course is to give you guidance and instruction on proper vocal technique and aspects of performance through private voice lessons, studio classes, and performance opportunities. My goal as an educator is to help you become the best singer, musician, and performer you can be by enhancing and efficiently using your natural vocal instrument.

Outcomes: Over the course of the semester, the student shall strive to master:

- Posture: Getting the body properly aligned without any extraneous tension or work being applied to any particular area.
- Breathing: Finding a breathing process that works and working on efficiency of that breathe, so that none is wasted and all is used.
- Phonation: Creating a clear and healthy onset that can continue into a tension free, easy sound.
- Communication: Portraying in your face/body/emotion what you are singing.
- Translating/IPA/text meaning: All pieces should have a word-for-word translation, as well as IPA for foreign languages. Also, a clear image of what the text means will be necessary to a good performance.
- Performance aspects: Logistics! When to bow, how to bow, how to announce yourself, etc.
Casper College Outcomes:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of diverse cultures and historical perspectives (lessons, juries, performances, written assignments)

2. Appreciate aesthetic and creative activities (lessons, juries, performances, written assignments)

Methodology: One half-hour or hour (depending on credit hours) 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 the following criteria:

Lessons (See rubric) 75%
Assignments 10%
Performances 5%
Final Jury 5%
Professionalism 5%

Required Text, Readings, and Materials:
- Vocal Practice Journal ($14): Hill Music may have some of these in stock or you can order online at lulu.com.
- Repertoire will be assigned by the teacher, tailor-made to each your needs. For example, a freshman with no foreign language experience will receive completely different repertoire requirements from a more experienced singer.
- If you have a piece ready to bring into lesson to work on, please note that the following IS REQUIRED:
  - IPA of foreign language text (Diction students only)
  - Translation
  - Understanding of the poetic translation
  - Knowledge of composer, larger work, compositional era, etc.

Rubric:
Weekly Lesson Rubric = 20 points per lesson each week.
Added together, this is worth 75% of your semester grade.

Sample rubric:

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Attendance:
- Present and on time: 5
- 1-2 minutes tardy: 4
- 5 minutes tardy: 3
- 10 minutes tardy: 2
- Not present with less than 24 hours notice: 1
- Not present with no notice: 0

Attitude:
- Positive attitude and willingness to try anything: 5
- Grumpy attitude and/or reticent to try anything: 3
- Unpleasant to work with and unwilling to participate: 0

Preparedness:
- All music for the lesson is prepared, as well as having all music, practice journal, water, pencil at the lesson: 5
- Music for the lesson is not prepared to the expected level and/or any supplies for the lesson are not there: 3
- Music for the lesson is no further along than previous week and/or all supplies for the lesson are not there: 0

Journal:
- All expected practice hours (6 – 8 hours for 2 credits, 3 – 5 hours for 1 credit) are complete and marked in detail in journal: 5
- Incomplete practice hours (4 – 5 hours for 2 credits, 2 hours for 1 credit) or not marked in the journal adequately: 4
- Incomplete practice hours (4 – 5 hours for 2 credits, 2 hours for 1 credit) and not marked in the journal adequately: 3
- Incomplete practice hours (2 -3 hours for 2 credits, 1 hour for 1 credit) and/or not marked in the journal adequately: 2
- Incomplete practice hours (up to 2 hours for 2 credits, less than 1 hour for 1 credit) and/or not marked in the journal adequately: 1
- Incomplete practice hours (0 hours) and/or not marked in the journal adequately: 0

Assignments: (See below for more details)
- You are going to use a journal for all your practice times each week and we will review it at your lesson. The link to the journal I would like you to use is list in the “Required Materials” section. Anytime you spend on your music or voice, no matter how small, should be marked down in this journal.
- In addition to the practice journal, one of the following should be completed every semester:
  - Curriculum Vitae (one time only)
  - Repertoire List (one time only)
  - Teaching Philosophy (one time only)
  - Composer biography, with focus on your piece
Performances:
This category refers to any and all performances given during the semester. These may differ between majors and non-majors, but are assigned per the teacher’s discretion.

- **Voice Performance class:**
  All voice majors are required to attend voice performance class from 12 – 12:50 in MU 112 on certain days during the semester. As a group, we will finish reading *A Soprano on Her Head: Right-Side-Up Reflections on Life and Other Performances* by Eloise Ristad. All majors are expected to read and contribute in class. Performance class is one of the most important times for us to get together to learn and celebrate each other’s successes and strengths, so please take this seriously and participate eagerly!

- **Convocation:**
  All voice majors are also required to perform on a convocation performance during the semester as well. Non-majors are welcome to perform as well. Please note that it is YOUR responsibility to take care of the paper work for this performance. Convocation meets at the same time as Voice Performance class on its off weeks.

- **Voice Studio Recital:**
  This semester, we will also be participating in a recital with members of the other voice studios. It is not yet scheduled and I will let you know as soon as possible. All voice majors will be required to perform on this recital, but every member of the studio is invited and strongly recommended.

Final Jury:
This category refers to your jury in front of the voice faculty. All voice majors are required to participate in juries and any non-major may be asked to perform as part of a studio requirement. Juries take place after classes during exam week. For 1-credit students, you should expect to have 2-3 pieces prepared a memorized while 2-credit students should have 4 – 5 songs ready to sing. There should be no surprises for your studio teacher on your jury sheet, meaning that any and all pieces from that semester should be ready for performance. Any piece left off of the “ready to perform” section must have teacher approval.

Professionalism:
This category refers to how you carry yourself outside of lessons with regards to your attitudes and participation in degree required classes and ensembles, as well as any less than exemplary behaviors and attitudes dealing with staff, faculty members, and fellow students. This includes any and all bullying and gossiping as well. Your ability to be professional is directly linked to your success in the world of music and will be in your lessons as well.
**Sophomore Recital:**  
Although not required, it is strongly recommended that all graduating sophomores perform a solo recital on their major instrument. This is an excellent time to showcase all the hard work and time you have invested in your music! This is typically only a ½ recital, shared with another graduating student.

**Class Policies:**  
The deadline to withdraw is April 14. Students are expected to be in attendance on time, and prepared for all lessons. Absolutely no unexcused absences are allowed. If possible, contact at least 24 hours ahead of missed lessons, but at least by the morning of lesson day. Also, any day that the school is on break, we will not meet for lessons. This includes all bank holidays, breaks, and holidays, as well as possibly during the Kinser Jazz Festival.

**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 Dean, and lastly the Vice President for Academic Affairs.

**Academic Dishonesty:**  
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 for more information on this topic.

**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. This is also, where you will find course evaluation links during course evaluation periods.

**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:**  
Assigned pieces should be learned by midterms and memorized a month out from juries.
Assignments

Curriculum Vitae
“The course of my life”: The CV is like a resume and covers all your relevant education, performances, and participations with regards to your anticipated career. This should cover your schooling, applicable work experience, recital/master class/solo performances, attended conferences, roles you have performed, awards and scholarships, and references. This is very useful when applying for graduate schools or jobs.

Repertoire List
This is what it sounds like: an accurate representation of the pieces you have performed as a solo artist. You should specify all the music you have learned, then have a way for marking which were memorized, which were performed, and which were just learned. This is also very useful when applying for graduate schools or jobs.

Teaching Philosophy
If you are interested in becoming a private teacher, consider writing your teaching philosophy. This should cover what you believe pedagogically about your instrument and what you want to represent as an instructor.

Composer Biography
A comprehensive biography of one of your composers, paying special attention to your medium and specific piece within that composer’s tenure. This should be two pages double spaced with citations.

Opera Synopsis
If you are performing a piece from an opera, this should cover a good synopsis of the opera and pay special attention to both your character and the situation your piece comes from (including a translation). This should be two pages double-spaced with citations.

Article Reviews
I would be glad to assign an appropriate article from a singing periodical and expect a one page reflection.

Performance Reflections
This is for a performance of a singer in a recital, concert, or stage performance. You should demonstrate concepts and terms you understand from your own lesson and can comment on in another person’s performance. Appropriate performances to report on include recitals, operas, concerts, etc., but should include at least 15 minutes of singing by a single singer. Reflections should be at least a page in length double-spaced and should include thought on the following aspects of the performance:

- Breathing
- Tone
- Preparedness
- Dress
- Musicality
• Emotion
• Anything else you feel is applicable to the discussion

Self-Evaluation
Reflect on your work and improvement over the course of the semester. You should discuss every aspect of vocal technique and honest assessments of your work. The evaluation should be at least 2 pages in length double-spaced.