

Ball State University College of Fine Arts / School of Music / Music Performance

## **APPLIED VOICE – SYLLABUS**

### **MUSP 200 MAJOR STUDY**

Instructor Information:

Dr. Rachelle Woolston

Time: TBD

Office Hours: by appointment

Location: MU302

Cell: 818-391-8307

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Course Description (from catalog):

One primary instrument/voice lesson per week for students majoring in guitar, organ, piano, symphonic instruments, or voice.

Student Learning Objectives:

At the completion of a semester of MUSP 200, students will be able to:

1. Improve their ability to achieve undergraduate-level technical ability, expressive communication, and aesthetic command.
2. Improve their ability to achieve undergraduate-level musical interpretation.
3. Students will demonstrate competency in preparation, organization, collaboration, and stage deportment.

Course Rationale:

This course will underscore requisite skills necessary in applied voice for voice performance majors. Approaches to vocal production, repertoire, pitch, rhythm, expression, and technique will be emphasized.

Course Expectations:

As a student of applied voice, with voice as your principal instrument, you will be expected to develop your singing technique by regular practice of assigned vocal exercises and song literature, appropriate to your level of instruction, voice type, and age. Emphasis is on

developing healthy and consistent practice habits to achieve vocal progress and repertoire learning. You are expected to follow guidelines and requirements specified by your applied teacher. **A hearing/jury performance is required at the end of every semester of instruction.** MUSP 200 is the course number for students admitted to the B.M. degree in performance with voice as the primary instrument.

\*Minimum Hearing/Jury Requirements:

MUSP 200 (2 cr.) Freshman Hearing: 4 selections,

Freshman Jury: 5 selections

MUSP 200 (3 cr.) Sophomore Hearing: 6 selections,

Sophomore Jury: 6 selections or Junior Proficiency

MUSP 200 (4 cr.) Junior Hearing: 8 selections (or equivalent significant repertoire)

or ½ Recital (including but not restricted to German, Italian and French languages)

MUSP 200 (4 cr.) Senior Jury: 8 selections (or equivalent significant repertoire)

or Full Recital (including but not restricted to English, German, Italian and French languages)

A hearing is required every semester of enrollment; juries are required when a new performance level is sought. Repertoire, with the exception of one oratorio or one chamber music selection, must be memorized. As a voice major, you are expected to provide a pianist for performances outside of class, for voice hearings and juries, and lessons as specified by your applied teacher, at your expense. You are expected to purchase music, based upon the recommendation of your applied teacher. \*Specific requirements are determined in conjunction with your applied teacher.

Failed Juries:

Any failed jury will not allow the candidate to advance to the next level of jury completion. Two failed juries will require the candidate to choose another degree program or another major instrument as a music major.

Incomplete Grades:

When juries/hearings are missed for documented medical or family emergencies, a semester grade of Incomplete will be given. It is recommended that all grades of Incomplete in applied voice be removed by the 3rd Voice Faculty meeting of the next academic session in residence. The School of Music “Memorandum of Incomplete Grade”

form must be completed and filed in the School of Music office. (The Registrar has different deadline requirements for the removal of the I grade, and these will take precedence over the School of Music recommendation.)

#### Junior Proficiency Requirements:

All undergraduate music majors enrolled in MUSP 200 will be required to pass a junior proficiency exam. This exam may be taken at the end of the fourth semester of study but can be taken at any time with the applied teacher's endorsement. Completion of the degree program and permission for advancement to upper-level credit in applied vocal study (past the Sophomore Jury level) is contingent upon the successful completion of this examination. Two attempts at passing this examination are allowed; after a failed second attempt the student must choose another major or another instrument.

#### **\*Bachelor of Music candidates:**

The examination requires at least 20 minutes of singing. While not limited to the following, the repertoire performed at the junior proficiency exam must represent the English, Italian, German, and French languages. All repertoire is to be memorized, with the exception of one oratorio aria or one chamber music work. No more than two selections on the proficiency program may be drawn from previous juries or proficiencies. Students will be evaluated on a Pass/Fail basis. Two failed proficiencies will result in the student being dropped from the program.

#### Vocal Performance and Vocal Event Attendance Requirements:

Voice students enrolled in MUSP 200 are required to perform 6 documented performances (in Voice Area Recital, General Recital, Studio Recital or some equivalent solo performance) in order to meet degree requirements.

Students enrolled in MUSP 200 will receive a calendar of required Voice Area events by the first Friday of the first week of the semester. These events have a **mandatory attendance policy** unless excused by your applied teacher. (Applied teachers may require attendance at additional events.) Each missed Voice Area event will account for a 5% loss of value for the student's final grade as determined by the applied teacher.

#### Grading:

Each voice lesson receives a numerical grade and the averaging of these grades plus the required activities for the course listed below determines the overall grade received. By the end of the third week of lessons, specific repertoire assignments and goals will specify the repertoire and content for the semester. This content will be specified in a document that is shared and agreed to by both the student and professor.

Grading (in percentage):

A+ 97-100 B+ 87-89 C+ 77-79 D+ 67-69 F Below 60

A 93-96 B 83-86 C 73-76 D 63-66

A- 90-92 B- 80-82 C- 70-72 D- 60-62

Attendance and Make Up Lessons:

Absences are excused only in case of serious illness or emergency. As long as you aren't running a fever or contagious, you can still come to your lesson and we will work on items that won't require typical use of the voice, i.e. diction, translations, presentation, etc. If you are unable to make a lesson, please let me know at least 24 hours ahead of time. If I am notified in a timely manner, I'll do my best to make up the lesson. If, however, you just don't show up, it will not be made up, and the absence will be unexcused. Contacting me through email or a verbal phone message are the preferred means of communication. Both would be a good idea. If you send a text, be sure to receive a response to be certain that your message has been received. It is possible that I will need to cancel a lesson, and I will reschedule the lesson as soon as possible. As each lesson receives a grade, an unexcused absence will result in a failing grade for that lesson.

Please make an effort to be on time. My lesson schedule is very tight and if you arrive late, your lesson will feel very short, as I am not able to run over into the next lesson time to make up the lost time due to lateness. I recall one of my guitar teachers in high school telling me that if I wasn't 10 minutes early for my lesson, that I was late. While this isn't always practical with our tight academic schedules, it is a good guideline for any appointment that you have.

Studio Class:

Beginning in week 2, studio class will meet from 1-1:50 Friday afternoons. Location TBD. After the initial week of voice lessons, a master schedule will be made indicating when students will be singing in studio class. As with voice lessons, it is the responsibility of the student to provide an accompanist for this performance opportunity. This is an opportunity to sing for and to hear your peers and receive additional instruction and input to enhance your performing skills. Attendance is required with the same policy as listed above in "Attendance and Makeup Lessons."

Studio documents and files: Vocalises, songs, and other documents will be shared with the student on a OneDrive folder. This folder will be subdivided into specific categories, and it is the responsibility of the student to use this resource if a piece of music or document has been assigned for review.

## Disability Services:

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, please contact your voice teacher as soon as possible. Ball State's Disability Services office coordinates services for students with disabilities; documentation of a disability needs to be on file in that office before any accommodations can be provided. Disability Services can be contacted at 765-285-5293 or [dsd@bsu.edu](mailto:dsd@bsu.edu).

Title IX: Ball State University is Committed to providing a safe and inclusive learning environment for all students. If you or someone you know has experienced sexual harassment--including sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, or stalking, please know that you are not alone. The University offers support services and resources. For more information or to report an incident, please visit [bsu.edu/titleix](http://bsu.edu/titleix) or contact the Title IX Coordinator at 765-285-1545 or at [titleix@bsu.edu](mailto:titleix@bsu.edu)

As your instructor, I am a mandatory reporter under the Title IX policy and required to report any information I receive about possible sexual harassment. This includes information shared in class discussions, assignments, or private conversations.

What happens after I report? The Title IX Coordinator will email the person who experienced sexual harassment (complainant) and invite them to schedule a meeting. If the complainant chooses to meet with the Title IX Coordinator

- Title IX Coordinator will offer supportive measures (e.g., counseling, extensions on deadlines, course-related adjustments, changes to work or class schedules, and/or referrals to campus offices), review the policy, and discuss options to move forward.
- If a complaint is filed by the complainant or the University, an investigation will begin following University policy.

## Inclusive Excellence:

Ball State University aspires to be a university that attracts and retains a diverse faculty, staff and student body. We are committed to ensuring that all members of the campus community are welcome through our practice of valuing the various experiences and world views of those we serve. We promote a culture of respect and civil discourse as evident in our [Beneficence Pledge](#). For Bias Incident Response information, go to <https://www.bsu.edu/campuslife/multiculturalcenter/bias-incident-reporting> or email [mc2@bsu.edu](mailto:mc2@bsu.edu).

## Learning Center:

The Learning Center is part of University College, which offers student-centered programs and services that enhance students' success. The services provided by the center are free and available for Ball State students for general courses they are currently enrolled in at BSU and for courses they are preparing to take at BSU, as well as general study skills tutoring to aid in their overall success at BSU. Tutoring sessions are led by Ball State students who meet certain academic requirements and are available one-on-one or in small groups. To learn more about our services or sign up for tutoring, visit the Learning Center in North Quad, 350, call 765-285-1006 or Live Chat online at [www.bsu.edu/learningcenter](http://www.bsu.edu/learningcenter). We tutored over 16,000 sessions last year: there is no negative stigma to getting a tutor. We can help!

#### Writing Center:

One key to improving your writing is getting feedback and revision suggestions on your text during the writing process. The Writing Center at Ball State offers free writing feedback sessions (online or face-to-face) to all students. They work with students on essays, reports, reflections, research projects, web content, lesson plans, slideshows, poster presentations, resumes, and other digital or print texts. Students can make an appointment by going to <https://www.bsu.edu/academics/centersandinstitutes/writingcenter>, stopping by Robert Bell 295, or by calling 765-285-8370.

#### Academic Honesty:

University policies regarding academic honesty are available in the Code of Students Rights and Responsibilities, available at the following website: <http://cms.bsu.edu/About/AdministrativeOffices/StudentRights/PoliciesandProcedures/StudentCode.aspx>

#### Important Dates:

MAKE-UP JURIES

TBD Vocal

Area Recitals (VAR) (noon, Sursa Hall)

TBD

REQUIRED VOICE EVENTS

TBD

JURIES

TBD