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

APPLIED VOICE DOCTORAL LEVEL SYLLABUS

MUSP 700 Major Study

Instructor Information:

Dr. Rachelle Woolston

Time: TBD

Office Hours: by appointment

Location: MU302

email: rachelle.woolston@bsu.edu

Course Description (from catalog):

Twenty-five to one hundred minutes of weekly private lesson(s) based on credit-hour enrollment. For doctoral students approved for major study.

Student Learning Objectives:

At the completion of a semester of MUSP 700, students will be able to:

1. Improve their ability to achieve master's, primary-level technical ability, expressive communication, and aesthetic command.
2. Improve their ability to achieve master's, primary-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 master's level music majors or Artist Diploma students with voice performance as their primary area. Approaches to vocal production, repertoire, pitch, rhythm, expression, and technique will be emphasized.

Course Expectations:

As a Doctorate in Voice student, 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, consistent practice habits to achieve vocal progress and repertoire learning. You are expected to follow guidelines and requirements specified by your applied teacher. Graduate students enrolled in MUSP 700 are required to sing a hearing in front of the Voice Faculty at the end of each semester, except as noted below. Required repertoire is a minimum of 6 pieces or the equivalent in difficulty, with the approval and discretion of the applied teacher. All end-of-semester hearing repertoire must be memorized, with the exception of an oratorio aria or chamber music piece, if applicable. The end-of-semester hearing may be waived if the student gives a half or full recital during that semester. If the recital is performed during the first five weeks of the semester, an end-of-semester hearing is required covering the new repertoire learned after that recital. Students who perform an opera role in lieu of a degree recital are not required to perform an end-of-semester hearing.

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.)

Graduate Recitals: The doctoral degree in voice performance requires two full and one lecture solo recital. The minimum length for full recitals is 50 minutes of music. With prior approval of the Voice Faculty, a major opera role or performance with orchestra may be substituted for the solo recital. Requests to substitute an opera role or major orchestral performance for a recital must be made in writing to the Voice Area Coordinator during the first two weeks of the semester of the performance. Requests will be reviewed by the members of the Voice Faculty and will be approved or denied on a case-by-case basis.

All graduate-level degree recitals are adjudicated by a panel of School of Music Faculty. Students are responsible for securing faculty adjudicators and filing the required form with the Graduate Area Coordinator and the Graduate Music Office prior to the recital. Three jury members are required for a Masters recital and four jury members are required for an Artist Diploma recital. At least two should be from the area closest to the student's major performance area. Willing non-performance music faculty may be asked as well. The student's major teacher must attend the recital.

Recital Hearings:

Recital hearings are required for all required voice recitals. All recital repertoire must be prepared and memorized, with the exception of one oratorio aria or chamber music work. Recital hearings should be completed 3 weeks prior to the recital date. The student is expected to provide a typed recital program along with program notes and translations for the members of the Voice Faculty. Timings for each selection must be indicated on the typed program. The Voice Area Coordinator should be contacted well in advance to schedule and submit materials for a recital hearing. At the recital hearing, the student is expected to be prepared to sing the entire recital program from memory (except for one oratorio or chamber music selection as noted above). If any portion of the recital hearing is not acceptable, a second hearing will be scheduled to allow for corrections to be made. If the corrections are not made, the recital must be postponed or cancelled until the recital hearing is passed. Selections may be removed from, but not added to the program following the recital hearing without the approval of the Recital Hearing Committee.

Vocal Event Attendance Requirements:

Students enrolled in MUSP 700 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 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 1, 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 at lessons. It is the responsibility of the student to use this resource if a piece of music or document has been assigned for review.

University Statement

We are committed to ensuring that all members of the community are welcome, through valuing the various experiences and worldviews represented at Ball State and among those we serve. We promote a culture of respect and civil discourse.

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.

Title IX: See the University Policy [hereLinks to an external site.](#)

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 PledgeLinks to an external site.](#). For Bias Incident Response information, go to <https://www.bsu.edu/campuslife/multiculturalcenter/bias-incident-reportingLinks to an external site.> or email 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/learningcenterLinks to an external site.. 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>Links to an external site., 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>Links to an external site.

Important Dates:

MAKE-UP JURIES

TBD

Vocal Area Recitals (VAR) (noon, Sursa Hall)

TBD

REQUIRED VOICE EVENTS

TBD

JURIES

TBD