



## School of Music

### Department of Music Education MUSP 620: Elective Study, Strings Education 2026 Spring Term Syllabus Online

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#### Course Description (from catalog)

The primary goal of this course is to expand the student's knowledge and skills related to the singing voice. Such information will be adapted as necessary in order to best the student's personal and professional goals. Topics covered may include repertoire genres, vocal health/maintenance, stylistic history and considerations, effective rehearsal techniques, professional expectations, and application beyond the studio.

#### Course Objectives

Through active participation in all aspects of this course, the student will:

- Develop skills and confidence for personal and professional fulfillment
- Increase musicianship and artistry
- Nurture the disciplines of practice and performance

#### Required Materials

Will be assigned as determined of the need.

#### Attendance

It is the responsibility of the student to provide the instructor with prior notice for all absences; this may be done by email or phone. Lack of prior notification will constitute an unnotified/unexcused absence.

#### Ball State University's Statement Regarding Diversity and Inclusion

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 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 as expressed in our [Beneficence Pledge](#) and through university resources found at [Multicultural Center | Ball State University \(bsu.edu\)](#). Bias Incident Response information can be found at [Report a Bias Incident | Ball State University \(bsu.edu\)](#) or by emailing [reportbias@bsu.edu](mailto:reportbias@bsu.edu).

## Student Academic Ethics Policy

Honesty, trust, and personal responsibility are fundamental attributes of the university community. Academic dishonesty and other forms of academic misconduct threaten the foundation of an institution dedicated to the pursuit of knowledge and will not be tolerated. To maintain its credibility and reputation, and to equitably assign evaluations of scholastic and creative performance, Ball State University is committed to maintaining a climate that upholds and values the highest standards of academic integrity. Visit the Vice President for Academic Affairs' [academic integrity website](#) (Students tab) for resources on understanding academic integrity, citing sources properly, and avoiding inadvertent academic dishonesty. The website also includes information on Title IX and the University Grade Appeal Policy. To learn about Ball State University's academic integrity expectations and students' rights, please read the University [Student Academic Ethics Policy](#).

Academic integrity violations include giving or receiving an unfair academic advantage (cheating), presenting someone else's ideas or work as your own (plagiarism), and falsifying academic records. Unless otherwise indicated, you must work independently by yourself. Check with the instructor if you are unsure whether something constitutes academic dishonesty. Examples of academic integrity violations include, but are not limited to:

- Using resources not authorized by the faculty member (including devices, AI tools, hidden notes, and open books).
- Using commercial study websites to find answers to graded assignments (Chegg, Course Hero, StudyPool, OneClass, etc.).
- Without the instructor's written permission, giving away, buying, or selling graded assignments, class notes, exams, study guides, or other course materials to other students or to third-party vendors (Course Hero, Chegg, 24HourAnswers, etc.).
- Working with another person on any assignment other than authorized group projects.
- Sharing or allowing others to access your files, whether done with permission or not.
- Reusing your own work from another semester, course, or section.
- Sharing answers with others during exams (passing notes, texting, whispering, gesturing).
- Discussing exam questions and answers with students who have not taken the exam.
- Soliciting others to complete work for you.

## MUSE Two-Attempt Policy

All MUSE courses are subject to a two-attempt limit. This policy applies to all current Music Education majors and any students participating in MUSE courses with the intent of gaining admission to the Music Education major. Students who do not successfully complete a MUSE course within 2 attempts will become ineligible to complete the Music Education program at Ball State. ***An attempt is defined as any registration resulting in a letter grade less than "C"***. A copy of the complete policy, as well as the appeal process for a third attempt and program continuation, can be obtained from the Coordinator of Music Education.

## 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. If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, please contact the instructor of record 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).

## Freedom of Expression

In this course, we are committed to fostering a learning environment that values intellectual diversity, encourages free expression, and promotes open inquiry. As members of the Ball State Community, we treat each person in the Ball State community with civility, courtesy, compassion, and dignity and respect and learn from differences in people, ideas, and opinions. Please review Ball State University's [Statement on Freedom of Expression](#), the resources on Ball State's [Freedom of Expression webpage](#), and [Ball State's Beneficence Pledge](#).

## The Learning Center

The Learning Center offers free Tutoring and Academic Coaching for many courses at Ball State. Students can make appointments for online (Zoom) or in-person (NQ 350) appointments. To make an appointment, visit [myballstate.bsu.edu](http://myballstate.bsu.edu) and click on "Navigate" in the Academic Tools section, or go directly to [bsu.navigate.eab.com](http://bsu.navigate.eab.com)

Testing accommodations for students with disabilities are available for students who have received the appropriate documentation from Disability Services. Tests may be administered in the Learning Center.

Supplemental Instruction is available in select courses. If you have a student instructor (SI) for your course, that person will provide you with information the first week of school regarding weekly study sessions. For more information about Learning Center programming, call 765-285-1006, or visit [bsu.edu/learningcenter](http://bsu.edu/learningcenter)

## The Writing Center

All writers improve with practice and feedback, so as a student in this course, you are encouraged to use the Writing Center (in Robert Bell 295 during weekdays, Bracken Library First Floor West in the evenings, or online during any of our regularly scheduled hours) to get additional feedback on your writing.

The Writing Center offers free planning, feedback, and accountability sessions (in person and online) to all students composing essays, reports, reflections, research projects, web content, lesson plans, slideshows, poster presentations, resumes, and other digital or print texts. To schedule a free appointment to discuss your writing, go to [bsu.edu/writingcenter](http://bsu.edu/writingcenter). Online and in-person appointments are available; however, plan ahead because appointments book quickly.

## The Speaking Center

The [Speaking Center](#) is a free resource available to all members of the BSU community wanting to improve their public speaking abilities. We offer personalized coaching designed to help you become a more confident and effective speaker. Our trained coaches provide constructive feedback and support throughout the entire speech preparation process, whether you are in the early stages of brainstorming ideas and organizing your thoughts, or you need to practice your delivery and refine your message.

The Center is in the David Letterman Communication and Media Building, room 302. To schedule an appointment, please access us through your Navigate app or use this [direct link](#) to sign up for a time. Appointments are available both in person and on Zoom. Appointments are available in person, on Zoom, and in virtual reality (VR) for those interested in practicing in an immersive speaking environment.

## The Basic Needs Hub

If you are having difficulty affording enough food, do not have a safe and reliable place to sleep, and/or experiencing an emergency or crisis, help is available through the [Basic Needs Hub](#). The Basic Needs Hub has information and resources and provides individualized support to students. To talk with a supportive staff member about your experience, receive one on one assistance, or learn more about resources, you can submit a [Basic Needs Assistance Form](#).

## The Counseling Center

The Ball State University Counseling Center offers free and confidential services to all students. The Counseling Center is located in Lucina Hall, Room 320. To schedule an appointment, you can contact us at 765-285-1736. Ball State also offers a 24/7 Crisis Line, which can be reached at 765-285-HOPE (4673). The Crisis Line is a mental health resource for those who are struggling with any mental health concerns, including thoughts of self-harm and/or suicide.

At the Ball State Counseling Center, we see students for a variety of reasons, some of which include homesickness, relationship concerns, anxiety, and depression. At your first appointment, you will work with a therapist to create a plan that will connect you with resources that best fit your needs. We assist students with getting connected to therapy at our Center as well as connecting students to self-help resources, other on-campus resources, and community-based resources. All Ball State students also have access to several on-demand, self-help resources through a variety of different platforms. All of these resources, including a direct link to our website, can be found [here](#).

### Class Schedule

The instructor reserves the right to modify the following schedule as needed. If this occurs, it will be done in a timely manner giving students ample opportunity to adjust.

### Engagement Expectations

To support a respectful and engaging classroom environment that encourages the free exchange of ideas and civil discourse, we will follow these ground rules:

1. Respect different perspectives. Share your ideas and let others share theirs.
2. Challenge ideas, not people. Disagree respectfully. No personal attacks or put-downs. Focus on exploring ideas critically and constructively.
3. Listen to understand. Stay curious, ask questions, and give others space to speak.
4. Assume good intentions. Approach discussions with curiosity and compassion.
5. Keep it private. What is shared in class should stay in class. Do not share others' words or work without their permission.
6. Be respectful. Avoid hurtful language, stereotypes, or content that may demean others. Keep feedback constructive.

### Course Grade Qualifier

Due to the flexible nature of this course, attendance and participation are the fundamental requirements and the primary elements of the grading system. Because Elective Study is designed to be an auxiliary learning experience student effort and participation are paramount in pursuit of a passing grade. The final grade will include items listed under "Assignments."

### Grading

Grades are based on the following percentages and in accordance with the university + and -system.

	B+	87-89.9%	C+	77-79.9%	D+	67-69.9%			
A	94-100%	B	84-86.9%	C	74-76.9%	D	64-66.9%	F	0-59.9%
A-	90-93.9%	B-	80-83.9%	C-	70-73.9%	D-	60-63.9%		

Grades will be earned through the completion of the following assignments and projects in accordance with the grade weight designations:

- Weekly Preparedness: 50%
- Journal (midterm): 25%
- Journal (Final): 25%