**School of Music**

Fall Semester 2023

**Syllabus**

**Course number and title:** MUP 5364.001 – Performance Theory and Materials: Vocal Pedagogy

**Instructor:** Richard Berry, DMA  
Professor of Music  
rberry@sfasu.edu; Wright Music Building, room 270

**Class meeting time and place:** 8:00-8:50, MWF; Music Recital Hall (M 160)

**Purpose of course:** The purpose of this course is to introduce the student to the information, tools, and skills necessary to teach singing. Topics covered will include acoustics of the singing voice; the physiology of respiration, phonation, resonance, and articulation; the coordination of the elements of singing; the psychology of teaching voice; how singing technique impacts the artistry of singing. This course is essential for anyone who plans to work with singers – performers, studio teachers, public school and university teachers, and conductors.

**Program Learning Outcome:** This course will contribute to the following Program Learning Outcome for the Master of Music degree –

1. Students will demonstrate comprehensive abilities in preparation and performance at a level commensurate with a Master of Music.

2. Students will demonstrate knowledge of applicable repertoire and pedagogical fundamentals in their area of study.

3. Students will analyze and synthesize musical information from a variety of sources and present their findings in written form.

4. Students will demonstrate a working knowledge of music history, literature from the Western art tradition at a level commensurate with a Master of Music.
5. Students will successfully complete an academic capstone project.

6. Students will demonstrate competence in professional skills related to work in the arts.

**Student Learning Outcomes:** This course will achieve the following Student Learning Outcomes –

The student will demonstrate advanced knowledge and understanding of the acoustics of the singing voice; the physiology of respiration, phonation, resonance, and articulation; the coordination of the elements of singing; the psychology of teaching voice; and how singing technique impacts the artistry of singing. The student will also demonstrate multiple methods of guiding students into a sound singing technique that equips them to perform the standard repertoire securely and artistically.

**Textbooks:**


Other books, articles, and materials will be referenced and recommended during the semester.

**Organization of the course:** Delivery of the course will include lecture, class discussion, outside reading, listening assignments, writing assignments, special assignments, online activities, demonstration teaching, quizzes and tests, and a final examination. While many assignments will be in common with undergraduates meeting at the same time, almost all will require greater breadth and depth of treatment than will be required of undergraduates. In addition, graduate students will do more sample teaching as a part of the course.

**Grading:** Final grade will be based on quiz grades, special assignment grades, test grades, and final examination grade. Multiple in-class demonstration lessons are required as special assignments. The categories will be weighted in calculation of the final grade as follows:
Quiz grades – 10%
Test grades – 30%
Special assignment grades – 30%
Final examination grade – 30%

**Withheld Grades**: Ordinarily, at the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the coursework because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F. If students register for the same course in future terms the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course to compute the grade point average. For additional information, go to [https://www.sfasu.edu/policies/course-grades-5.5.pdf](https://www.sfasu.edu/policies/course-grades-5.5.pdf).

**Attendance**: You must attend class meetings in order to pass the course. Quizzes will be unannounced and special assignments will be done in class. If you miss more than about four class meetings, you probably will not pass the course.

**Academic Integrity**: The Code of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity outlines the prohibited conduct by any student enrolled in a course at SFA. It is the responsibility of all members of all faculty, staff, and students to adhere to and uphold this policy.

Cheating of any kind will not be tolerated in this class. This includes engaging in plagiarism, copying assignments, receiving help on a test or quiz, and other such activities. If you cheat and I find out, you will receive an F in the course, subject to processes outlined in University Policy 4.1: Student Academic Dishonesty. You may read this policy at [http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/student_academic_dishonesty.pdf](http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/student_academic_dishonesty.pdf). If you have questions about this topic, please ask me.

**Students with disabilities**: To obtain disability related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, Room 325, 468-3004 / 468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations.

**Student Wellness and Well-Being**: SFA values students’ overall well-being, mental health and the role it plays in academic and overall student success. Students may experience stressors that can impact both their academic experience and their personal well-being. These may include academic pressure and challenges associated with relationships, emotional well-being, alcohol and other drugs, identities, finances, etc.

If you are experiencing concerns, seeking help, SFA provides a variety of resources to support students’ mental health and wellness. Many of these resources are free, and all of them are confidential.
On-campus Resources:
The Dean of Students Office (Rusk Building, 3rd floor lobby)
www.sfasu.edu/deanofstudents
936.468.7249
dos@sfasu.edu

SFA Human Services Counseling Clinic Human Services, Room 202
www.sfasu.edu/humanservices/139.asp
936.468.1041

The Health and Wellness Hub “The Hub”
Location: corner of E. College and Raguet St.

To support the health and well-being of every Lumberjack, the Health and Wellness Hub offers comprehensive services that treat the whole person – mind, body and spirit. Services include:
• Health Services
• Counseling Services
• Student Outreach and Support
• Food Pantry
• Wellness Coaching
• Alcohol and Other Drug Education
www.sfasu.edu/thehub
936.468.4008
thehub@sfasu.edu

Crisis Resources:
• Burke 24-hour crisis line: 1.800.392.8343
• National Suicide Crisis Prevention: 9-8-8
• Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1.800.273.TALK (8255)
• johCrisis Text Line: Text HELLO to 741-741