

Syllabus
Vocal Workshop
Fall Semester, 2009
Tuesday and Thursday, 11:30-12:20, Room 113

Dr. Karen Brookens: Instructor
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Objectives:

1. To develop an appreciation and an understanding of the aesthetics of singing, including various vocal styles and artistry.
2. To develop an understanding of the physiology of the voice, how it functions and how to keep and maintain vocal health.
3. To assist and provide the student with some basic skills and fundamental techniques for development and proper usage of the singing voice.
4. To assist the student in being able to understand how to prepare and perform a song selection.
5. To develop an understanding about proper stage deportment and song interpretation with the presentation of song literature.

Required Text and Materials:

Foundations in Singing by John Glenn Paton, McGraw Hill Pub. 8th Ed. (CD accompaniment)

Assignments:

1. All reading assignments must be read prior to the scheduled lecture or presentation.
2. Students are urged to participate in all class discussion and singing activities.
3. There will be three song performances, designated in the syllabus, which will require preparation outside of classroom time. A one page paper (Song Critique) will need to be turned in one week prior to your song performance which should cover 1) any technical or musical difficulties, 2) how you approached learning and memorizing the song; 3) background info about your piece. Dates are indicated in the syllabus.
4. There will be two written exams to be giving during the time indicated in the syllabus. These exams will based upon the text and other materials pertinent to classroom discussion.
5. There will two Class Discussion/Projects due this semester. This will involve breath/posture and vocal warm-up ideas. These presentations should focus on what helps you or your potential choir students the most in their vocal progress. The first project will focus on breathing (teaching breathing skills to adolescents) and the second project will focus on vocal warm-ups (vocal exercises for adolescents). The project due dates are:
Thursday, October 8, and Thursday, October 22.

6. You will need to complete a class paper **due on Thursday, November 19**. Late papers will not be accepted. Please choose from one of the following options:

A. Attend a voice recital or faculty/student concert. Opera/musical theatre productions are acceptable. Please write a three-four page paper commenting on vocal technique, diction, breathing, variety of repertoire as well as the overall presentation of the performance. The program/ticket stub must accompany the paper.

B. A four page typed paper on a voice topic of your choosing with final consent from the instructor. Please use proper grammar and spelling and reference citations. You must use at least three references pertaining to your subject matter and only one internet source. Topics of interest may include:

Voice disorders

Vocal techniques

A comparison of two vocalists singing the same song or contrasting vocal styles

Vocal health topics

The future of the voice involving electronics

7. All students will be required to keep a vocal diary of your practice time outside of class. The diary should include:

1. Date of practice, amount of time spent working on music, songs studied

2. A short paragraph, only one per week, stating your vocal concerns, problems or questions that may arise from your practice time, or any related topics to those talked about in class that you may not understand.

You will be asked to submit your journal every two-three weeks as indicated in the syllabus. Your questions and concerns may be addressed openly in class as part of class discussion and demonstration. Please check the syllabus for due dates.

Attendance Policy:

Students are expected to attend all classes. In the event of illness or a university approved trip, you must notify the instructor in advance of the absence. Two unexcused absences will lower your grade a half grade.

Grading Evaluation:

1. Two written Exams	30%
2. Three song presentation and class/lab participation	40%
3. Group Project	10%
4. Class Paper	15%
5. Vocal Diary	<u>5%</u>
	100%

Any student requiring accommodations or services due to a disability must contact Student Services with Disabilities (SSD) in room 118 of the SSC. SSD can also arrange to provide course materials (including the syllabus) in alternative formats if necessary.

Tentative Course Schedule

Aug. 24: Course Intro; Class Format and grading. Studying the Art of Singing; What is considered good singing? **(Erika)**

Aug. 26: Fundamentals of Singing: Breath, Posture & Tone Paton: 7-20
Vocal Warm-ups **(Rachel)**

Sept. 1: Understanding Your Vocal Instrument Paton: 39-45
Vocal Health Issues; Avoiding problems **(Erika)**

Sept. 3: In-Class Singing Lab

Sept. 8: Continue Vocal Health; Video “Know Your Voice”
BEGIN ANATOMY OF THE LARYNX
(Rachel/Erika)

Sept. 10: Freedom to Sing and Interactions of the Singing Mechanism Paton: 1-7,
(Rachel) 20-26

Sept. 15: In-Class Singing Lab

SONG SELECTION DUE FOR PERFORMANCE #1

Sept. 17: Preparing and Performing a Song **(Erika)** Paton:
31-38

Sept. 22: In-Class Singing Lab

Sept. 24: Changing Vocal Resonance **(Rachel)** Paton:
24-30

Song Critique # 1 Due
VOCAL DIARY #1 DUE

Sept. 29: In-Class Singing Lab

Oct. 1: **FIRST IN-CLASS SONG PERFORMANCE**

Oct. 6: Film on “Resonance, Vocal Sound and Vibration”

Oct. 8: **Ind. Project/Discussions on breath & posture; Class assignment and short presentation on breath/posture ideas by each student.**
VOCAL DIARY #2 DUE

Oct. 13: Begin study of IPA; Vowels and Consonants Paton 55-61
(Erika/Rachel) Paton 46-53

Oct. 15: Continue study of IPA; dip and triphthongs (**Rachel**) Paton: 62-64
Study Guide for Exam #1

Oct. 19-24: **EXAM #1 AT STUDENT SERVICES TESTING CENTER (SSC)**

Oct. 20: Group discussion on why IPA and good diction is important and how they
can benefit your students' singing
SONG SELECTION DUE FOR PERFORMANCE #2

Oct. 22: **Ind. Project/Discussion on effective vocal exercises for Jr. High/High
School choirs**

Oct. 27: Physical relaxations and Alexander Technique Discussion of Stage Fright
and how can Alexander Technique/ relaxation help your performance
(Special Presenter)
VOCAL DIARY # 3 DUE

Oct. 29: In-Class Singing Lab
SONG CRITIQUE DUE #2 DUE

Nov. 3: In-Class Singing Lab

Nov. 5: **SECOND IN-CLASS SONG PERFORMANCE**

Nov. 10: Vocal Styles and Artistry in Classical and Popular Music
Jason Alexander and other Performance DVD's, Videos (**Erika**)

Nov. 12: Cont. Vocal Styles and Artistry (**Erika/Rachel**)

Nov. 17: In-Class Singing Lab
The Performance Package as a whole. Letting Go and Expressing Yourself in
your Song! (**Dr. Brookens/Erika/Rachel**)
VOCAL DIARY #4 DUE

Nov. 19: Extending Your Voice, Flexibility and Range Paton: 71-76
CLASS PAPER DUE (Erika/Rachel)

Nov. 24: In-Class Singing Lab; **Review all basic breath, technical, and
performance issues from semester**

Nov. 26: **Thanksgiving Break**

Dec. 1: In-Class Singing Lab and question/answer session
SONG CRITIQUE #3 DUE

Dec. 3: **THIRD IN-CLASS SONG PERFORMANCE**

DEC. 4-9: **EXAM # 2 AT SSC**