

MUSE 1200, 2200, 3200, 4200
OPERA WORKSHOP and OPERA CHORUS
Choral Room (112 Goodwin Hall)
MW 4:00–4:50 PM, F 3:00–3:50 PM

Instructor: Dr. Matthew Hoch
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Phone: 706-676-6384 (cell phone—please try to avoid my office phone)
Office/hours: 107 Goodwin Hall. By appointment.
Prerequisites: By audition, by permission of instructor and voice teacher.

Course Description: The opera workshop is a select ensemble/class for moderate to advanced classical singers. Topics include the musical, linguistic, and dramatic preparation and performance of roles and scenes from the operatic and operetta repertory. In addition, the student will learn more about the history and literature of opera, as well as the opera industry (auditioning, young artist programs, etc.). There will be assignments related directly to your role as well as additional assignments.

Course Objectives: By the performance date, students will have a comprehensive knowledge of the roles assigned to them. This comprehensive knowledge includes, but is not limited to: proper diction practices, a thorough understanding of the character, a basic understanding of specific musical elements found in the assigned material, increasing comfort with elements of acting and expression, and information on the composer and librettist. By the end of the semester, the students will use what has been learned to present an educated and inspired performance.

Attendance: Attendance is EXTREMELY important. Since you will be working with your colleagues for the whole of this class to prepare the final performance, please respect them and their time by making every effort to be at class and on time. You are expected to come to class already vocally warmed-up and ready to go if you are scheduled to sing that day. If you are unable to sing due to illness, attendance is still required so that notes/blocking is not missed. You MUST notify Dr. Hoch in advance if you must miss class or you will be late. Missing rehearsals and/or not being prepared for class will result in the lowering of your grade.

For every unexcused absence, your grade will be lowered by one letter grade. Every three tardies will equal one unexcused absence. If you are so unprepared for rehearsal that it is affecting others or taking time away from the rehearsal process (having to teach you notes, etc.), you will be asked to leave the rehearsal, and you will be marked as unexcused. Be punctual, be prepared, and be responsible.

Excused absences: Students are granted excused absences from class for the following reasons: illness of the student or serious illness of a member of the student's immediate family, the death

of a member of the student's immediate family, trips for student organizations sponsored by an academic unit, trips for university classes, trips for participation in intercollegiate athletic events, subpoena for a court appearance, and religious holidays. Students who wish to have an excused absence from class for any other reason must contact the instructor in advance of the absence to request permission. The instructor will weigh the merits of the request, and render a decision. When feasible, the student must notify the instructor prior to the occurrence of any excused absences, but in no case shall such notification occur more than one week after the absence. Appropriate documentation for all excused absences is required. Please see the Policy on Class Attendance found in University Policies for more information on excused absences.

Missed in-class work: Students are responsible for all material covered during rehearsals in which they are absent. They should practice and master that material so that they are prepared for the next rehearsal they attend. Failure to do this may result in poor performance and may affect your ability to achieve grades as described in the grading criteria above.

Music: The student must legally acquire his or her own scores for the music assigned.

Memorization: All roles must be memorized by the time blocking rehearsals begin. It is impossible to remember staging if you still do not have pitches, rhythms, and diction memorized. Not being memorized will equate to being unprepared and will affect your final grade.

Suggested Books:

Acting for Singers: Creating Believable Singing Characters by David F. Ostwald
An Actor Prepares by Constantine Stanislavski
Respect for Acting by Uta Hagen
Sanford Meisner on Acting by Sanford Meisner
Acting Onstage and Off by Robert Barton
Style for Actors by Robert Barton
Power Performance for Singers by Shirlee Emmons and Alma Thomas
Singing in Style: A Guide for Performances Practices by Martha Elliott
The Timetables of History: A Horizontal Linkage of People and Events
by Bernard Grun and Eva Simpson

Grading: The main portion of the grade will be terminated by rehearsal/class participation, performance participation, skills, and successful completion of assignments.

Rehearsal Preparation	20 points possible (20%)
Rehearsal Participation	20 points possible (20%)
Performance Participation	20 points possible (20%)
Skills	20 points possible (20%)
Other Assignments	20 points possible (20%)

See attendance policy for the effect of unexcused absences on the final course grade.

Grading scale:

A = 90–100 points (90–100%)
B = 80–89 points (80–89%)
C = 70–79 points (70–79%)
D = 60–69 points (60–69%)
F = 0–59 points (50–59%)

Students may withdraw (although with a W on their transcript) until mid-semester.
There will be no unannounced quizzes.

The final public performance for the semester will substitute for the final exam unless otherwise specified by the instructor.

Performances: This semester’s performance will be held on **TUESDAY EVENING, APRIL 9, 2013**. Please mark your calendars accordingly. There may be additional dress/tech rehearsals scheduled closer to that time.

Disabilities Accommodations: Students who need special accommodations in class, as provided for by the Americans with Disabilities Act, should make an individual appointment with the instructor during the first week of classes, or as soon as possible if accommodations are needed immediately. You must bring a copy of your Accommodation Memo and an Instructor Verification Form to the meeting. If you do not have these forms but need accommodations, make an appointment with Accessibility Office, 1228 Haley Center, 844-2096 (V/TT).

Academic Honesty Policy: Students are expected to behave with integrity. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated and will be dealt with in the manner specified in the Student Academic Honesty Code found in University Policies.

Classroom Behavior Policy: The AU Classroom Behavior Policy is strictly followed in the course; please refer to University Policies for details of this policy.

Contingency Plan: If normal class activities are disrupted due to illness, emergency, or crisis situation (such as an H1N1 flu outbreak), the syllabus and other course plans and assignments may be modified to allow completion of the course. If this occurs, an addendum to your syllabus and/or course assignments will replace the original materials.

Costumes and Makeup: If a costumer/costume shop is not available, students may be responsible for investing time and energy into “creating” their own costume through assembling

articles of clothing they already own and borrowing from peers. Students will be responsible for purchasing their own makeup.

Required Materials: There is no required textbook for Opera Workshop, but there will be research/study involved as well as some selected materials for you to read and study. For this, there are materials available to you in my studio, the library, and the music office. Other materials are required as well:

1. Character shoes (women) or black dress shoes (men) & comfortable clothes: You must wear character shoes to every rehearsal session you are scheduled to participate in. It is important to become accustomed to moving in shoes similar to what you will wear in the actual performance. If you do not own character shoes, talk to me and we will locate a place where you may purchase them. You must also wear appropriate clothing for moving and performing.

2. Music and Pencil: You must bring your music and a pencil with you to every rehearsal.

Sample Course Schedule (Subject to Change)

Most of the semester will involve preparation for the semester capstone performance. A detailed schedule will be distributed to you as soon as possible after auditions have been completed. A sample schedule is as follows:

- Week 1: Auditions and repertoire assignments.
- Week 2: Basic stage movement, audition feedback and techniques, acquire scores.
- Week 3: Musical preparation of opera scenes – Week #1
- Week 4: Musical preparation of opera scenes – Week #2
- Week 5: Complete memorization of opera scenes. Musically perform for class.
- Week 6: Staging of opera scenes – Week #1
- Week 7: Staging of opera scenes – Week #2
- Week 8: Staging of opera scenes – Week #3
- Week 9: Begin running program as a whole. Acquire costumes.
- Week 10: Technical rehearsals.
- Week 11: Dress rehearsals.
- Week 12: Evening performance of opera scenes.
- Week 13: Review and discussion of performance.
- Week 14: Repertoire lists (“five arias” to study) and planning for next semester.
- Week 15: Conclusion.

*THIS SYLLABUS IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE AND ADJUSTMENT.
STUDENTS WILL BE NOTIFIED IN WRITING OF ANY CHANGES THAT OCCUR.*