

STUDIO VOICE SYLLABUS
MVV 1411, 2421, 3431, 4441 and MVO 6460
Spring 2025

Instructor:

Dr. Brenda Smith

Office: 302 MUB

(352) 339-1008

gesang@ufl.edu

bsmith@arts.ufl.edu

Student/Office Hours

Student/Office Hours are listed on the posted schedule on the door of Room 302 MUB. Opportunities to meet with the instructor outside of lesson times to discuss related issues are also readily available by appointment. Feel free to communicate by e-mail or phone, if needed.

Individual and Class Sessions

Private lesson times are arranged with the instructor and will follow the guidelines of the School of Music regarding length, location, and format. Voice studio classes meet Wednesdays, 6th period (12:50 pm). Attendance is mandatory.

Attendance

- **Lessons missed due to student illness, observance of religious holidays, field trips or other University of Florida approved activities will be excused if the instructor is notified a minimum of 24 hours before the lesson appointment.**

- **Lessons missed due to lack of preparation or missed without 24 hours notification of the instructor cannot be made up.**

- **Lessons missed when the instructor is absent for professional obligations or due to illness will be rescheduled.**

- **Excused absences are those officially sanctioned by the University of Florida. <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/>**

Grading Criteria

The criteria for grading in Studio Voice are Attendance, Initiative and Progress. In accordance with the Voice Area Handbook, every student must learn at least 6 new works every semester. Repertoire to be presented at the jury will be selected by the instructor in consultation with the student.

Course expectations and weekly assignments are provided below. Each of the following elements is worth a total of 12% of the semester grade:

- **IPA/Word-by-Word translations in the musical score as assigned**
- **Program notes/Poetic equivalents given orally as assigned**

- Readings and Comparative Listening Reports as assigned
 - Prompt Attendance at lessons & studio class
 - Weekly Practice Logs
 - Midterm Quiz
 - Count-Singing and Memorization Deadlines
 - Jury
- Worth 4 % of the semester grade:
- Attendance at degree recitals of voice area colleagues. (Dates given below)

Grading Scale & GPA equivalent:

Percent	Grade	Grade Points
93.4-100	A	4.00
90.0-93.3	A-	3.67
86.7-89.9	B+	3.33
83.4-86.6	B	3.00
80.0-83.3	B-	2.67
76.7-79.9	C+	2.33
73.4-76.6	C	2.00
70.0-73.3	C-	1.67
66.7-69.9	D+	1.33
63.4-66.6	D	1.00
60.0-63.3	D-	0.67
0-59.9	E	0.00

More information on grades and grading policies is here:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

Please feel free to consult with the instructor at any time regarding your status in the course.

Course Expectations

The ability to “count-sing” the melodic material, to “vowel-sing” the text along with the insertion of IPA transcriptions, word-by-word translations and poetic texts in

the semester's repertoire are expected for repertoire assigned for weekly lessons. Each student will be expected to complete assignments on time.

Studio Class and Voice Recitals

Studio classes (combined and individual) are considered an integral part of voice study. Timely presence in studio class is expected. Each student should support studio peers by attending degree recitals or dress rehearsals. Please mark calendars and plan work/social obligations accordingly.

How to Learn New Repertoires

Because muscle memory is a crucial element in vocal technique, each song/aria should be learned systematically and carefully.

1. Read the text and analyze its meaning. Gather information about the poet and composer. Determine the context and musical style of the song/aria.
2. Include in your score the breath/dynamic marks and an IPA transcription.
3. Where appropriate, write in the word-by-word translation of the text.
4. Count-sing the song/aria beginning with the introduction and include the interludes. Make note of difficult intervals.
5. Chant and then sing the vowels of the words phrase by phrase. "Rhyme" the vowels to ensure accurate tuning.
6. Add the consonants while maintaining the rhythmic integrity and vowel purity of the work.
7. Memorize.
8. Perform by memory in lesson and/or studio.

Note: A work is deemed "completed" when each of the above steps has been accomplished.

Course Expectations and Assignments

The following expectations and assignments are subject to change.

First Day of Classes for Spring Semester: Monday, January 13, 2025

Week of January 13, 2025

First Studio Class (1/15/25) in MUB Room 120/142

Lesson Times arranged/Accompanist and Repertoire assigned

Week's Assignment:

Count-Sing one of the newly assigned selections

IPA and Word-by-Word translation in the music

Create Poetic equivalent and complete a Practice Log

Attend Studio Class

Place Musicianship Class with Dr. Moreau (T/R 6th period) on your weekly schedule.

Week of January 20, 2025 (No lessons on Monday, 1/20 MLK Holiday)

Lesson Assignment:

Count-Sing Selection II

IPA and Word-by-Word translation in the music

Poetic equivalent for Selection II and Fact Sheet for Selection I due

Sing Selection I on vowels observing breath marks/dynamics

Bring Practice Log to Lesson

Studio Class

Week of January 27, 2025

Lesson Assignment:

Count-Sing Selection III, Vowel Sing Selection II as above

Fact Sheet for Selection II due

Polish Selection I/Listen to at least two recordings of the work.

Compare interpretation, tempo & diction

Bring Practice Log to Lesson

Studio Class

Week of February 3, 2025

Lesson Assignment:

Selection I Memorize

Selection II Polish/Listening comparison due

Selection III Vowel-Sing, Fact Sheet due

Selection IV Count-Sing with IPA and Word-by-Word in the music

Poetic Equivalent and Practice Log Due in Lesson

Studio Class (Combined)

Week of February 10, 2025

Lesson Assignment:

Selection II Memorize

Selection III Polish/Listening comparison due

Selection IV Vowel-Sing, Fact Sheet due

Selection V Count-Sing with IPA and Word-by-Word in the music

Selection I Ready to be sung in studio by memory

Poetic Equivalent and Practice Log Due in Lesson

Studio Class

Week of February 17, 2025

Lesson Assignment:

Selection III Memorize

Selection IV Polish/Listening comparison due

Selection V Vowel-Sing, Fact Sheet due

Selection VI Count-Sing with IPA and Word-by-Word in the music

Selection II Ready to be sung in studio by memory

Poetic Equivalent and Practice log due in lesson

Studio Class

Week of February 24, 2025

Lesson Assignment:

Selections I-III ready to perform in Studio
All Music for Selections I – VI learned
Fact Sheet for Selection VI due
Practice Log Due in Lesson
Studio Class

Week of March 3, 2025

Lesson Assignment:

Selection IV Memorize
Selection V Polish/Listening comparison due
Selection VI Vowel- Sing,
Selection VII Count- Sing with IPA and Word-by-Word in the music
Review of Selections I-III by memory
Poetic Equivalent and Practice Log Due in Lesson
Studio Class (Combined)

Week of March 10, 2025

Lesson Assignment:

Selection V Memorize
Selection VI Polish/Listening comparison due
Practice Log Due in Lesson
Studio Class

SPRING BREAK!! MARCH 17-21, 2025

Week of March 24, 2025

Lesson Assignment:

Selection VI Memorize
Be ready to sing Selections I-IV by memory in lesson
Practice Log Due in Lesson
Studio Class

- **Jennifer Gardner's Recital on March 29 at 12:50 pm**

Week of March 31, 2025

Lesson Assignment:

Be ready to sing Selections IV-VI by memory in lesson

All repertoire ready for technical work/diction improvement

Practice Log Due in Lesson

Studio Class (Combined)

- Joelle Campana's Recital on April 5 at 3:00 pm
- Marbella Deininger's Recital on April 5 at 5:10 pm

Week of April 7, 2025

Lesson Assignment:

Practice Log Due in Lesson

Studio Class

Week of April 14, 2025

ALL JURY REPERTOIRE MUST BE SUNG BY MEMORY IN LESSONS.

- Celebrate World Voice Day is April 16, 2025!
- Ava Neary's Recital on April 19 at 3:00 pm

Week of April 21, 2025

Final Preparation for Voice Jury

Classes End on Wednesday, April 23, 2025

- Please be certain to write a note of thanks to your collaborative pianist and include any compensation you owe them.

VOICE JURIES ON MONDAY, April 28, 2025

Vocal Health

Please do not hesitate to write or call if you have any discomfort with your voice.

Students Requiring Accommodation

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, <https://disability.ufl.edu/>) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

UF Evaluations Process

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via

<https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

University Honesty Policy

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” The Honor Code (<https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

Counseling and Wellness Center

Contact information for the Counseling and Wellness Center:

<http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/default.aspx> (352) 392-1575; and the University Police Department: 392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies.

The Writing Studio

The writing studio is committed to helping University of Florida students meet their academic and professional goals by becoming better writers. Visit the writing studio online at <http://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio> or in 2215 Turlington Hall for one-on-one consultations.