

Musical Theatre Lab- THE 5278C

Fall Semester/2016, University of Central Florida, 1 credit hour

Monday/Friday: 3:30-4:20

Room: M261

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Office Hours: By Appointment/As Posted

“The singer has everything within him. The notes come out from his very life. They are not materials gathered from outside.”
~Rabindranath Tagore, Poet

Introduction

As the Nobel Prize winning poet Tagore states above, everything you need to sing is already inside you. The foundations of this course are based upon the Estill Voice Training Systems®. Through lecture, discussion, anatomical video and individual and group practice, you will learn about the anatomy of the vocal tract, its natural functions and how to utilize it to produce the sounds associated with the thirteen Estill figures that, subsequently, comprise the six primary vocal qualities. Our primary singing work will be focused through the medium of musical theatre literature appropriate to your vocal abilities and character types. Remember to approach your work with enthusiasm and openness. You may be approaching singing in a way you never thought possible. Embrace all the wonderful sounds you can healthfully create! Together we can create an extremely fruitful artistic, educational and, ultimately, professional journey.

Course Purpose

This semester’s work will follow a two-part approach. When we meet as a group, our primary focus will be to study and work for proficiency in the Estill figures and voice qualities. These tools will aid in the creation of consistently healthful warm-up and practice methods and provide a set of valuable analytic skills. Further, honing these skills will build students’ confidence levels when approaching new literature or revisiting existing repertoire. Our secondary focus during these classes will be to hold coaching sessions with individuals on assigned music, as well as define/refine necessary musical theatre auditioning skills.

The second part of our work will consist of a more individualized approach to each student’s repertoire book. On designated days throughout the term, the professor will work with selected students to either a.) add new repertoire appropriate to his/her current vocal abilities and character type or b.) work through the student’s existing repertoire to determine its continued merit in securing the student’s professional goals.

Our work should help in the achievement of the following goals:

- To demonstrate mastery of the 13 Estill Voice Training System® figures.
- To identify and eliminate harmful vocal habits.
- To work collaboratively with the professor and classmates on repertoire evaluation.
- To develop a consistently healthful and repeatable approach to musical, textual and character analysis.
- To perform either one full piece or two audition cuts from the student’s new and/or existing repertoire after individualized consultation with the professor.
- To utilize technical skills to aide in the development of artistry.
- To refine essential musical theatre auditioning skills
- To strengthen individual powers of observation, concentration, and imagination.
- To develop a comprehensive awareness of the performances of peers and self.

Required Texts and Materials

1. *The Estill Voice Training System: Level One- Compulsory Figures for Voice Control*, **Authors:** Klimek, Obert & Steinhauer, **Publisher:** Estill Voice Training Systems International, LLC
 2. *The Estill Voice Training System: Level Two- Figure Combinations for Six Voice Qualities*, **Authors:** Klimek, Obert & Steinhauer, **Publisher:** Estill Voice Training Systems International, LLC
 3. *Geography of the Voice: Anatomy of an Adam’s Apple 2nd Ed.*, **Authors:** Obert & Chicurel, **Publisher:** Estill Voice Training Systems International, LLC
- Scores and Music as Assigned

Required Texts and Materials Continued

-3 Ring Binder (with copies of assigned music), Duplicate copies for your accompanist and/or professor
-Voice Recorder (Can be a digital voice recorder, computer, cell phone, tape recorder, etc.)

Course Policies

1. University-Wide Academic Participation Verification- As of Fall 2014, all faculty members are required to document students' academic activity at the beginning of each course. In order to document that you began this course, please complete the following academic activity, **Verification Quiz**, as soon as possible after adding the course, but no later than **August 26th**. Failure to do so will result in a delay in the disbursement of your financial aid.

2. Disability Access- The University of Central Florida is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities. This syllabus is available in alternate formats upon request. Students with disabilities who need accommodations in this course must contact the professor at the beginning of the semester to discuss needed accommodations. No accommodations will be provided until the student has met with the professor to request accommodations. Students who need accommodations must be registered with Student Disability Services, Ferrell Commons 185, phone (407) 823-2371, before requesting accommodations from the professor.

3. Attendance- Regular attendance is essential to your progress and growth in this class. Your regular attendance and promptness along with sufficient preparation for classes and individual and/or group performances provide the basis for establishing professional trust. With this in mind, you are only allowed **two absences**. You are encouraged to reserve these for instances of illness. If you fail to participate, or are unprepared for class, it will count as half credit for the day. Two incidences of tardiness will be counted as an absence. **Missing 10% of class (4 classes) will result in an automatic failure of the course.** Exceptions to any of these policies may occur at the discretion of the professor, due to family emergency or serious illness. Written verification of these circumstances may be required. In the event of an absence, you are responsible for all material covered, and the instructor assumes no responsibility to tutor you for classes missed.

It is the policy of the University to reasonably accommodate absences due to observed religious holidays and/or University-sanctioned events whereby a student will be representing UCF. However, the student is responsible for any material covered during the absence(s). You must inform the instructor **in writing two weeks prior** to being away. Please also notify any classmates who will be affected by your absence(s) so alternate arrangements can be made for the class(es) you will miss.

4. Attitude- This course requires **active** participation in discussions, exercises, and the presentation of performance projects. Each day is a chance for you to work hard, concentrate on new information, demonstrate a positive attitude, remain open to new possibilities, and be fully prepared for all classroom endeavors. Your repertoire for your individualized sessions will require out-of-class preparation; please plan your practice time accordingly. The instructor reserves the right to ask uncooperative students to leave the classroom and forfeit all points for that day's activities.

5. Be prepared- The show must go on. Failure to present your performances on the days they are due will result in a grade of zero. Exceptions will be granted in an emergency situation only to be considered on a case by case basis by the instructor. Written work **will not** be accepted late. Any alterations to this policy will only be considered in an extreme emergency, on a case-by-case basis, and may require further written documentation.

6. You must attend the Main Stage musical this semester. You can acquire a theatre student rate ticket any time prior to 6 p.m. on the Monday before the show opens. The more theatrical experiences you have, the stronger theatre artist you become. You must *see* theatre to *know* theatre. A written review of this show will be required as a follow-up to the performance.

Young Frankenstein: Performances: Oct. 20-30, 2016

7. Academic Integrity- As reflected in the UCF creed, integrity and scholarship are core values that should guide our conduct and decisions as members of the UCF community. **Plagiarism and cheating contradict these values**, and so are very serious academic offenses. Penalties can include a failing grade in an assignment or in the course, or suspension or expulsion from the university. Students are expected to familiarize themselves with and follow the University's Rules of Conduct (<http://www.osc.sdes.ucf.edu/>) as well as The Golden Rule (<http://www.goldenrule.sdes.ucf.edu/>).

Course Tasks & Criteria

TASK- Attendance & Participation

Criteria- Participation points will be based on lecture participation, engagement with fellow students during practicum sessions, preparation of any assigned out of class reading/writing, and positive contribution to any other education activity deemed appropriate by the professor.

40% of course grade

TASK- Individualized Voice Work Sessions

Criteria- Participation points for individualized work sessions will be based on progress on identified repertoire with its inherent vocal/character issues, evidence of weekly outside practice time (at least 2 hours) and rehearsal with class accompanist (at least one 15 minute session) as well as adherence to guidelines concerning professionalism and decorum.

20% of course grade

TASK-Written Review of *Young Frankenstein*

Criteria- Specific content of review will be distributed prior to the production opening. Successful papers will follow these content requirements. They will also display a clear author's voice focused on analysis of a live theatrical production written in a concise and compelling manner utilizing discipline-specific terminology and marked by an excellent display of proper grammar. **Due October 31, 2016.**

10% of course grade

TASK-Personal Vocal Development Journal

Criteria- Your journal may be typed on 8 ½ x11 paper or handwritten in a bound journal (page size should be comparable to a standard sheet of typing paper). Dated weekly entries will connect your observations to practice in areas including (but not limited to): personal vocal progress, analysis of self and classmates' development during small group work sessions, thoughts/reactions to performances of music listened to/shows seen, and other topics deemed appropriate by the instructor. Sources for listening include Spotify, Youtube, Original Cast/Revival Cast Recordings. Please mention these sources when writing about them. **This journal will be collected periodically throughout the term.**

10% of course grade

TASK-Singing Presentation

Criteria- Students will perform either one full length piece or 2 audition cuttings that have been worked on during individualized sessions and in class. Successful performances will include rhythmic, lyrical and musical accuracy, and demonstrate evidence of synthesis of technical and artistic issues addressed during individualized sessions/class. Further, performances should be stylistically appropriate to the material, and incorporate character development in support of the technical and artistic demands of each piece. In addition students should be dressed for a performance in audition-appropriate clothing and have provided legible, correctly marked pieces of music for the class accompanist.

Presentation to occur on Friday, December 2, 2016.

10% of course grade

TASK- Final Exam

Criteria-Your final exam will consist of a short written exam on the Estill system which will consist of multiple choice, fill in the blank and short essay questions as well as diagram labeling, listening analysis and a brief VP protocols demonstration. Students will be tested on their knowledge of the Estill Voice Training system's scientific/artistic model, their ability to correctly identify vocal qualities and anatomical positions in recorded samples and to produce spectrogram prints on Estill Voice Training tasks taught throughout the term. This exam will be held on **Friday, December 9 from 2-3:50.**

20% of course grade

Class Grading Scale

A	4.00- Excellent work, consistently dynamic
A-	3.75
B+	3.25
B	3.00- Good work, but not consistently dynamic
B-	2.75
C+	2.25
C	2.00- Average work, meeting minimum requirements
*C-	1.75- Failing grade for graduate work
*(& Below)	

Tentative Schedule of Individualized Voice Work Sessions

Each session will be comprised of two students:

Group 1- Daniel & Amanda D.

Group 2- Terence, Andrew C. & Ana

Group 3- Amanda L. & Andrew H.

Notes

PLEASE READ: Since Theatre requires the use of mind, voice, and body, there might be situations that require a certain amount of physical contact between you and the Instructor and other students. If this presents a problem for you, please see the Instructor immediately to assess your chances for success in this course.

It is recommended that all students retain musical theatre voice syllabi for future reference.

The instructor reserves the right to change any aspect of this syllabus in response to her perception of the needs of the class. Students are responsible for all written or oral changes to the syllabus.

Tentative Class Schedule (Subject to Change)

****Note- Due to an unusual number of University observed holidays or University-wide closing events, I am open to scheduling some alternate class times for either additional lecture and/or practicum experience. I also encourage you to seek time during my posted office hours to work on individual voice material with me.**

Week 1- M- Syllabus Review, F- Effort, Power, Pitch

Week 2- M- TVF On/Offset & VP Practice, F- FVF & TVF Body Cover

Week 3- M-**No School- Labor Day**, F- MT Music Selection & How to Make Cuts

Week 4- M- Group 1 Work Session Only, F- Group 2 Work Session Only (class will last until 4:45)

Week 5- M- Group 3 Work Session Only, F- In-Class Singing Work Session

Week 6- M- Thyroid, Larynx, Siren, F- Decoding the MT Audition & Working w/the Accompanist

Week 7- M- VP Practice, Jaw & Lips F- **No Class- Football Game- Campus Closes at 3**

Week 8- M- In-Class Singing Work Session, F- Tongue

Week 9- M- Velum, AES, F- Group 2 Work Session Only (class will last until 4:45)

Week 10- M- Group 3 Work Session Only, F- Group 1 Work Session Only

Week 11- M- Head/Neck, Torso & VP Practice, **YF Paper Due**, F- **Guest Speaker- Marcello Zempt-CCI**

Week 12- M- Speech/Falsetto Qualities, F- **No School- Veteran's Day**

Week 13- M- Twang/Sob Qualities, F- Opera/Belt (Cricoid) Qualities (wear Purple!)

Week 14- M- In-Class Singing Work Session, F- **No School- Thanksgiving Break**

Week 15- M- Finals Review, F- **Singing Presentation Due**

Week 16- **Final- Friday, December 9th- 2-3:50 p.m.**