

# UCF Opera Workshop - Fall 2020

## **Contacting the Professors:**

Professors' Names: Thomas Potter & Robin Jensen  
Office Locations: PAC M113 [Thomas] & M131 [Robin]  
Office Hours: Email for Zoom appointment  
Phone #s: 407 823 4680 [Thomas] & 407 246 5410 [Robin]  
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## **Course Information:**

### *From the course catalog:*

MUO 3503L – Undergraduate [or MUO 5505L – Graduate level – see Graduate Student section below]  
PR: ~~MUO 2501C, or C.I., and Audition.~~ Study, preparation, and performance of opera literature. May be repeated for credit. 7 times. 1(0,3)

### *Further course description:*

This semester, there are no face-to-face meetings for this class this semester. It is unfortunate that we will not be allowed to do any live performing this semester, but it does offer us an opportunity to spend the semester studying acting for singers. This is a part of the classical voice student's curriculum which is all too often overlooked. We tend to focus so much on vocal technique that we forget that the central point to vocal performance is to tell a story and to evoke an emotional response from one's audience – but don't let me get into the course content here...

### *A personal note from Thomas:*

*The Covid-19 pandemic is bad news for all of us. It is a catastrophe unlike any other. It affects every life differently, but it affects every life. As difficult as it might sometimes seem, though, we need to keep in mind that this "circumstance" is temporary. We do not know how long this thing will last, but it **will** end. In order to help that day to come sooner, we all need to do our part in terms of using face coverings, washing hands often and well, and staying home and social distancing. I encourage you to make a voluntary pledge to "[Armor Up](#)".*

*In terms of school, it is true that education at UCF is different than it was before, but it's not UCF that has changed things, it's the virus that has changed the whole world – UCF is responding to those changes as best it can. Furthermore, because this circumstance is temporary, as a student, you need to remain focused on your future. You are still preparing for the rest of your life. Some of the changes in educational course delivery, etc. is preparing you for whatever the "new normal" will be once a vaccine is developed and distributed. Online performing/streaming, for example, is going to become a more prevalent part of both the performance and educational world. Through our use of technology in this course, you are going to become more proficient at the skills needed to master this new mode of performance and education.*

*As mentioned above, our focus for this semester will be on acting for singers. We will be using David Ostwald's book by that name, "Acting for Singers: Creating Believable Singing Characters", and I am very happy and proud to be able to announce that the author will be joining us on several occasions throughout the semester in our Zoom meetings to help us with the concepts of the book, and also to introduce to you additional thoughts and techniques he has developed since the publication of his book.*

This syllabus may be modified at the discretion of the instructor.  
Any changes will be discussed in class and/or announced in Webcourses.

Revised August 24, 2020

*Required Text:*

- *Acting for Singers: Creating Believable Singing Characters* by David Ostwald  
This textbook may be purchased as a physical copy or as an e-book
  - **Publisher:** Oxford University Press
  - **ISBN-10:** 0195145402
  - **ISBN-13:** 978-0195145403

*Course delivery mode/Meeting times:*

"Opera Workshop" for the Fall of 2020 is a remote, video-delivered course. No *in-person* classroom attendance is required. *The class will, however, meet each week virtually through Zoom from 3:30-4:20pm (EST) on Mondays throughout the semester.* Internet access, a browser, and e-mail are required. Webcams and microphones are also required. Students may be asked to upload videos of themselves singing songs or arias.

As an online course, students are responsible to keep up with all course activities as they appear in the course calendar. In order to do this, *it is expected that students will log into the course Webcourses page daily (Monday through Friday) to check for announcements, assignments, and assessment materials.*

There will be several online assignments given throughout the course. Some assignments will take the form of online quizzes, others will require students to participate in online discussions about the course and textbook.

In this class, our official mode of communication is through email [or "Inbox"] located inside Webcourses.

*Technology/Software Requirements:*

Students will be expected to have daily access to a computer. If you do not own a computer, there are computers accessible to you in UCF's computer labs. For further information on computer labs, [click here](#). If you know that you generally have poor internet connections where you live, plan ahead to visit alternative locations from which you can submit assignments, take quizzes and tests, etc. If you need to take your laptop to a Paneras parking lot to get an internet signal, that's what you need to do - but do not jeopardize your health with unnecessary risks.

*Things to Know About Zoom:*

- The Zoom sessions are recorded.
- Improper classroom behavior is not tolerated within Zoom sessions and may result in a referral to the Office of Student Conduct.
- You can contact Webcourses@UCF Support at <https://cdl.ucf.edu/support/webcourses/> if you have any technical issues accessing Zoom.

Please take the time to familiarize yourself with Zoom by visiting the [UCF Zoom Guides](#) at <https://cdl.ucf.edu/support/webcourses/zoom/> . You may choose to use Zoom on your mobile device (phone or tablet).

*Webcourses:*

Webcourses is an online course management system which will be used as a medium for turning in assignments and a forum for communicating with your course instructor and classmates. Check Webcourses *every day* for possible updates. In this class our official mode of communication is through email located inside Webcourses. It is the student's responsibility to check the Webcourse's "Inbox" *daily*.

**Attendance/Participation:**

While there is no physical attendance requirement for this online course, students will be graded on their participation in various components of the course. Be early/on time to each Zoom meeting – a portion of your training in this class is exercising professional etiquette. Tardiness will obviously affect your class participation grade and therefore your semester grade for the course. If you are not feeling well, you will still benefit from attending class and observing.

*If you know you must be late for a Zoom meeting, please **text both me [321 230 7487] and Robin Jensen [407 246 5410] to let us know prior to the scheduled start time.***

If you know you must miss a class meeting **for any reason**, send a message (*through the Webcourses Inbox feature*) as far in advance as you can and with as much detailed explanation as you can. Failure to write us about an attendance problem within 24 hours after the class will forfeit your chance of that absence being excused.

**Activity Submissions:**

Students will submit assignments through several methods, including uploading videos they create via Canvas Studio, documents they create in Microsoft Word, and written submissions online. All assignments will be posted and become available a minimum of 36 hours prior to their due date/time.

Reasons for acceptable late submissions of assignments may include illness, serious family emergencies, special curricular requirements (*e.g., judging trips, field trips, professional conferences*), military obligations, severe weather conditions, and religious holidays, but proof (*doctor's note, death certificate of family member, etc.*) will be required to corroborate any request for submission extensions. When possible, such as in the case of a planned surgery which is likely to incapacitate you for a day or more, inform me ahead of time.

**Evaluation and Grading:**

Check with Webcourses for requirements, assignments, evaluation policies, and rehearsal/performance schedules. Letter grades will be assigned according to this chart.

Percentage:	Grade:	Percentage:	Grade:	Percentage:	Grade:
93-100%	A	80-82%	B-	67-69%	D+
90-92%	A-	77-79%	C+	63-66%	D
87-89%	B+	73-76%	C	60-62%	D-
83-86%	B	70-72%	C-	< 60%	F

***Make-up Exams and Assignments***

Assignments which are turned in late will be severely penalized. Assessments which are turned in late will not be accepted without a fully justifiable reason, such as those listed in the previous section and/or below.

Students are allowed to submit make-up work (*or an equivalent, alternate assignment*) for authorized university-sponsored activities, religious observances, or legal obligations (*such as jury duty*). In each case, you will need to present me with evidence of the event, etc. If this participation conflicts with course assignment due dates, I will offer a reasonable opportunity for you to complete missed assignments and/or exams. The make-up assignment and grading scale will be equivalent to the missed assignment and its grading scale. In the case of an authorized university activity, it is your responsibility to show me a signed copy of the Program Verification Form for which you will be absent, at least one week prior to the class in which the absence occurs. In any of these cases, please contact me ahead of time to notify me of upcoming needs.

***Graduate Student [Additional] Requirements:***

Since this course is a “shared” course between undergraduate and graduate students, the University requires that graduate students have substantial additional requirements/assignments to justify the awarding of the graduate level course credit. These additional requirements/assignments will be individually discussed with each student early in the semester. Please ask for the MUO 5505 version of this syllabus.

***Library Resources:***

- The School of Performing Arts provides FREE access to materials on the [IPA Source website](#).
- The UCF Library has a good collection of operas in DVD format.
- The UCF Library maintains subscriptions to three of the most important opera periodicals:
  - Opera News Magazine
  - Classical Singer Magazine
  - Newsline [a journal produced by Opera America]

***University Services and Resources******Academic Services and Resources***

A list of available academic support and learning services is available at [UCF Student Services](#).

***Non-Academic Services and Resources***

A list of non-academic support and services is also available at [UCF Student Services](#).

If you are a UCF Online student, please consult the [UCF Online Student Guidelines](#) for more information about your access to non-academic services.

## ***Policy Statements***

### *Academic Integrity*

Students should familiarize themselves with [UCF's Rules of Conduct](#). According to Section 1, "Academic Misconduct," students are prohibited from engaging in:

- *Unauthorized assistance*: Using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information or study aids in any academic exercise unless specifically authorized by the instructor of record. The unauthorized possession of examination or course-related material also constitutes cheating.
- *Communication to another through written, visual, electronic, or oral means*: The presentation of material which has not been studied or learned, but rather was obtained through someone else's efforts and used as part of an examination, course assignment, or project.
- *Commercial Use of Academic Material*: Selling of course material to another person, student, and/or uploading course material to a third-party vendor without authorization or without the express written permission of the university and the instructor. Course materials include but are not limited to class notes, Instructor's PowerPoints, course syllabi, tests, quizzes, labs, instruction sheets, homework, study guides, handouts, etc.
- *Falsifying or misrepresenting* the student's own academic work.
- *Plagiarism*: Using or appropriating another's work without any indication of the source, thereby attempting to convey the impression that such work is the student's own.
- *Multiple Submissions*: Submitting the same academic work for credit more than once without the express written permission of the instructor.
- *Helping another violate* academic behavior standards.

For more information about Academic Integrity, students may consult [The Center for Academic Integrity](#).

For more information about plagiarism and misuse of sources, see "[Defining and Avoiding Plagiarism: The WPA Statement on Best Practices](#)".

### *Responses to Academic Dishonesty, Plagiarism, or Cheating*

Students should also familiarize themselves with the procedures for academic misconduct in UCF's student handbook, [The Golden Rule](#). UCF faculty members have a responsibility for students' education and the value of a UCF degree, and so seek to prevent unethical behavior and when necessary respond to academic misconduct. Penalties can include a failing grade in an assignment or in the course, suspension or expulsion from the university, and/or a "Z Designation" on a student's official transcript indicating academic dishonesty, where the final grade for this course will be preceded by the letter Z. For more information about the Z Designation, see <http://goldenrule.sdes.ucf.edu/zgrade>.

### *Course Accessibility Statement*

The University of Central Florida is committed to providing access and inclusion for all persons with disabilities. Students with disabilities who need disability-related access in this course should contact the professor as soon as possible. Students should also connect with [Student Accessibility Services](#) (Ferrell Commons 185, [sas@ucf.edu](mailto:sas@ucf.edu), phone (407) 823-2371). Through Student Accessibility Services, a Course Accessibility Letter may be created and sent to professors, which informs faculty of potential access and accommodations that might be reasonable. Determining reasonable access and accommodations requires consideration of the course design, course learning objectives and the individual academic and course barriers experienced by the student.

*Copyright*

This course may contain copyright protected materials such as audio or video clips, images, text materials, etc. These items are being used with regard to the Fair Use doctrine in order to enhance the learning environment. Please do not copy, duplicate, download or distribute these items. The use of these materials is strictly reserved for this online classroom environment and your use only. All copyright materials are credited to the copyright holder.

*University-Wide Face Covering Policy for Common Spaces and Face-to-Face Classes*

To protect members of our community, everyone is required to wear a facial covering inside all common spaces including classrooms. Please read the [UCF Covid Return Policy](#). Students who choose not to wear facial coverings will be asked to leave the classroom by the instructor. If they refuse to leave the classroom or put on a facial covering, they may be considered disruptive (please see the [Golden Rule](#) for student behavior expectations). Faculty have the right to cancel class if the safety and well-being of class members are in jeopardy. Students will be responsible for the material that would have been covered in class as provided by the instructor.

*Notifications in Case of Changes to Course Modality*

Depending on the course of the pandemic during the semester, the university may make changes to the way classes are offered. If that happens, please look for announcements or messages in [Webcourses@UCF](mailto:Webcourses@UCF) or Knights email about changes specific to this course.

*COVID-19 and Illness Notification*

Students who believe they may have a COVID-19 diagnosis should contact UCF Student Health Services (407-823-2509) so proper contact tracing procedures can take place.

Students should not come to campus if they are ill, are experiencing any symptoms of COVID-19, have tested positive for COVID, or if anyone living in their residence has tested positive or is sick with COVID-19 symptoms. CDC guidance for COVID-19 symptoms is located here: (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>)

Students should contact their instructor(s) as soon as possible if they miss class for any illness reason to discuss reasonable adjustments that might need to be made. When possible, students should contact their instructor(s) before missing class.

*In Case of Faculty Illness*

If the instructor falls ill during the semester, there may be changes to this course, including having a backup instructor take over the course. Please look for announcements or mail in [Webcourses@UCF](mailto:Webcourses@UCF) or Knights email for any alterations to this course.