

Syllabus

Course Code: MUSI 151

Title: Voice 1

Institute: Humanities

Department: Music

Course Description:

This class is designed for a singer to improve vocal production and improve the quality of their singing. Combining the study of anatomy as it pertains to singing and current findings in voice science with traditional exercises, students will learn about inhalation and controlled exhalation for singing. Articulators and diction will be analyzed. The necessary technique for different genres of music will be examined. Application of these technical skills will then be applied to expressing and acting the emotional context of a song for performance. Basic music notation and sight singing will be introduced.

Prerequisites: Ability to match pitch.

Corequisites: None.

Prerequisites or corequisites: None.

Credits: 3

Lecture Hours: 2

Lab/Studio Hours: 2

Required Textbook/Materials: *Absolute Beginners Voice* by Andrés Andrade, Hal Leonard Corp.

Additional Time Requirements: Approximately 2 hours of individual practice time weekly.

Additional Support/Labs:

See <https://www.brookdalecc.edu/academic-tutoring/>

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Course Learning Outcomes: Click or tap here to enter text.

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Produce an optimal vocal sound for any number of musical styles and interpretative techniques. (**Creative Expression and Critical Thinking**)
2. Apply a basic understanding of the principles of stage performance. (**Creative Expression and Critical Thinking**)

Course Content: Click or tap here to enter text.

The goal of this class is to educate the student in the fundamentals of vocal technique and the disciplines involved in the act of singing.

- Based on the work of F.M. Alexander, students will study balance points of the skeletal system to aid in developing proper alignment (posture) for singing.
- Students will study the respiratory system to understand diaphragmatic function and muscular reactions and sensations in the abdominal cavity as a result of inhalation. Following the natural

motions of the body, students will begin to develop a sustained exhalation. Stretches to prepare the body and exercises sustain a slow, controlled exhalation will be taught for repeated practice.

- Beginning vocal production will apply these breath exercises to create vocal fold vibration.
- Learning the 5 basic vowels for vocalization, each week the student will be given a set of sung exercises to practice during the week. The beginning exercises will be found in the text which has a CD with both a sung demonstration and a practice track. New exercises to address different technical issues will be added each week.
- The vocal work will begin in the middle range of the voice, work into lower notes, and add higher pitches as the semester continues.
- Voiced and unvoiced consonants will be analyzed as applies to diction for singing.
- Throughout the first weeks, basic music notation will be studied as found in the text to facilitate learning music. Supplemental exercises for sight-singing will be provided.
- Songs will be learned in the first section of the class. By the end of the course, students will have learned the ten songs found in the text.
- The second section of the class will be consist of individual sessions with the instructor. The other students will participate through observation. This is a performance class and students are required to sing in front of each other.
- Each student will be assigned an individual song suited to their voice type and range to be performed at the end of the semester.

Assignments:

There will be 3 short written essays on vocal production to allow the professor to assess the students' comprehension of vocal technique concepts.

- Essay 1: Describe the process of inhalation and controlled exhalation as it applies to singing.
- Essay 2: Describe the vocal tract and identify the principal anatomical sections.
- Essay 3: What is resonance and how do we create it?

Written Exams:

There will be two written exams, one mid-semester and one at the end of the semester.

- Exam 1: Basic music notation.
- Exam 2: Label the parts of the respiratory system and vocal tract.

Final Exam:

As a final exam, students will perform one song assigned during the semester from memory on an informal recital attended by the class and invited guests, family and friends.

Department Policies: Click or tap here to enter text.

Grading Standard: Click or tap here to enter text.

5% Attendance A large part of this work occurs during class. You are allowed 2 excused absences. This requires notifying the professor 24 hours in advance of the missed class, or a doctor's note for a medical reason. A sore throat, allergies, or feeling you cannot sing on a class day does not constitute an excused absence. You can learn a lot about how the voice works by listening and learning to your colleagues. You are expected to arrive on time and stay until the end of class.

15% Class Participation The ideal rehearsal process is that each singer gives his/her best effort and the professor will process the result and give instructions to improve the performance. Each class member is expected to give full attention to the student singing if it is an individual session.

20% Essays and Exams (3 Essays, 2 Exams)

20% Final Recital

40% In Class Performances and Improvement. Each student will perform several times during the semester and graded on continual individual progress (**not** perfection or comparison to other students).

Grading Scale: 90-100% = A, 85-89% = B+, 80-84=B, 75-79%=C+, 70-74%=C, 60-69% = D, 0-59% = F

College Policies:

As an academic institution, Brookdale facilitates the free exchange of ideas, upholds the virtues of civil discourse, and honors diverse perspectives informed by credible sources. Our College values all students and strives for inclusion and safety regardless of a student's disability, age, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, country of origin, immigration status, religious affiliation, political orientation, socioeconomic standing, and veteran status. For additional information, support services, and engagement opportunities, please visit www.brookdalecc.edu/support.

For information regarding:

- Academic Integrity Code
- Student Conduct Code
- Student Grade Appeal Process

Please refer to the [student handbook](#) and [catalog](#).

Notification for Students with Disabilities:

Brookdale Community College offers reasonable accommodations and/or services to persons with disabilities. Students with disabilities who wish to self-identify must contact the Accessibility Services Office at 732-224-2730 (voice) or 732-842-4211 (TTY) to provide appropriate documentation of the disability and request specific accommodations or services. If a student qualifies, reasonable accommodations and/or services, which are appropriate for the college level and are recommended in the documentation, can be approved.

Mental Health:

24/7/365 Resources:

- Monmouth Medical Center Psychiatric Emergency Services at **(732) 923-6999**
- 2nd Floor Youth Helpline – Available to talk with you about any problem, distress, or hardship you are experiencing. Call or text at **888-222-2228** or visit the website at <https://www.2ndfloor.org/>

Faculty Counselors:

- Students who need to make an appointment with a faculty counselor can do so by calling 732-224-1822 (non-emergency line) during business hours. Faculty counselors are licensed mental health professionals who can assist students and refer them to other mental health resources.

Diversity Statement:

Brookdale Community College fosters an environment of inclusion and belonging. We promote a safe and open culture, encourage dialogue respecting diverse perspectives informed by credible sources, and uphold the virtues of civil discourse. We celebrate all identities with the understanding that ultimately, diversity, equity, and inclusion cultivate belonging and make us a stronger Brookdale community.

**The syllabus is intended to give student guidance in what may be covered during the semester and will be followed as closely as possible. However, the faculty member reserves the right to modify, supplement, and make changes as the need arise.*