Course Information: Individual Instruction

MUSA 1195 017 CRN: 20582

MUSA 3391 017 CRN: 20584

FALL SEMESTER 2026

Professor Of Practice - Alexander Kariotis
Voice/Commercial Music
Athomaskar@utep.edu
Office: FFA 133
Office Hours: By appointment, via email

COURSE INFORMATION:

The study of the voice through private one on one lessons with Professor Kariotis and a collaborative pianist.

PREREQUISITES:

Passing a vocal audition in front of the voice faculty

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

One on one vocal lesson focusing on the technique of the voice and the study of appropriate repertoire to fulfill the requirements based in the voice handbook. The study will also include historical analysis of great singers for each genre, peer evaluations and concert attendance.

COURSE OBJECTIVES OR EXPECTED LEARNING OUTCOMES:

At the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Master vocal exercises to the best of your ability
- Possess the correct posture for productive singing
- Understand the theories of vocal placement for a beautiful tone
- Be able to discuss and implement vocal registration
- Be able to discuss and implement the theory of the Italianate technique of breathing called “Appoggiare” as taught in your lessons
- Be able to discuss key structure and transposition within your vocal repertoire
- Be able to discuss historical information about specific repertoire
- Grasp and utilize the IPA for help with singing in foreign languages
- Practice and study for 1–2 hours daily to master vocal exercises assigned in lessons and to master the assigned repertoire.
- Total practice per week: 7–9 hours.
- Perform at least once on Voice Area Recital.
- Attend weekly studio classes and perform at least once.
- Perform at least 3 pieces of the semester’s repertoire from memory on a mid-term exam lesson.

- Perform a jury for the voice faculty at the end of the semester. This is the final exam for the course and will be graded based on criteria found in the Voice Area Handbook.

REQUIRED MATERIALS:

Voice "Folder" for the following:

- Character analysis for each selection studying

  The study and discussion points of what, where and why the character you are portraying is going through in the selected music. Other deeper questions should be asked and developed in the "make-up" of the character we are portraying.

- Historical analysis for each selection studying

  Deep dive into what was going on historically during the time period of the selected music we are singing. What was happening in art, music, politics and social development during this particular time in history.

- Great singers' analysis for each selection studying

  Listening to great singers perform your songs/arias is vital to tune your musical ear. The more you listen the more you know what to listen for in your own sound. What are great singers doing that you would like to do as well? Since much of the operatic material we study has deep traditional roots, it is important to learn, through listening and study, what is expected in the music of these composers.

Translations

- Word for word

  A word for word translation of every song and aria in your repertoire.

  Literal Translation

  A clear formulation of the translation into a concise, understandable sentence.

- Diagonally on music

  Placement of the words above the staff on a diagonal so they can be read easily while practicing

Peer analysis

Analysis of fellow students' performances in recital or concert. What are some things that they are doing that you would like to emulate in your singing? This is also a good time to jot down repertoire that ignites excitement in you that you have heard others singing.

Concert analysis

A singing analysis of a recent concert by a peer, faculty member of profession visiting artist.

Recording Device

Cell Phone/iPad with ample space to record vocal exercises and specific lesson information, as well as space for video recording the lesson when necessary

Music

Clear copies in 3 ring binder back-to-back pages
IPAD can be used as well
Discuss with your collaborative pianist in what form they would like the music
Water bottle

Attendance Policy

-Students are required to attend 14 (50-minute) lessons scheduled at the beginning of the semester and constitute a class that meets once per week at the same time.

Absences

· Students are permitted one absence per semester without a grade penalty. More than one absence, no matter the reason, will reflect poorly on your grade.

Lateness

· The student forfeits the lesson if they arrive more than 15 minutes late for a 50-minute lesson.

Lesson Cancellation Policy

· Notify Professor Kariotis by email or text message, but no later than 9:00 a.m. on the day of your lesson.

Make-up Lesson Policy

· Lessons missed by Professor Kariotis will be made up.
· Lessons missed or canceled by the student will be made up at the discretion of Professor Kariotis. However, lessons canceled by the student that are made up will not negate the absence policy.

GRADING:

Grading scale is as follows:
90-100% - A
80-89% - B
70-79% - C
60-69% - D
Below 60% - F

50% - Attendance:

One free absence
On time and prepared to work
Weekly lesson preparation
Willingness to give it all in your lessons
All materials in voice folder

All music materials prepared for lessons

25% - Assignments/analysis/peer review/concert review/research materials

25% - Final Jury grade

PROJECTED SCHEDULE:

Week 1	Kariotis Lecture on Registers Pick Song 1
Week 2	Kariotis Lecture on breathing Pick Song 2
Week 3	Kariotis Lecture on posture Pick Song 3
Week 4	First Song prep
Week 5	First Song prep - Translation Due
Week 6	Second Song prep
Week 7	Second Song prep – Translation Due
Week 8	Review Song one and two
Week 9	Third Song Prep
Week 10	Third Song Prep – Translation Due
Week 11	Review Song 1 - 3
Week 12	Review Song 1 - 3
Week 13	Review Song 1 – 3 Mock Jury
Week 14	Review Song 1 – 3 Mock Jury
Week 15	Final Jury

Area and Departmental Recital Attendance Policy

1. All students enrolled in Individual Instruction: MUSA 1190, 1195, MUSA 3295, and MUSA 3391; and Voice Class: MUSA 1274, must attend a minimum of twelve (12) Area and Departmental recitals scheduled every Friday at 1:30 p.m., in the Department of Music. Failing to attend twelve (12) required recitals will lower the student's final Individual Instruction grade by one letter. Students are responsible for signing in at each recital electronically. Students arriving late or leaving early may have their attendance voided.

2. When a single area recital is canceled, students must either attend a different area recital held at the same time or attend a makeup event (see makeup procedures, below).

Recital Makeup Procedures

1. Students may make up Area and Departmental recital absences by attending UTEP Music Department concerts and recitals. Non-university concerts such as El Paso Opera, El Paso Symphony, El Paso Wind Symphony, and El Paso Pro-Musica, as well as any other performances given by our faculty and guests, will be accepted.

2. To receive credit for UTEP Music events with electronic programs, the student must complete the online recital makeup form, available by hyperlink within the electronic program.

o To receive credit for events with physical paper programs, the student's program must be signed at the conclusion of the event by a music faculty member in attendance.

o The student must submit the signed program with their name and ID number clearly written on the front page to the Music Office (M301). The student must also sign the makeup log. Without this information, the student will not receive credit. There will be no exceptions.

o The deadline to turn in signed programs to the Music Office is Friday of finals week at 5:00 p.m. There will be no exceptions.

3. Students are responsible for knowing how many recitals they have or have not received credit for attending. Students may check their recital attendance by visiting the Music Office.

Office Hours: Simply send me an email and we can set up a time to meet to discuss anything you might need help with.

Email: UTEP e-mail is the best way to contact me. I will make every attempt to respond to your e-mail within 24-48 hours of receipt. When e-mailing me, be sure to email from your UTEP student account. In the body of your e-mail, clearly state your question. At the end of your e-mail, be sure to put your first and last name, and your university identification number

COURSE POLICIES:

EXCUSED ABSENCES AND/OR COURSE DROP POLICY:

According to UTEP Curriculum and Classroom Policies, "When, in the judgment of the instructor, a student has been absent to such a degree as to impair his or her status relative to credit for the course, the instructor may drop the student from the class with a grade of "W" before the course drop deadline and with a grade of "F" after the course drop deadline." See academic regulations in the UTEP Undergraduate Catalog for a list of excuse absences. Therefore, if I find that, due to non-performance in the course, you are at risk of failing, I will drop you from the course. I will provide 24-hour advance notice via email.

OR

I will not drop you from the course. However, if you feel that you are unable to complete the course successfully, please let me know and then contact the Registrar's Office to initiate the drop process. If you do not, you are at risk of receiving an "F" for the course.

INCOMPLETE GRADE POLICY:

Incomplete grades may be requested only in exceptional circumstances after you have completed at least half of the course requirements. Talk to me immediately if you believe an incomplete is warranted. If granted, we will establish a contract of work to be completed with deadlines.

ACCOMMODATIONS POLICY:

The University is committed to providing reasonable accommodations and auxiliary services to students, staff, faculty, job applicants, applicants for admissions, and other beneficiaries of University programs, services and activities with documented disabilities in order to provide them with equal opportunities to participate in programs, services, and activities in compliance with sections 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 and the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA) of 2008. Reasonable accommodation will be made unless it is determined that doing so would cause undue hardship on the University. Students requesting an accommodation based on a disability must register with the UTEP Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS). Contact the Center for Accommodations and Support Services at 915-747-5148, or email them at cass@utep.edu, or apply for accommodations online via the CASS portal

SCHOLASTIC INTEGRITY:

Academic dishonesty is prohibited and is considered a violation of the UTEP Handbook of Operating Procedures. It includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, and collusion. Cheating may involve copying from or providing information to another student, possessing unauthorized materials during a test, or falsifying research data on laboratory reports. Plagiarism occurs when someone intentionally or knowingly represents the words or ideas of another as ones' own. Collusion involves collaborating with another person to commit any academically dishonest act. Any act of academic dishonesty attempted by a UTEP student is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. All suspected violations of academic integrity at The University of Texas at El Paso must be reported to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution (OSCCR) for possible disciplinary action. To learn more, please visit HOOP: Student Conduct and Discipline.

COURSE RESOURCES:

UTEP provides a variety of student services and support:
Technology Resources

- Help Desk: Students experiencing technological challenges (email, Blackboard, software, etc.) can submit a ticket to the UTEP Helpdesk for assistance. Contact the Helpdesk via phone, email, chat, website, or in person if on campus.

Academic Resources

- UTEP Library: Access a wide range of resources including online, full-text access to thousands of journals and eBooks plus reference service and librarian assistance for enrolled students.
- University Writing Center (UWC): Submit papers here for assistance with writing style and formatting, ask a tutor for help and explore other writing resources.
- Math Tutoring Center (MaRCS): Ask a tutor for help and explore other available math resources.
- History Tutoring Center (HTC): Receive assistance with writing history papers, get help from a tutor and explore other history resources.
- RefWorks: A bibliographic citation tool; check out the RefWorks tutorial and Fact Sheet and Quick-Start Guide.

Individual Resources

- Military Student Success Center: Assists personnel in any branch of service to reach their educational goals.
- Center for Accommodations and Support Services: Assists students with ADA-related accommodations for coursework, housing, and internships.
- Counseling and Psychological Services: Provides a variety of counseling services including individual, couples, and group sessions as well as career and disability assessments.

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES:

As per the UTEP vocal handbook, all voice students are expected to discuss all extracurricular ensemble participation, rehearsals and performances with their applied teacher. It is understood that in the case of a conflict, university responsibilities will take precedence.

DISCLAIMER

The instructor reserves the right to make modifications to this information throughout the semester.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT:

By signing this document, you acknowledge that you have received and read the syllabus for MUSA 1195 017 CRN: 20582 - MUSA 3391 017 CRN: 20584 taught by Professor Alexander Kariotis and understand all course expectations.

Student's signature and date:

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Student's printed name and ID number:

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