

MUSA 1274 Voice Class

Fall 2024: CRN: 10353

Mr. Brian Downen, Associate Professor of Voice

Fox Fine Arts Center, M333

bgdownen@utep.edu

Office: (915) 747-6352 or Cell: (646) 591-6471

Office Hours: M/W/F 10:30-11:20 a.m. or by appointment

Prerequisite

Enrollment as a music major and successful audition for the voice faculty. There is no prerequisite for non-music majors.

Course Description

The study of “classical” vocal technique and the application of that technique in specific vocal repertoire. There may be additional study in historical and genre-specific performance practice and critical listening skills for self-and peer assessment.

MUSA 1274 is a class designed for students interested in majoring in voice. The course aims to help students develop the required vocal and musical skills to pass a placement audition for applied voice instruction. Students can take this course up to two times. At the end of the semester, students are required to undergo a placement audition with the voice faculty, which also serves as the final exam for the course.

Non-music majors have no audition requirement and can repeat the course multiple times.

Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes

As a result of our collaboration, you will present your assigned repertoire by memory on the mid-term exam and the end-of-semester jury with

- | | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------|---|
| • correct pitches and rhythms | <i>leading toward</i> | <i>basic</i> proficiency as a musician |
| • fluent execution of diction | <i>leading toward</i> | clear communication of text |
| • vocal mastery of the music | <i>leading toward</i> | a stylistically appropriate sound |
| • good phrasing and dynamics | <i>leading toward</i> | <i>advanced</i> proficiency as a musician |
| • compelling dramatic expression | <i>leading toward</i> | transformation from singer to artist |

Student Responsibilities

- Independently practice assigned vocal exercises to promote vocal growth and a better understanding of the fundamental concepts of classical vocal technique.
- Learn and memorize assigned repertoire with accurate pitches, rhythm, diction, appropriate vocal style, and musical expression.
- Research the composer, poet, or lyricist, historical period, and context of the pieces.
- Study several recordings performed by recognized professionals in the genre of each piece using sources such as YouTube, Spotify, etc.

Course Requirements

- Attend all scheduled class meetings.
- Complete all class assignments.
- Practice thirty minutes five days per week to master vocal exercises and the assigned repertoire.
- Perform at least 2 pieces of the semester's repertoire from memory on a mid-term exam.
- Perform a voice area placement jury 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. Non-music major's jury performance will not be for placement.

Materials and Personal Equipment

- Copies of your music either in a three-ring binder or on a tablet large enough for you to read.
- Access to the Internet and to Blackboard

Grading

Grades are based on the following criteria:

- 40%
 - Attendance (see attendance policy below)
 - Arrival with your voice in teachable condition
 - Active participation in class activities
- 25%
 - Completion of assignments
 - Mastery of assigned exercises and concepts
 - Preparation of assigned repertoire and ability to sing it with accompaniment
- 15%:
 - Mid-Term Exam (sing 2 pieces of assigned repertoire from memory with accompaniment in the lesson the week of October 14)
- 20%: Jury Grade
 - Average of the grades assigned by the Voice Area faculty.

Course Communication

We will communicate with each other through UTEP email. It is your responsibility to check your UTEP email at least twice per day.

Attendance Policy and Grading

- Attendance is of primary importance. Unexcused absences will be calculated in the following way.
 - 1 absence = 100%, 2 absences = 95%, 3 absences = 90%, 4 absences = 85%, 5 absences = 80%, 6 absences = 75%, 7 absences = 70%, 8 absences 65%, 9 absences and above, you will be dropped from the course.

Drop Policy

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

An incomplete may be requested only in exceptional circumstances after you have completed at least half of the course requirements.

Concert Attendance

- Students are expected to attend all choral music concerts and one performance of each Opera UTEP production.
- Students are expected to attend all voice recitals.

Area and Departmental Recital Attendance Policy

1. All students enrolled in 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 Applied Lesson 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.
 - 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.**
 - 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.
 - 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.

Vocal Health

Remember: Effective practice is crucial for making progress toward your vocal and performance potential. However, excessive practice or singing more than two hours per day can be counterproductive and dangerous to your vocal health. Listen to your body. Give yourself appropriate rest periods. Hydrate, do not smoke, avoid overuse of caffeine and alcohol, get adequate sleep, stay healthy, and do not abuse your voice (i.e., talking over loud environments, yelling at sporting events or concerts, etc.).

Accommodations

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. Students who become pregnant or have parenting responsibilities may also request reasonable accommodations. Reasonable accommodations will be made unless it is determined that doing so would cause undue hardship on the University. The UTEP Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) will process requests for accommodations based on a disability, pregnancy, or parenting. Contact the Center for Accommodations and Support Services at 915-747-5148, email them at cass@utep.edu, or apply for accommodations online via the CASS portal.”

For more information, please visit: <https://www.utep.edu/titleix/pregnancy-and-parenting.html>

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 Community Standards](#) for possible disciplinary action. To learn more, please visit [HOOP: Student Conduct and Discipline](#).

Technology Resources

- [UTEP Technology Support](#): Students experiencing technological challenges (email, Blackboard, software, etc.) can submit a ticket to the UTEP Help Desk for assistance. Contact the Help Desk via phone, email, chat, website, or in person if on campus. (915) 747-HELP or helpdesk@utep.edu .

Academic Resources

- [University 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.

- [The Miner Learning Center](#): Join peer-led study sessions in person or online to review content and discover study strategies in core curriculum courses.
- [UTEP Edge](#): UTEP's cross-campus framework for student success and empowerment – develops students' assets through high-impact experiences made possible by the expertise and dedication of faculty, staff, alumni, and community partners.

Individual Resources

- [Student Success Help Desk \(SSHD\)](#): Students experiencing challenges or obstacles to academic success including registration, financial, food, housing, and transportation resources may request assistance at studentsuccess@utep.edu
- [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.
- [UTEP Food Pantry](#): Non-perishable food items are available to students who are currently enrolled in classes. Bring a Miner Gold Card to Memorial Gym, Room 105, Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.