

**MUSA 1273, 1274 Voice Class**  
**T/TH 12:00 – 12:50 in FFA M340**

**Dr. Phillip D. Hill**  
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**FFA 405**

**Office hours by appointment (please E-mail)**

**Required Materials:** A three ring binder to print and bring all music, exercises and notes e-mailed along the semester. Please note that I will be sending all the music to you. I am giving you the info. On the resources that I will be using in case you want to purchase them, but they are not mandatory.

Textbook: Sight singing book: Patterns of Sound Vol. 1

<http://www.amazon.com/Patterns-Sound-Practical-Sight-Singing-Course/dp/B003AG7MNY>

\*If you can't find this book you may copy the few chapters we will be studying.

Students may purchase "The First Book of Solos Complete - Parts I, II and/or III" that corresponds to their voice type determined by the instructor. Below are links to Amazon for each book. The average cost for a used copy in good condition is \$18. Preferably buy the book with the accompaniment CD

If you don't have much experience singing I would advice to just buy Part I

[http://www.amazon.com/s/ref=nb\\_sb\\_noss?url=search-alias%3Daps&field-keywords=first+book+of+soprano+solos+complete](http://www.amazon.com/s/ref=nb_sb_noss?url=search-alias%3Daps&field-keywords=first+book+of+soprano+solos+complete)

[http://www.amazon.com/s/ref=nb\\_sb\\_noss?url=search-alias%3Daps&field-keywords=first+book+of+solos+complete+mezzo+soprano&rh=i%3Aaps%2Ck%3Afirst+book+of+solos+complete+mezzo+soprano](http://www.amazon.com/s/ref=nb_sb_noss?url=search-alias%3Daps&field-keywords=first+book+of+solos+complete+mezzo+soprano&rh=i%3Aaps%2Ck%3Afirst+book+of+solos+complete+mezzo+soprano)

[http://www.amazon.com/s/ref=nb\\_sb\\_noss?url=search-alias%3Daps&field-keywords=first+book+of+solos+complete+tenor&rh=i%3Aaps%2Ck%3Afirst+book+of+solos+complete+tenor](http://www.amazon.com/s/ref=nb_sb_noss?url=search-alias%3Daps&field-keywords=first+book+of+solos+complete+tenor&rh=i%3Aaps%2Ck%3Afirst+book+of+solos+complete+tenor)

[http://www.amazon.com/s/ref=nb\\_sb\\_noss?url=search-alias%3Daps&field-keywords=first+book+of+solos+complete+baritone&rh=i%3Aaps%2Ck%3Afirst+book+of+solos+complete+baritone](http://www.amazon.com/s/ref=nb_sb_noss?url=search-alias%3Daps&field-keywords=first+book+of+solos+complete+baritone&rh=i%3Aaps%2Ck%3Afirst+book+of+solos+complete+baritone)

This is another great option for solo repertoire, the books are in Medium-High and Medium-Low and volumes 1 and 2 and come with accompaniment CD

\*I would strongly recommend one of these books for your repertoire.

<http://www.amazon.com/Folk-Songs-Solo-Singers-Vol/dp/0882848720>

[http://www.amazon.com/Folk-Songs-Solo-Singers-Medium/dp/B002O3ILWA/ref=pd\\_sim\\_14\\_3?ie=UTF8&refRID=ONRQVJGG3MX1AQVWFZ4Z](http://www.amazon.com/Folk-Songs-Solo-Singers-Medium/dp/B002O3ILWA/ref=pd_sim_14_3?ie=UTF8&refRID=ONRQVJGG3MX1AQVWFZ4Z)

[http://www.amazon.com/Folk-Songs-Solo-Singers-Vol/dp/B00FGVDKWS/ref=sr\\_1\\_3?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1440564583&sr=1-3&keywords=folk+songs+for+solo+singers+vol+1+medium+low](http://www.amazon.com/Folk-Songs-Solo-Singers-Vol/dp/B00FGVDKWS/ref=sr_1_3?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1440564583&sr=1-3&keywords=folk+songs+for+solo+singers+vol+1+medium+low)

[http://www.amazon.com/Alfred-Publishing-Staff-Songs-Singers/dp/B00RWRB26U/ref=sr\\_1\\_2?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1440564637&sr=1-2&keywords=folk+songs+for+solo+singers+vol+2+medium+low&peb\\_p=1440564645314&perid=1WSXER1V8EZ12399FZMF](http://www.amazon.com/Alfred-Publishing-Staff-Songs-Singers/dp/B00RWRB26U/ref=sr_1_2?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1440564637&sr=1-2&keywords=folk+songs+for+solo+singers+vol+2+medium+low&peb_p=1440564645314&perid=1WSXER1V8EZ12399FZMF)

The software that has these books and lets you hear the accompaniment in the computer is Smart Music Studio and you can buy a one year student subscription which allows you to hear the accompaniment with or without your melody and lets you slow down, transpose, make practice loops, etc. and in case you have an mp3 file you can upload it and practice as well. It is a useful tool in case anybody is interested. The link is:

<http://www.smartmusic.com/products/students/>

This is another resource in case anybody is interested:

Audio CD (Online Download):

*An Introductory Lesson with David Jones* (download \$44.95)

<http://www.cdbaby.com/cd/david>

## **Course Description**

The study of the five fundamental vocal production concepts for singing and the application of those concepts to specific vocal repertoire.

## **Course Content**

Students will study the physical coordination of the following fundamental concepts of singing:

- Posture
- Respiration
- Phonation
- Resonation
- Articulation

Students will study the fundamental elements of:

- Independently preparing a song for public performance
- Stage Etiquette
- Combining vocal technique and artistry to give an artistically meaningful performance

Students will learn to sing a major diatonic scale using solfège symbols.

Students will develop basic tonal memory through in-class exercises.

Students will prepare and memorize three songs, two of which will come from the recommended repertoire books for the class. During the course of the semester, students will present their songs in class (see class schedule for dates) and will receive feedback from the instructor and their classmates.

Students will make appointments with and rehearse their three songs with the class pianist.

Students will present the first of two songs for the mid-term exam.

## **Course Objectives**

The objectives of this course are to help the student to:

- Identify, discuss and demonstrate consistent practice of the primary vocal concepts of posture, respiration, phonation, resonation and articulation.
- Develop the skills to adequately prepare a piece of music for performance.
- Objectively assess their own performances and those of their peers through class discussion and written analysis.

## Course Outcomes

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

- Explain and demonstrate properly the following techniques of healthy singing.
  - Posture
  - Inhalation
  - Support
  - Healthy vocal cord closure
  - The onset of tone
  - Jaw and tongue function
  - Position of the larynx
  - Opening of the nasal, oral and laryngeal pharynx
  - Projection
- Identify and utilize specific vocal exercises in order to promote vocal growth.
- Perform three songs from memory with accuracy of pitch, rhythm, diction, appropriate tone quality and musical expression.
- Constructively critique self and peers verbally and in writing.

## Course Requirements

- Attend and actively participate in all regularly scheduled class meetings.
- Practice assigned vocal exercises and repertoire for at least ½ hour, five separate days per week.
- Complete all written and listening assignments.
- Independently learn and memorize three songs approved by the instructor, two of which will be chosen from the required repertoire book. The student will sing these songs for presentation in class and for presentation as the mid-term and final exams.
- Rehearse the three chosen songs outside of class with the class accompanist.

## Materials and Personal Equipment

- Access to the Internet
- Personal audio recording device (iPhone or other is acceptable)

## Extra Credit Opportunity

Students can receive extra credit by going to UTEP school of music performances within the voice department, ie. choral concerts, student recitals, master classes, etc. Extra credit assignments can make up for **one absence or two tardies**. In order to receive credit, students must bring a signed program to class. The event program must be signed by a UTEP faculty member (graduate TAs included) who was present at the event. In addition, students may also write a reflection paper on the event(s) they attend to receive additional credit to make up for two tardies or one absence.

## Grading

- 50% - Attendance and active participation in class and effective demonstration of vocal concepts in vocal exercises and singing of repertoire
- 10% - Quality of preparation and performance of group song (Mid-Term Exam)
- 15% - Quality of preparation and performance of song #1
- 15% - Final Exam presentation of song #2
- 10% - Binder checks

## Grading Scale

- 90–100% = A
- 80–89% = B
- 70–79% = C
- 60–69% = D
- 0–59% = F

Grading of Performances will be based on the quality of preparation, accuracy of musical execution and the degree of improvement shown in the technical concepts of singing.

## Attendance Policy

**Two tardies equals one absence**—Students are expected to arrive on time to all class meetings. Tardiness not only effects attendance grade, but also detracts from the learning experience. Since the first part of class is largely dedicated to warming up the voice and practicing basic singing skills like sight-reading and tonal memory, this first part of the class is essential for all students regardless of singing experience.

**Notification of absence**—If a student is unable to attend class due to sickness or some other unforeseen circumstance, it is requested that they notify the professor. Each student is allowed one free absence before their attendance grade will be affected; any subsequent absence will reflect negatively on the student's attendance. Unless an absence is due to a university sanctioned event and proper, signed notification is given in advance to the specified event, it will **not** be excused. If students are going to miss class due to a foreseen scholastic/university event, they must bring the appropriate signed document to the professor at least one week prior to the event.

The attendance portion of the grade (50% of the whole) will be calculated as indicated below. Be aware that if the student is not present, his/her participation grade will also suffer.

- 1 -2 absences = 90% - A
- 3-4 absences = 80% - B
- 5-6 absences = 70% - C
- 7-8 absences = 60% - D
- 9 or more absences = 50% - F

## **Academic Honesty**

<http://sa.utep.edu/osccr/academic-integrity/>

**If you have a disability and need classroom accommodations**, please contact The Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) at 747-5148, or by email to [cass@utep.edu](mailto:cass@utep.edu) , or visit their office located in UTEP Union East, Room 106. For additional information, please visit the CASS website at [www.sa.utep.edu/cass](http://www.sa.utep.edu/cass) . *CASS' Staff are the only individuals who can validate and, if need be, authorize accommodations for students with disabilities.*

## 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 accommodations 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 work with the [UTEP Center for Accommodations and Support Services](#).

## 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: [HOOP: Student Conduct and Discipline](#).

## Student Resources

UTEP provides a variety of student services and support:

- [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.
- [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.
- [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.
- [Military Student Success Center](#): UTEP welcomes military-affiliated students to its degree programs, and the Military Student Success Center and its dedicated staff (many of whom are veterans and students themselves) are here to help personnel in any branch of service to reach their educational goals.
- [RefWorks](#): A bibliographic citation tool; check out the RefWorks tutorial and Fact Sheet and Quick-Start Guide.