SYLLABUS

Vocal Pedagogy (Mus 355A)
Spring 2016

TIME: Tue/Thu 1:30-2:50 pm
PLACE: Craig Hall 106

Instructor: Wayne Crannell
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COURSE OBJECTIVES
This course explores and evaluates pedagogical techniques for future teachers of voice with the goal of helping students begin to develop a personal teaching methodology. This is accomplished by emphasizing the teaching experience through the teaching of weekly voice lessons by the students, as well as reading, research, and discussion.

TEXTBOOKS

Appelman, Ralph, The Science of Vocal Pedagogy.
McKinney, James C., The Diagnosis and Correction of Vocal Faults.

All texts will be provided as PDF files, and all are available from Amazon if you wish to own them.

COURSE CONTENT
1. Physiology -- The voice teacher must possess thorough grounding in the physical processes of the vocal mechanism. Students will first study the physiology of the voice including the anatomy that contributes to singing.

2. Techniques -- Although the pedagogy of voice instruction develops over time from each teacher’s own experiences, sensations, and interpersonal style, there is a significant body of literature that attempts to describe the vocal mechanism and codify the techniques for teaching voice. A portion of the course will be used to explore and evaluate significant writings on vocal pedagogy with the goal of discovering those which present information that is logical, healthy, and relates to the students’ own vocal experiences.

3. Literature -- Students will also touch on the subject of vocal literature as it relates to the pedagogical issues they will encounter in the standard body of literature they will teach.

4. Application -- Throughout the semester, students will be expected to apply their theoretical study to the evaluation of singers and to actual voice instruction. Students will attend voice lessons (other than their own) to observe the instruction of singers. They will also arrange to regularly teach their own weekly voice lessons. The effectiveness of the lessons will be evaluated by the course instructor and the students’ colleagues by way of periodic in-class teaching sessions and a teaching log.
GRADING
Grades are determined by a point system. All class activities and assignments will be assigned a point value. The total points will be converted to a percentage and applied to the following scale.

Participation in class discussion and your preparation for that will constitute 100 points for the semester.

Scale
92................. A
91................. B+
90................. B+
83-89............ B
82................. B-
81................ C+
74-80............ C
73................ C-
72................ D+
66-71............ D
65................ D-
<65.............. F

ATTENDANCE
Please note that while attendance is not taken nor part of your grade, participation in the class does affect your grade. You should consider carefully how much class time you can afford to miss. Late assignments are not accepted under any circumstance save dire (documented) personal emergency.

COURSEWORK
Primary assignments will include:
1. Personal voice evaluation
2. Voice lessons - teaching & observation
3. Recital programs
4. Book and article reviews
5. Research paper

Additional work will include regular reading and discussion. There will be two exams but NO formal final exam.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY
As with any course at Austin College, the policy for academic integrity as established by the college will be strictly observed. This means that if you use a piece of information that is not common knowledge (e.g. “Human beings have larynges”) or your own analysis (e.g. “My larynx is freakishly large.”), you must indicate the source in which you found it. Formal papers require proper citations in either MLA or Turabian/Chicago format.