



Belcher College of Fine and Performing Arts
School of Stage and Screen
Applied Voice | THEA x06
Fall 2024 | Studio: Friday 3:45-4:45PM

Instructor Information

Instructors: Micah Patt

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Breese

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Breese 217, Wednesday 10:00AM-12:30PM

Breese 208, Wednesday 1:00PM-3:30PM AND All of Friday.

Course Pianist: Gabrielle Tee

Office Hours: Available upon request.

Course Support: Tutoring available through Writing and Learning Commons, Belk 207

walc@wcu.edu

(828)-227-2274

Course Aims and Outcomes

Aims:

Students will gain experiential knowledge and understanding of various musical styles relating to musical theatre. The goal of voice lessons is to expose the singer to varied and useful repertoire and to give options of how to sing their repertoire (and any other repertoire they may approach) in a safe, healthy, and stylistically appropriate manner.

Learning Outcomes:

This course reinforces the Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs) of the School of Stage and Screen:

- **SAS SLO #1:** Students will be able to communicate clearly and effectively in written, oral, visual, and creative contexts.
- **SAS SLO #2:** Students will be able to engage with a production process from start to finish and successfully, creatively collaborate on productions.
- **SAS SLO #3:** Students will be able to conceptually and critically analyze text for performance and production.

- **SAS SLO #4:** Students will be able to identify and integrate a wide selection of theatre and film repertory including principal eras, genres, and cultural sources.
- **SAS SLO #5:** Students will learn to master fundamental skills and techniques of their chosen theatrical discipline.
- **SAS SLO #6:** Students will demonstrate comprehension of theatrical business procedures and develop a professional job placement package.

This course also reinforces the Musical Theatre Core Values: Authentic Curiosity (1), Daring Experimentation (2), Joyful Contribution (3), and Radical Critical Thought (4). Further information on the Core Values is provided on the class Canvas page.

By the end of this course, students will:

- **THEA x06 SLO #1:** Demonstrate progressive knowledge of healthy vocal technique and develop the ability to “self diagnose”, that is, to understand one’s own vocal habits and issues and have strategies for addressing problematic passages without the assistance of a teacher. (SAS SLO #1, #3, #4, #5) (MT CV 1, 2, 3, 4).
- **THEA x06 SLO #2:** Perform at a level conducive to eventual professional practice, using vocal, acting, and practical skills. (SAS SLO #1, #2, #3, #4, #5, #6) (MT CV 2, 3).
- **THEA x06 SLO #3:** Demonstrate progressive knowledge of appropriate roles for one’s voice and “type” and develop the ability to select appropriate audition material and prepare independently. (SAS SLO #3, #4, #6) (MT CV 1, 2, 3, 4).

Course Materials

Required:

- 3-ring binder, organized with sheet music OR easily accessible electronic copies of all sheet music (on tablet, computer, etc.).
- PDF copies of all repertoire (to send to instructor, collaborators; keep for records).
- Device for recording lessons.
- Water and pencil.

Sheet Music: The faculty encourages students to systematically build a library of vocal music. As such, purchasing music is a requirement of this course. The average digital download costs \$5.00-\$10.00 per song. The average songbook or anthology costs around \$20.00 per book. It is always recommended to support writers by purchasing music, though you may also take advantage of library services, including inter-library loan. If you are still in need, confer with the instructor who may be able to assist. If you are looking for songs and/or to purchase music, below are some recommended sites and anthologies:

- Piano/Vocal scores: These are the best option for learning music as you have access to the entire vocal score. You may find some in the library systems, though newer ones are hard to find as they aren’t often published. What the library does not have, inter-library loan will.
- Singers Musical Theatre Anthology (Hal Leonard)- these anthologies feature songs in the original Broadway keys and have accompaniments that are reductions of the

original orchestrations. It is a reputable series that has a lot of excellent repertoire with several volumes for each voice type.

- New Musical Theatre: for newer works, many are available for purchase at www.newmusicaltheatre.com.
- For contemporary commercial music (pop/rock/country/RnB/etc.): www.musicnotes.com/audition.

Technology: All students are required to record their lessons (smartphone quality is fine). Recordings are essential in reinforcing details of each lesson, providing aural objectivity that singers need (how we hear ourselves in our heads is not how we are heard in the room).

Grading

While every person comes to voice study with a different instrument, all of your singing will be evaluated from two perspectives: your own improvement in each area, and how you compare to other singers of your age, voice type, and intended career path. Areas for evaluation include: proper breath support, physical freedom, resonance, free and pleasant tone quality, pure vowel sounds, clear diction, intonation, articulation, interpretation, expressive dynamic contrast, expressive and varied tone color, legato and sostenuto style, and effective communication with your audience.

Work will be graded based upon student understanding, effort, and completion of course requirements. As average understanding will be recorded in the 'C' range. An excellent understanding will be recorded in the 'A' range. The student's grade will be based upon ability to use and synthesize information and experiences as according to the course assignments. All grading will be submitted online.

Assignment	Weight	Completed to THEA x6 SLO
Weekly Lesson Reflections	10%	1
Weekly Lesson Performance/Preparation	20%	1, 2, 3
Weekly Studio Class Attendance/Preparation/Participation	10%	1, 2, 3
Midterm (Video self-tape)	10%	1, 2, 3
Final (Jury Performance)	20%	1, 2, 3
Evidence of Progress	10%	1, 2
Professionalism	5%	1, 2
HIVE Week Attendance & Participation	5%	2, 3

Collaborative Piano Session	10%	1, 2, 3
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The grading scale is as follows:

Grade	Interpretation
A+	Excellent
A	Excellent
A-	
B+	
B	Good
B-	
C+	
C	Satisfactory
C-	
D+	
D	Poor
D-	
F	Failure
WF	Withdraw/Failure

The grades of A+, A, A-, B+, B, B-, C+, C, C-, D+, D, D-, and F indicate gradations in quality from Excellent to Failure. Please note that a C- grade is less than satisfactory and may not meet particular program and/or course requirements. Students must be familiar with the class attendance, withdrawal, and drop-add policies and procedures.

Other Grades:

I Incomplete
IP In Progress
S Satisfactory
U Unsatisfactory
W Withdrawal
AU Audit
NC No Credit

Course Expectations

Weekly Lessons Attendance:

Attendance to the student's weekly lessons is expected. If the student needs to reschedule a lesson, the instructor's discretion is utilized. The instructor will (in most cases) require a week's notice to successfully 'make-up' a lesson which the student misses. If the instructor is absent, they will inform the students whether they will receive a 'make-up' lesson, or not.

Studio Class Attendance:

Attendance to weekly studio class is mandatory, unless student gives reason for absence/tardiness 24 hours or more prior to start of studio class. 1 absence will be excused. Any further absences will result in a lowering of your grade for this category by 10%. (i.e. if you miss 1 day (and inform your teacher of your absence with 24 hrs' notice) you will maintain a possible point percentage of 100%, if you miss a further class (whether or not you tell your professor) you will receive a 90% as your highest possible grade for the 'Studio Class Attendance/Preparation' metric).

Vocal Health & Illness:

Your body is your instrument. A knee, ankle, or hip injury is devastating, but can often be fixed. The loss of your voice can be permanent. Refraining from smoking and avoiding situations in which you are exposed to secondhand smoke can have a profound effect on the health, longevity, and quality of your voice. More resources regarding the impacts of smoking on your vocal health may be found on the course Canvas page under "Pages".

If you are feeling at all ill, take care of yourself! Do not sing or talk unless absolutely necessary. Increase your fluid (water, herbal tea, juices) intake as much as you can stand, and breathe steam from a vaporizer or a pot of boiling water to help liquify mucus. Runny mucus/phlegm is a pain, but much better than thick mucus which is more likely to get stuck in your chest or sinuses and lead to a bacterial infection. If an illness or deep cough persists for more than a few days, go to the Health Center. If you have a **slight** sore throat but are well enough to sing, please come to your lesson (in this case, please wear a mask). If you are coughing a lot or infectious, we will attempt to reschedule your lesson.

Timely Submissions:

If weekly lesson reflections are submitted after the weekly lesson but within the lesson week (ex. A week 3 reflection submitted during week 3, but after the Week 3 lesson is held) they will receive a 20% reduction in grade. If they are received by the end of the course, they will receive a 50% reduction in grade.

Practice:

You should expect to practice for at least 30 minutes every day. This time includes time to practice assigned vocalizes and exercises and attend to issues of technique, go through the song learning steps for each of your assigned songs, and work on style and musical issues. Remember that, just as in academic work, short, frequent sessions are more productive than "cramming" before your lesson, or long sessions leading to vocal fatigue.

Practice Journal:

This is your daily practice log and will be submitted into an individual discussion board on Canvas (viewable by only you and your instructor). Here you will set goals, notate your date/time of practice, note the exact exercises and repertoire you worked on, and list any questions you have. As you practice for or sing in other classes, you should write your own observations about your singing, as well as any comments you receive from faculty or peers.

Please be intentional about studying your voice as an instrument. You will also make an entry every week after your lesson (Lesson Reflection). It is also appropriate to take notes on what you admire about singing done by others. You will show me your log at the beginning of each lesson, and will receive a grade for each week of entries.

HIVE Week Attendance & Participation: You must attend and participate in the annual HIVE (Hands-on Industry Vocational Environment) Workshops Week. For full credit you must meet the standards outlined by the HIVE committee and published by the School of Stage and Screen. No credit will be given to individuals who either do not meet the standards published by the School of Stage and Screen or falsify their attendance and participation. The HIVE Workshop Week is a unique training program that attracts experts in the industry and provides immediately applicable hands-on training. Your attendance and participation ensure the program will continue.

Midterm Exam:

Students will be required to submit a video of themselves performing a piece of MT repertoire as assigned by the instructor. In most cases, this will simulate a professional video or prescreen audition. Specific parameters, as well as a rubric, will be clearly laid out on the course Canvas page.

Final Exam:

Students will take their final exam in the form of a Vocal Jury at the end of each semester. A jury is a performance exam which will be adjudicated by the Musical Theatre Voice Faculty. Graduating seniors will use their Senior Thesis Project as their final jury. Each student will be given time in which to perform two full songs from the repertoire they were assigned that semester. The first song will be chosen by the student, the second song will be chosen by a Musical Theatre Faculty member who is not the student's instructor for THEA x06.

JURY DATES: Monday, December 9th and Tuesday, December 10th (by appointment).

Repertoire Requirements for B.F.A. Musical Theatre Majors:

- Freshmen:
 - Fall: 4 songs at the discretion of the teacher, of which 3 must be Musical Theatre.
 - Spring: 4 songs at the discretion of the teacher, of which 3 must be Musical Theatre.
- Sophomore:
 - Fall: 5 songs at the discretion of the teacher, of which 4 must be Musical Theatre.
 - Spring: 5 songs at the discretion of the teacher, of which 4 must be Musical Theatre.
- Junior:
 - Fall: 6 songs with discretion to the teacher as to genre/style.
 - Spring: 6 songs with discretion to the teacher as to genre/style.
- Senior:
 - Fall: 7 songs with discretion to the teacher as to genre/style.
 - Spring: 7 songs with discretion to the teacher as to genre/style.

Detailed assignment descriptions can be found on the course Canvas page.

Institutional Policies

Members of our WCU community are expected to be familiar with institutional policies and campus and academic resources. Community Vision for Inclusive Excellence, Accommodations for Students with Disabilities, and Academic Integrity Policy and Reporting Process required if you don't use the policy page link as a whole.

Academic Calendar:

This includes dates for all breaks, university closures, final exams, etc.

<http://www.wcu.edu/learn/academic-calendar.aspx>

Syllabus Updates:

This syllabus, along with its course schedule, is based on the most recent information about the course content and schedule planned for this course. Its content is subject to revision as needed to adapt to new knowledge or unanticipated events. Updates will remain focused on achieving the course objectives and students will receive notification of such changes.

Students will be notified of changes and are responsible for attending to such changes or modifications as distributed by the instructor or posted to Canvas.

Civil Discourse at Western Carolina:

Consistent with WCU's core values and our campus creed, the WCU community accepts the freedoms and responsibilities of our shared community. WCU encourages all to clearly express their own views while at the same time seeking to understand the varieties of style, identity, and opinion that are held in any diverse community. In order for us to sustain a learning environment that promotes and values freedom of expression, we have a shared charge to accept personal responsibility for our actions, reactions, and speech, while seeking to learn from the actions, reactions, and speech of others.

Classroom Expectations:

The shared learning space of the college classroom is built on respect for each other and each other's learning. Learning together means our actions can intentionally and unintentionally distract others from their learning goals. As responsible learners, we respect the rights of others and aim to minimize avoidable distractions such as: non-academic technology use, coming in late, sleeping, off-topic discussions, doing other homework, etc. In a one-on-one class setting, the student is expected to respect the instructor's experience, expertise, time, and effort, as the instructor will respect the student's experience, time, and effort.

Community Vision for Inclusive Excellence Statement:

The diverse perspectives encountered at WCU are an important part of the preparation of students for roles as regional, national, and global leaders who contribute to the improvement of society. It is expected that members of the WCU community will not only coexist with those who are different from themselves, but also nurture respect and appreciation of those differences. We encourage civil discourse as a part of the learning enterprise, and as a campus we do not tolerate harassing or discriminating behavior that seeks to marginalize or demean members of our community.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:

Western Carolina University is committed to providing equal educational opportunities for students with disabilities. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the Office of Accessibility Resources located in **Killian Annex** or call **828.227.3886**.

Course Recording and Broadcasting:

Students may make visual or audio recordings (Recording) of any class related content, using any approved recording device (e.g., smart phone, computer, digital recorder, etc.) upon the prior permission of the instructor and subject to the following restriction(s). The Recording, along with the video capture of visible course materials (e.g., visible PowerPoint slides and/or visible lecture notes), shall be limited to the student's personal, course related, educational use and shall be subject to all applicable copyright laws and institutional policies. The student may not transfer, transmit, or otherwise disseminate the Recording to any third party, including classmates, without the permission of the instructor. Any violation of these restrictions, or any other restriction verbally communicated by the instructor, may subject the student to the provisions of the WCU Academic Integrity Policy, the WCU Code of Student Conduct or both. Meetings of this course may be broadcast and/or recorded. Broadcasting and recording are intended to complement the classroom experience. Instructors may broadcast and/or record courses for pedagogical use, student reference, to meet the accommodation needs of students with a documented disability, or any other reason deemed appropriate by WCU and/or the instructor.

Any recording of class that includes the image or voice of a student, or reference to the student's name, would be considered FERPA. Thus, protected. If faculty intend on making the recording available for future viewing (any viewing that is not live) will require a waiver by each student. The waivers may be collected by email or as a Canvas discussion board post or assignment with the following statement attached: By sending this email (by replying to this discussion board, by completing this electronic form – any use of WCU official identity verification) and typing my name below I acknowledge I have read and fully understand the terms of the Video Consent and Release Form for Class Recording (University Policy 122) and hereby release the University as stated in the Form.

If a student refuses to sign the waiver, then their likeness may not be included in any video made available. In other words, they would need to be excluded from video and not allowed to ask questions. If this happens faculty would be able to grade consistent with syllabi. In other words, the faculty member has the right to penalize the student by lowering their grade for not participating. The faculty member is also free to create alternative assignments at his or her discretion.

Course recordings will be available to students registered for the course pursuant to applicable university policy and instructor preference. All broadcasts and recordings are limited to personal, course related, educational use and may not be transmitted, transferred, distributed, sold, or posted on social media outlets without the written permission of the instructor. Unauthorized transmission, transfer, distribution, sale or posting of the broadcast and/or recording for any purpose other than the student's personal, course related, educational use is not permitted. Students are expected to follow appropriate university policies and maintain the security of passwords used to access recorded materials.

Lockdown Browser and Recording Policies:

If the Lockdown Browser and Monitor are being used, it is necessary that the instructor have both a syllabus statement and a waiver on file.

Any course recordings for purposes beyond the normal conduct of a course (promotional videos, videos related to a governed research project, etc.) will require an additional waiver and appropriate approval (such as IRB approval).

Academic Integrity: Use of Software to Encourage Original Effort

Students may be required to submit written assignments for this class to Turnitin, a web-based plagiarism detection software, prior to submitting the assignment for grading. Be advised that assignments submitted to Turnitin will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of such papers. If an assignment contains personally identifiable information, and a student is uncomfortable submitting personally identifiable information to Turnitin, the student should speak to the faculty member about alternatives.

Academic Integrity Policy and Reporting Process

This policy addresses academic integrity violations of undergraduate and graduate students. Students, faculty, staff, and administrators of Western Carolina University (WCU) strive to achieve the highest standards of scholarship and integrity. Any violation of the Academic Integrity Policy is a serious offense because it threatens the quality of scholarship and undermines the integrity of the community. While academic in scope, any violation of this policy is by nature, a violation of the Code of Student Conduct (Code) and will be addressed as outlined in that document. If the charge occurs close to the end of an academic semester or term or in the event of the reasonable need of either party for additional time to gather information timelines may be extended at the discretion of the appropriate academic Dean.

General:

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Instructors have the right to determine the appropriate academic sanctions for violations of the Academic Integrity Policy within their courses, up to and including a final grade of "F" in the course in which the violation occurs.

Definitions:

Cheating – Using, or attempting to use, unauthorized materials, information, or study aids in any academic exercise.

Fabrication – Creating and/or falsifying information or citation in any academic exercise.

Plagiarism – Representing the words or ideas of someone else as one's own in any academic exercise.

Self-plagiarism - Reusing work that you have already published or submitted for a class. It can involve re-submitting an entire paper, copying, paraphrasing passages from your previous work, or recycling old data.

Facilitation – Helping or attempting to help someone to commit a violation of the Academic Integrity Policy in any academic exercise (e.g. allowing another person to copy information during an examination).

Privacy Settings for 3rd Party Tools

Third party apps and programs that any instructor uses as part of their course will have its own privacy settings to which students must pay attention and which will be indicated by a box with an arrow in Canvas. If a third party app or program is not accessed through the single-sign-on process, the privacy settings are not controlled by Western Carolina University's Division of Information Technology. It is the student's responsibility to check and change privacy settings and to understand the privacy and data use policies of the site. If you have a concern with the data retention or privacy policies, speak with your professors. Some professors will provide alternative assignments.

Additional information is available through the Office of Student Conduct.

THEA x06 Friday Studio Schedule

(subject to change)

Date	What are we doing today?
Friday, August 23, 2024	MT Community Meeting
Friday, August 30, 2024	Individual Studios (syllabus/connection)
Friday, September 6, 2024	Individual Studios (16 bar party)
Friday, September 13, 2024	Individual Studios (MP- Vocal health & Practice Skills)
Friday, September 20, 2024	Individual Studios (MP- Group 1 sing)
Friday, September 27, 2024	Individual Studios (MP- Group 2 sing)
Friday, October 4, 2024	Individual Studios (MP- Group 3 sing)
Friday, October 11, 2024	COMBINED, MIDTERM DUE.
Friday, October 18, 2024	NO CLASS - Fall Break
Friday, October 25, 2024	Individual Studios (MP- Registration)
Friday, November 1, 2024	NO CLASS- HIVE Week
Friday, November 8, 2024	COMBINED
Friday, November 15, 2024	Individual Studios (MP- Technique Q&A)
Friday, November 22, 2024	COMBINED (Mock Juries)
Friday, November 29, 2024	No Class, Thanksgiving

Friday, December 6, 2024

COMBINED (Mock Juries)