

Opera Workshop Syllabus, Fall 2018: MUSC 212, section 001

Credit Hours: 1

Production: Il Sogno di Scipione

Tues/Thurs 3:30pm to 5:30pm in Hill Hall 107

Spring Production: Nov. 16th at 8pm and 17th at 3pm, 2019, Call Time TBD

Place: Moeser Auditorium

Professor: Dr. Marc Callahan

Email: mpcall@email.unc.edu

Phone: (541) 230-8812

Musical Director/Pianist: Qiao Zheng Goh

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Office Hours: Fridays, 12-2pm by appointment

3rd Floor, Kenan Music Building

Prerequisites:

By audition and permission of instructor and voice teacher. Two years of college-level vocal performance experience preferred, but exceptions are made for those who have shown mature vocalism at NATS competitions and on Divisional concerts.

Course Description:

UNC Opera is a select ensemble/class for moderate to advanced classical singers. During the Fall term, singers will be assigned appropriate roles in a full production, based on their voice type and with consideration from their private voice teachers. Singers will gain familiarity with the entire process of preparing an operatic role, which will culminate in a final performance. There will be assignments related directly to your role as well as additional assignments pertaining to your characters.

Course Objectives:

UNC Opera aims to create a safe and imaginative space where the singer is allowed to explore what it means to perform in an opera. During this term, the student will learn how to prepare a role and gain understanding about the opera they are about to perform. By the end of the course, students should be able to create an holistic perspective on both the opera and their individual character. This will be achieved through a series of individual and group research assignments, in-class activities, musical preparation and coaching, linguistic fluency, timely memorization of the opus, improvisatory work, staging rehearsals and a final performance for the public. The successful student is one who comes prepared to class/rehearsals and is open to creative solutions. He or she is ready to work and maintains a positive attitude. Being prepared for class work means being memorized on the scene we plan to stage that day! Likewise, this course aims to teach students how to meet expectations they will encounter in the professional world.

Attendance:

Attendance is EXTREMELY important. Since you will be working with your colleagues for the entirety of this class to prepare the final performance, please respect them and their work by arriving on time and prepared to work. You MUST notify Dr. Callahan by the first class if you will be late or need to miss a class for any reason (please refer to the Vocal Handbook for rules pertaining to excused absences: <http://music.unc.edu/areas/voice/voice-forms/>). If you have conflicts you are aware of well in advance, you are expected to inform me on your audition sheet. Dr. Callahan must clear all conflicts before the first meeting. Missing rehearsals and/or not being prepared for class will result in the lowering of your grade. For every unexcused absence, your grade will be lowered by one letter grade. Every three late arrivals will equal one unexcused absence. If you are so unprepared for rehearsal that it is affecting others or taking time away from the rehearsal process, it will affect your grade. Be punctual, be prepared, and be responsible. Students are responsible for all material covered during rehearsals in which they are absent. PLEASE REFER TO THE GOOGLE SHEETS FOR A PERSPECTIVE REHEARSAL TIMELINE: <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1TOvEFVg5-KfUZCHWXQ90VvsJ301cdjGAWmx0FboDntU/edit?usp=sharing>

Memorization and Expectations (Music and Staging):

Memorization is key to a free and successful performance. The better you know the music; the more fun and rewarding your experience. It is imperative that the music be memorized for the in-class memorized sing-through (mid-term) and for all staging rehearsals. This is only fair to your colleagues and your audience. Failure to do so will result in the lowering of your grade. If you are not fully memorized by the date of the mid-term, then there will be no possibility of earning a grade higher than a **B** for the semester. There are many ways to go about memorizing a scene and, if you have any difficulties with the memorization of operatic music, please see Dr. Callahan as early as possible so that an efficient solution can be found. Please reach out to your private voice teachers and pianist for help on your opera workshop music. Come to rehearsals prepared, warmed-up and with your printed music and erasable writing utensil. All basic note-learning, translations, and resolution of technical issues is to be done outside of class. Coming prepared to class includes being in a frame of mind to concentrate, learn, experience and play.

Grading:

Grading will be awarded on a grade average system. After each rehearsal that you are called to, Dr. Callahan will assign a grade to your work during that session. These grades will range between an **A** at the highest and **F** at the lowest. At the end of the semester, your letter grades will be averaged and a final grade will be assigned. The grade for your memorized sing-through (mid-term) will count for 3 rehearsal grades. Should you fail to have your midterm memorized, the highest grade that you can earn for the semester will be a **B**. The majority of your grade will be evaluated on the work you do during the term and not solely upon a successful final performance. If it is obvious that no work has been done on a particular assignment or scene work, then a low grade will be awarded for that class. As the term culminates in a staged performance, each assignment is essential for the positive outcome of both your scene work and your final grade. Rehearsals will follow this general pattern and Dr. Callahan will consult with your Musical Director for sessions where he is not present for feedback about work. Prepare yourselves for four hours of in-class time per week and extra rehearsals, nearer to the time of the

final performance. The only meeting held after the final performance will be a costume/set strike and an opera pizza party.

Tech Responsibilities:

In addition to your work on stage, each of you will be given technical responsibilities for the running of the production. Dr. Callahan will work together with you on these responsibilities and they will pertain to costumes, sets, helping to move scenery, etc.

This semester, we will partner with both the Ackland Art Museum and UNC Makerspace. You will be responsible for completing an orientation/training session and one tool training at Makerspace as well as your involvement in research trips to the Ackland. You will be assigned a crafting project, this semester, in the area of sets, props, or costumes. These crafting projects are based on your research at the Ackland and other historical studies.

Required Materials:

There is no required textbook for Opera Workshop, though there will be required readings, from time to time, all of which will be provided in class or made available online. The singer may be required to purchase an opera score or lend one from the library (in this class, Dr. Callahan has made scores and recording available online). Singers should wear comfortable clothing and appropriate footwear to each class. There is a strong possibility that many students will have to provide certain costume elements (shoes, basic trousers, dress shirt, etc.) for the final performance and be actively involved in the acquiring simple prop pieces.

I strongly suggest that you each print a hard copy of your scores and acquire an artist sketchbook and colored pencils/pens for costume/prop designing.

Suggested Reading:

Acting for Singers: Creating Believable Singing Characters by David F. Ostwald
An Actor Prepares by Constantine Stanislavski

Honor Code:

"The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill has had a student-led honor system for over 100 years. Academic integrity is at the heart of Carolina and we all are responsible for upholding the ideals of honor and integrity. The student-led Honor System is responsible for adjudicating any suspected violations of the Honor Code and all suspected instances of academic dishonesty will be reported to the honor system. Information, including your responsibilities as a student is outlined in the Instrument of Student Judicial Governance. Your full participation and observance of the Honor Code is expected."

Tentative Schedule (please be aware that this schedule is subject to change):

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1TOvEFVg5-KfUZCHWXQ90VvsJ301cdjGAWmx0FboDntU/edit?usp=sharing>

Tuesday, Aug. 20: Intro and Staging Recit. Giusta è la tua richiesta and Aria Lieve sono...

Thursday, Aug. 22: Music with Qiao ZG.

Tuesday, Aug. 27: Ackland visit and Music with QZ. Work in groups to sketch designs.

Thursday, Aug. 29: Work in groups to complete designs. **Electronic designs due that evening.**

Tuesday, Sept. 3: Ackland visit and Music with QZ.

Thursday, Sept. 5: Recit. with QZ and Sparks. **Callahan returns designs with edits via email.**

Tuesday, Sept. 10: Music with QZ. Work in groups to source materials on Amzon.com, etc.

Thursday, Sept. 12: Memorized sing-thru for FYS. **List of materials to be ordered due.**

Monday, Sept. 16: **Makerspace orientation session due.**

Important Dates:

Tuesday, Oct. 1: Presentation of work on costumes, props, sets. Exam grade.

Tuesday, Oct. 15: Run-thru of No 1-8. Midterm grade

Tuesday, Oct. 29: All costumes/props/sets are due. Exam grade.

Saturday, Nov. 2: Run-thru no. 9-12: Exam grade.

Tuesday, Nov. 5: Run-thru Saturday Cast: Exam grade.

Thursday, Nov. 7: Run-thru Sunday Cast: Exam grade.

Nov. 12-17: Tech and performance week