

STUDIO VOICE SYLLABUS
MVV 1411, 2421, 3431, 4441 and MVO 6460
Spring 2026

Instructor:

Dr. Brenda Smith
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Student/Office Hours

Student/Office Hours are listed on the posted schedule on the door of Room 302 MUB. Opportunities to meet with the instructor outside of the lesson times to discuss related issues are also readily available by appointment. Feel free to communicate by e-mail or phone, if needed.

Individual and Class Sessions

Private the lesson times are arranged with the instructor and will follow the guidelines of the School of Music regarding length, location, and format. Voice studio classes meet Wednesdays, 6th period (12:50 pm). Attendance is mandatory. Our studio collaborative pianist is Dr. Nansi Carroll. Be sure to schedule a weekly coaching with Dr. Carroll as early as possible.

Attendance

- The lessons missed due to student illness, observance of religious holidays, field trips or other University of Florida approved activities will be excused if the instructor is notified a minimum of 24 hours before the lesson appointment.
- The lessons missed due to lack of preparation or missed without 24 hours notification of the instructor cannot be made up.
- The lessons missed when the instructor is absent for professional obligations or due to illness will be rescheduled.
- Excused absences are those officially sanctioned by the University of Florida.
<https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/>

Grading Criteria

The criteria for grading in Studio Voice are Attendance, Initiative and Progress. In accordance with the Voice Area Guidelines, every student must learn at least 6 new works every semester. Repertoire to be presented at the jury will be selected by the instructor in consultation with the student. Course expectations and weekly

assignments are provided below. Each of the following elements is worth a total of 12% of the semester grade:

- IPA/Word-by-Word translations in the musical score as assigned
- Program notes/Poetic equivalents given orally as assigned
- Readings and Comparative Listening Reports as assigned
- Prompt Attendance at the lessons & studio class
- Weekly Practice Logs
- Midterm Quiz
- Count-Singing and Memorization Deadlines
- Jury

Worth 4 % of the semester grade:

- Attendance at degree recitals of voice area colleagues. (Dates given below)
 - March 28, 2026/10:40 am Shathi Campbell, (MUB 101)
 - March 28, 2026/6:15 pm Anthony Celano, (MUB 101)
 - March 29, 2026/6:15 pm Caitlin Bruscino, (MUB 120)
 - April 11, 2026/10:40 am Cara Standard, (MUB 101)
 - April 18, 2026/6:15 pm Avery dePadua, (MUB 101)

Grading Scale & GPA equivalent:

Percent	Grade	Grade Points
93.4-100	A	4.00
90.0-93.3	A-	3.67
86.7-89.9	B+	3.33
83.4-86.6	B	3.00
80.0-83.3	B-	2.67
76.7-79.9	C+	2.33
73.4-76.6	C	2.00
70.0-73.3	C-	1.67
66.7-69.9	D+	1.33
63.4-66.6	D	1.00
60.0-63.3	D-	0.67
0-59.9	E	0.00

More information on grades and grading policies is here:
<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

Please feel free to consult the instructor at any time regarding your course status.

Course Expectations

The ability to “count-sing” the melodic material, to “vowel-sing” the text along with the insertion of IPA transcriptions, word-by-word translations and poetic texts in the semester’s repertoire are expected for repertoire assigned for weekly the lessons. Each student will be expected to complete assignments on time.

Studio Class and Voice Recitals

Studio classes (combined and individual) are considered an integral part of voice study. Timely presence in studio class is expected. Each student should support studio peers by attending degree recitals or dress rehearsals. Please mark calendars and plan work/social obligations accordingly.

How to Learn New Repertoires

Because muscle memory is a crucial element in vocal technique, each song/aria should be learned systematically and carefully.

1. Read the text and analyze its meaning. Gather information about the poet and composer. Determine the song's or aria's context and musical style.
2. Include in your score the breath/dynamic marks and an IPA transcription.
3. Where appropriate, write in the word-by-word translation of the text.
4. Count-sing the song/aria beginning with the introduction and include the interludes. Make note of difficult intervals.
5. Chant and then sing the vowels of the words phrase by phrase. “Rhyme” the vowels to ensure accurate tuning.
6. Add the consonants while maintaining the rhythmic integrity and vowel purity of the work.
7. Memorize.
8. Perform by memory in the lesson and/or studio.

Note: A work is deemed “completed” when each of the above steps has been accomplished.

Course Expectations and Assignments

The following expectations and assignments are subject to change.

First Day of Classes for Spring Semester: Monday, January 12, 2026

Week of January 12, 2026

First Studio Class (1/15/25) in MUB Room 120/142

The lesson Times arranged/Accompanist and Repertoire assigned

Week’s Assignment: Count-Sing one of the newly assigned selections/IPA and Word-by-Word translation in the music/Create Poetic equivalent and complete a Practice Log

Attend Studio Class/Place Musicianship Class with Dr. Moreau (T/R 6th period) on your weekly schedule.

Week of January 19, 2026 (No the lessons on Monday, 1/19 MLK Holiday)

Weekly Lesson Assignment: Count-Sing Selection II/IPA and Word-by-Word translation in the music/Poetic equivalent for Selection II and Fact Sheet for Selection I due at the lesson/Sing Selection I on vowels, observing breath marks/dynamics
Bring Practice Log to the lesson
Studio Class

Week of January 26, 2026

Weekly Lesson Assignment: Count-Sing Selection III, Vowel Sing Selection II as above

Fact Sheet for Selection II due in the lesson/Polish Selection I/Listen to at least two recordings of the work/Compare interpretation, tempo & diction
Bring Practice Log to the lesson
Studio Class

Week of February 2, 2026

Weekly lesson Assignment: Selection I Begin to Memorize/Selection II

Polish/Listening comparison due in the lesson/Selection III Vowel-Sing, Fact Sheet due in the lesson/
Selection IV Count-Sing with IPA and Word-by-Word in the music/Poetic Equivalent and Practice Log Due in the lesson
Studio Class (Combined)

Week of February 9, 2026

Weekly lesson Assignment: Selection II Begin to Memorize/Selection III

Polish/Listening comparison due in the lesson/Selection IV Vowel-Sing, Fact Sheet due in the lesson/
Selection V Count-Sing with IPA and Word-by-Word in the music/Poetic equivalent due in the lesson/ Selection I Plan to sing in the studio class by memory
Practice Log Due in the lesson
Studio Class

Week of February 16, 2026

Weekly Lesson Assignment: Selection III should be ready to Memorize/Selection IV

Polish/Listening comparison due in the lesson/Selection V Vowel- Sing, Fact Sheet due in the lesson/Poetic Equivalent due in the lesson/Selection VI Count-Sing with IPA and Word-by-Word in the music/Selection II Ready to be sung in studio by memory
Practice log due in the lesson
Studio Class

Week of February 23, 2026

Weekly Lesson Assignment:

**Selections I-III ready to perform in the studio lesson/All Music for Selections I – VI learned/Fact Sheet for Selection VI due
Practice Log Due in the lesson
Studio Class**

Week of March 2, 2026

**Nansi Carroll will be out of town this week due to a premiere performance.
Dr. Smith will be out of town for a Quest Conference from March 4-6, 2026. Lessons will be given in advance.**

**Weekly Lesson Assignment: Selection IV should be ready to memorize/Selection V Polish/Listening comparison due in the lesson/Selection VI Vowel- Sing, Selection VII Count- Sing with IPA and Word-by-Word in the music/Poetic Equivalent due in lesson/ Review of Selections I-III by memory
Practice Log Due in the lesson
Studio Class (Combined)**

Week of March 9, 2026

**Weekly Lesson Assignment: Selection V should be ready to memorize/Selection VI Polish/Listening comparison due in the lesson
Practice Log Due in the lesson
Studio Class**

SPRING BREAK!! MARCH 16-21, 2026

Week of March 23, 2026

**Weekly Lesson Assignment:
Selection VI Memorize
Be ready to sing Selections I-IV by memory in the lesson
Practice Log Due in the lesson
Studio Class**

- **March 28, 10:40 am, Shathi Campbell Junior Recital (MUB 101)**
- **March 28, 6:15 pm, Anthony Celano Junior Recital (MUB 101)**
- **March 29, 6:15 pm, Caitlin Bruscino Junior Recital (MUB 120)**

Week of March 30, 2026

**Weekly Lesson Assignment:
Be ready to sing Selections IV-VI by memory in the lesson
All repertoire ready for technical work/diction improvement
Practice Log Due in the lesson
Studio Class (Combined)**

Week of April 6, 2026

**Weekly Lesson Assignment: All repertoire should be ready to polish in the lesson.
Practice Log Due in the lesson
Studio Class**

- **April 11, 10:40 am, Cara Standard Junior Recital, (MUB 101)**

Week of April 13, 2026

ALL JURY REPERTOIRE MUST BE SUNG BY MEMORY IN THE LESSONS.

- Celebrate World Voice Day is April 16, 2026!
- April 18, 6:15 pm Avery dePadua Junior Recital (MUB 101)

Week of April 20, 2026

Final Preparation for Voice Jury

Classes End on Wednesday, April 22, 2026

- Please be certain to write a note of thanks to your collaborative pianist and include any compensation you owe them.

VOICE JURIES ON MONDAY, April 27, 2026

Vocal Health

Please do not hesitate to write or call if you have any discomfort with your voice.

For required resources and policies, please see <https://go.ufl.edu/syllabuspolicies>