

College of San Mateo
Official Course Outline

1. **COURSE ID:** MUS. 401 **TITLE:** Voice I

Units: 2.0 units **Hours/Semester:** 24.0-27.0 Lecture hours; 24.0-27.0 Lab hours; and 48.0-54.0 Homework hours

Method of Grading: Letter Grade Only

Recommended Preparation:
MUS. 100 or equivalent

2. **COURSE DESIGNATION:**

Degree Credit

Transfer credit: CSU; UC

3. **COURSE DESCRIPTIONS:**

Catalog Description:

Elementary vocal problems analyzed and corrected through exercises and songs. Individual practice outside of class hours is required.

4. **STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOME(S) (SLO'S):**

Upon successful completion of this course, a student will meet the following outcomes:

1. Demonstrate ability to read notes in treble and bass clef
2. Demonstrate knowledge and use of basic solfege syllables as a guide to scale degree negotiation
3. Demonstrate knowledge of proper breathing, posture and phonation techniques
4. Demonstrate the ability to show changes in volume

5. **SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONAL OBJECTIVES:**

Upon successful completion of this course, a student will be able to:

A. Achieve a basic understanding of the fundamentals of singing, including:

1. Proper breath support
2. Correct tone production and focus
3. Workable singer's diction and pronunciation of standard English; coaching in Italian, German, French and Latin as needed
4. Appropriate phrasing and interpretation

B. Apply this knowledge to the actual performance of song.

6. **COURSE CONTENT:**

Lecture Content:

1. Explanation of the mechanics of breath support, namely:
 - A. Proper procedure of breathing; i.e.,
 - a. Good posture
 - b. Inhalation--increased expansion; exhalation-sustained deflation
 - c. Panting or short, staccato breaths
 - d. Sound muscular control
 - B. Assignment of specific exercises designed to help the student attain proper breath support.
2. Systematic vocalization of the basic vowels, beginning with single tones and progressing in difficulty as student facility warrants, for the purpose of providing the student with the tools of legato singing, correct tone production and focus.
3. Introduction of principles and theories of workable singer's diction, but primarily:
 - A. Syllable and note relationship
 - B. Vocal emphasis and diphthong distribution
 - C. Consonant elision and omission
 - D. Vowel modification
 - E. NOTE: The Standard American dialect is the basis of pronunciation for most songs in English. It is anticipated that most students will sing in English. Coaching in Italian, German, French, Latin and Spanish is offered, however, should the need arise.
4. Application of the several aspects of good singing through the study and performance of suitable songs.
5. Analysis and application of stage deportment and performance techniques, including:
 - A. Stage presence, especially what to do with hands

- B. Entrance and exit
 - C. Establishment of mood
 - D. Delivery of words
 - E. Audience contact
6. Building self confidence through singing by:
- A. Performing before peers
 - B. Interpreting audience response
 - C. Self-evaluation and criticism
 - D. Image projection

Lab Content:

1. Preparation for singing and vocal technique skill acquisition
 - Posture and Physical Preparation Exercises
 - stretches
 - body alignment
 - jaw loosening exercises
 - lip loosening exercises
 - 2. Breathing Exercises
 - hisses
 - lip and tongue trill
 - vocalises focusing on breath support and breath control
 - 3. Initiating Tone and Placement of Tone Exercises
 - yawns and sighs
 - vocalises focusing on tone and placement
 - 4. English (and/or Foreign) Language Diction practice
 - Primary Vowels - Vowel rotation vocalises
 - Secondary Vowels - Vowel modification vocalises
 - Diphthongs/Triphthongs vocalises
 - Vocalises focusing on executing Voiced and Unvoiced Consonants
 - Mixed Vowel Exercises
 - Nasal Vowel Exercises
 - Glides (Semi Vowels) Exercises
 - Double consonant Exercises
 - 5. Vocal Presentation and Interpretation practice
 - Performance Posture and Concentrated Focus exercises
 - Textual and Musical Meaning exercises
 - Facial Expression & Gesture exercises
 - Close learning of individual vocal parts (in solos, small groups, ensembles)
 - Coaching with vocal director of individual vocal parts (in solos, small groups, ensembles)

7. REPRESENTATIVE METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:

Typical methods of instruction may include:

- A. Lecture
- B. Lab
- C. Activity
- D. Critique
- E. Discussion
- F. Observation and Demonstration

8. REPRESENTATIVE ASSIGNMENTS

Representative assignments in this course may include, but are not limited to the following:

Writing Assignments:

Short concert reports written on approved concerts involving classical vocal music.

Reading Assignments:

Weekly assigned reading from the required texts.

Other Outside Assignments:

Individual practice (expand)

9. REPRESENTATIVE METHODS OF EVALUATION

Representative methods of evaluation may include:

- A. Class Participation

- B. Class Performance
- C. Exams/Tests

10. **REPRESENTATIVE TEXT(S):**

Possible textbooks include:

- A. Van A. Christy. *Foundations in Singing*, 8th ed. McGraw Hill, 2006
- B. Ottman, Robert and Rogers, Nancy. *Music for Sight Singing*, 9th ed. Pearson, 2014

Origination Date: November 2016

Curriculum Committee Approval Date: February 2017

Effective Term: Fall 2017

Course Originator: Michael Galisatus