



MUSC 142: Voice Class for Beginners

Loyola University Chicago

John Felice Rome Center

FALL 2026, M, 9:00AM-12:00PM

Professor Delia Surratt

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NO FORMAL KNOWLEDGE OF MUSIC IS NEEDED TO TAKE THIS COURSE

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OUTCOMES:

This is an artistic core course in introductory singing for students who have never had formal voice lessons. The course satisfies the core requirement for artistic knowledge. The course also introduces the students to the technique of public speaking.

The music is chosen from the Italian and international musical repertory and includes folk to pop songs. Students will also sing in the Italian language, which adds to the cultural immersion at the Rome Center.

Under the guidance of the instructor, students will meet once a week in a group session and individually on a one-on-one basis.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

1. Physical and emotional confidence and joy in singing
2. Understanding the body physically as a wind instrument in sound production
3. Clarification of the role of the ear in sound perception, thus eliminating the problem of being "out of tune"
4. Improving the speaking voice in warmth and volume for public speaking
5. Introduction to the Italian vocal repertory from the Italian Art Song to contemporary Italian pop music
6. Correct pronunciation of the Italian language for the singing voice
7. Confidence in public performance
8. Opportunity to participate in non-graded Fine Arts Show

COMPOSITIONS TO BE STUDIED, FOR EXAMPLE:

The first half of the semester:

- DOWLAND'S "COME AGAIN, SWEET LOVE DOTH NOW INVITE"



- WONDERFUL WORLD
- AMARILLI
- CARO MIO BEN

After the midterm exam:

- O SOLE MIO
- TU CHE MI HAI PRESO IL CUOR
- VOLARE
- CARUSO
- CON TE PARTIRO'
- CONTEMPORARY ITALIAN POP SONGS

The professor provides all the music for the course.

Art songs to be studied from the following albums: Parisotti, "Arie Antiche" vol.1, 2, 3. Ed. Ricordi; Knud Jeppesen, "La Flora" Arie Antiche vol. 1, 2, 3. Ed. Hansen.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

In accordance with the Rome Center mission to promote a higher level of academic rigor, and in compliance with full-time student visa status, all courses adhere to the following attendance policy:

- a) Prompt attendance, preparation and active participation in course discussions are expected from every student and synonymous with academic success. Attendance is mandatory at every class meeting for each course. Lateness or leaving class early will impact the course grade at the professor's discretion. All absences, including medical absences, will be treated the same, unless they are documented long-term conditions or emergencies. Such situations will be evaluated case by case by the Academic Affairs office.

ONCE-A-WEEK CLASSES: After 1 absence, a 2% final grade reduction will be applied for each missed class. Missing 3 classes or more will result in an automatic failure (F).

HOMEWORK

- a. Home review of the documents professor distributes in class
- b. Practice exercises to stimulate brain training;
- c. Listening assignments suggested by the professor, which will include attendance at a performance of an opera or a vocal recital.
- d. Obligatory presence at the homework lessons

GRADING

The students will be graded by the following criterion: Attendance, homework assigned, and most important, at midterm and for the final exam, the students will be asked to perform a song or duet learned during the



course in which they will apply the technical notions they have learned. The final exam also includes a written exam on the vocal technique learned.

Since this core course is an introduction to singing, each student is graded INDIVIDUALLY from day one, based on the vocal evolution acquired through the technique introduced.

PERCENTAGE POINTS IN GRADING

- a. 30% participation: the coordination of the technical notions learned while singing in class. The students will be judged by the correct usage of the technique learned.
- b. 15% homework: attending the homework lessons*. Listening to the voice clips given by the professor to learn the music without singing. Practicing the exercises given to stimulate imagination. (Brain training)
- c. 20% midterm exam: singing an Italian Art Song
- d. 35% final exam: singing a second song chosen after the midterm from the repertory mentioned in the syllabus, plus a written exam on the technical facts learned during the course.

GRADING

94-100: A

90-93: A-

87-89: B+

84-86: B

80-83: B-

77-79: C+

74-76: C

70-75: C-

67-69: D+

60-66: D

59 or lower F

ACADEMIC HONESTY

Plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty are unacceptable at the JFRC and will be dealt with in accordance with Loyola University Chicago's guidelines. Please familiarize yourself with Loyola's standards here: http://www.luc.edu/academics/catalog/undergrad/reg_academicintegrity.shtml. You are responsible to comply with the LUC Student Handbook.



LATE OR MISSED ASSIGNMENTS

Late or missed assignments will not be accepted for grading without the authorization of the instructor. As per the JFRC academic policies, students who miss any scheduled exam or quiz, including a final exam at the assigned hours will not be permitted to sit for a make-up examination without approval of the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs. Permission is given rarely and only for grave reason; travel is not considered a grave reason. Make-up exams will only be given for documented absences.

ACCESSIBILITY ACCOMMODATIONS

Students registered with the Student Accessibility Center requiring academic accommodations should contact the Office of the Dean at the John Felice Rome Center, the first week of classes.

Title IX

The Rome Center follows Loyola's [Comprehensive Policy and Procedures for Addressing Discrimination, Sexual Misconduct, Retaliation](#) and will comply with those as indicated and instructed.

*FALL SCHEDULE OF CLASS THEMES

August 31 Introduction to the Art of Singing

- a) The human body as an instrument of sound
- b) An audition of each student's basic singing voice.

Sept.7 Breathing---the fundamental basis for sound

- a) Coordination of this natural function under the guidance of the professor using song.

Sept 14 The important role of the brain

- a) Checking the breathing with the sound production of each student
- b) The importance of distance perception in making intense sound
- c) The students use these technical rules singing an art song under the guidance of the professor.

Sept 21 How to study vocal music

- a) The Vaccai method of word division
- b) Student singing using the technical aspects explored during the previous lessons.

Sept 28 The positions of the mouth and tongue.

- a) Mouth openings that change with the various areas of the vocal range.
- b) The importance of a relaxed tongue

c) Student singing and exploring these technical facts.

Oct.5	Review of the technical aspects with the Italian art songs chosen. Midterm
Oct.9—18	FALL BREAK
Oct. 19	Student singing-- reviewing the coordination of the technical aspects explored in the previous lessons using new repertory (Italian or international pop songs, musicals)
Oct. 26	Using the new repertory -----Student singing, reviewing the coordination of the technical aspects explored in the previous lessons under the guidance of the professor.
Nov. 2	Singing under the guidance of the professor.
Nov. 9	Singing under the guidance of the professor.
Nov.16	Singing under the guidance of the professor.
Nov.23	Singing under the guidance of the professor.
Nov.30	Review
Dec,7	Final exam

*NOTE: MODIFICATIONS to COURSE SCHEDULE and SYLLABUS

The professor has prepared the syllabus with care and will follow it faithfully. She reserves the right, however, to make whatever changes she deems necessary to ensure the quality of the instruction.

Your responsibility is to consult the syllabus every day to see if there have been any changes. The professor will explain the reason for the changes in class in addition to the announcement in SAKAI and in the class chat in WHATSAPP.