



MUSC 305: Jazz Vocal Performance

Course Syllabus

Disclaimer: Instrumental Performance courses are ideal for students who would like to develop their performing skills in a wide variety of instruments (all instruments of the violin family, brass instruments, piano, guitar, percussion instruments, and more) while studying abroad. This syllabus is designed for the instrument indicated in the subtitle.

Instructor: Anna Lince

Credits: 1

Type of Course: Jazz Music performance course

Prerequisites: Students are assigned exercises and tasks of variable difficulty, basing on a progressive skills evaluation before the arrival and during the semester.

Class Meetings: TBA

Office Hours: TBA

Course Description

This course aims to develop students' necessary skills, knowledge and attitude in Jazz Music performance.

As a preliminary step, students will engage in an overview of the anatomy and physiology of the phonetic system and of the appropriate breathing and singing techniques.

Students will engage in the interpretation of selected jazz standards in a variety of styles and genres, in particular in Italian Jazz style, and mastering the basics of lead-sheet preparation, transposition, interpretation, phrasing. Students will also develop the technical skills necessary to approach to improvisation.

Course Objectives

Students will be able to:

- Use the appropriate breathing and singing techniques
- Reading the notes
- Create/extend a standards jazz repertoire
- Interpret Italian Jazz Standards with correct pronunciation
- Improvise with vocal scat

Course Materials

Handouts will be provided by the instructor.

Homework

Students will be assigned homework regularly. They should prepare all assigned materials for each lesson with a demonstrated improvement from the previous lesson. Students should allow themselves adequate time between their previous engagement and a lesson to warm up and concentrate on the music that they will be performing at the lesson.

Mid-Term Exam

Students will perform a selection of music assignments in front of a commission of instructors based on the materials presented during the first half of the semester.

Final Recital

The final recital will be a public event, held in front of an audience and a commission of instructors. Students will play from a selection of music assignments based on various materials presented throughout the semester.

Grading Rubric

Participation & Homework	35%	
Mid-Term Exam		30%
Final Recital	35%	

Grading

Letter grades for student work are based on the following percentage scale:

Letter Grade Range	Numerical Score Equivalent	Student Performance
A	93% - 100%	Exceptional
A-	90% - 92%	Excellent
B+	87% - 89%	
B	83% - 86%	Superior
B-	80% - 82%	
C+	77% - 79%	
C	73% - 76%	Satisfactory
C-	70% - 72%	
D+	67% - 69%	
D	63% - 66%	Low Pass
D-	60% - 62%	
F	59% or less	Fail (no credit)

Attendance Policy

Class attendance is **mandatory**. Students are allowed **two “free” absences**, which do not need to be justified. **It is the students’ responsibility to keep them in case of real necessity (sickness or any other unforeseen inconvenience that may prevent students from being in class)**. Each additional absence, unless for a very serious reason, will lower the students’ grade by one grade level (i.e., a final grade of a B+ would be lowered to a B).

If students miss class, they are responsible for obtaining class notes from other students and/or for meeting the

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professor during office hours. It is also the policy of the Institute that any student who has eight or more absences automatically fails the class.

Except in the case of medical emergencies, absences are not accepted when tests are scheduled; tests cannot be made up. **Furthermore, scheduled times and dates indicated for exams, quizzes, oral presentations, and any other graded assignments cannot be changed for any reason.** Even if more sections of the same class are activated, students may only take exams during the scheduled times and dates for the section they are enrolled in.

Presence during mandatory field trips is especially important for student performance in class. Missing a mandatory field trip, unless for a very serious reason that is communicated to the professor and Umbra Academic Director in a timely manner, will lower students' final grade by one grade level (i.e., a final grade of a B+ would be lowered to a B).

Academic Integrity

All forms of **cheating** (i.e., copying during exam either from a fellow student or making unauthorized use of notes) and **plagiarism** (i.e., presenting the ideas or words of another person for academic evaluation without acknowledging the source) will be handled according to the Institute Academic Policy, which can be found in the Umbra Institute Academic Policies and Conduct Guidelines.

Classroom Policy

Students are expected to follow the policy of the Institute and demonstrate the appropriate **respect** for the historical premises that the school occupies. Please note that **cell phones** must be turned off before the beginning of each class.

Schedule of Topics, Readings, and Assignments

Week 1

First meeting

Week 2

Singing techniques

Week 3

Standard jazz repertoire

Week 4

Italian jazz standard and pronunciation

Week 5

Improvise with vocal scat

Week 6

Italian jazz standard and pronunciation

Week 7

MID-TERM EXAM

SEMESTER BREAK

Week 8

Singing technique and improvisation

Week 9

Singing technique and improvisation

Week 10

Italian jazz standard and pronunciation

Week 11

Italian jazz standard and pronunciation

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Week 12

Practice for final exhibition

Week 13

Practice for final exhibition

WEEK OF FINAL EXAMS AND SPECIAL ACADEMIC EVENTS

Appointments will be announced later in the term.