



## MUSC 305: Voice Performance

Course Syllabus  
Fall Semester 2023

**Instructor:** Selected Instructors at La Banda degli Unisoni music school

**Credits:** 1

**Contact Hours:** 15

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

**Class Meeting Days & Time:** One meeting per week, time TBD with the instructor

**Office Hours:** By appointment

**Email:** [studentservices@umbra.org](mailto:studentservices@umbra.org)

**Course Type:** Classical voice performance course

**Course Fee:** None

### Course Description

This course aims to develop students' necessary skills, knowledge and attitude in Classical Voice 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 songs in a variety of styles and genres, in particular in Italian style, and mastering the basics of lead-sheet preparation, transposition, interpretation, phrasing.

Students will also develop the technical skills necessary to approach improvisation.

### Course Objectives

Students will be able to:

- Use the appropriate breathing and singing techniques
- Create/extend a repertoire
- Interpret Italian songs with correct pronunciation
- Reading notes
- Improvise

### Course Materials

Handouts will be provided by the instructor.

### Assessment

Attendance & Homework	10%
Homework	40%
Final Recital	40%

## Grading

Students are reminded that it is their responsibility to note the dates of exams and other assignments. No alternative exam dates will be offered and professors are not required to give partial credit for any late work (they do so at their discretion: the Institute's default policy is no extensions and a zero for any work turned in late). Students who book travel when they have an exam or other assessment will have to change their plans or accept a zero. 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%	Superior
B	83% - 86%	
B-	80% - 82%	
C+	77% - 79%	Satisfactory
C	73% - 76%	
C-	70% - 72%	
D+	67% - 69%	Low Pass
D	63% - 66%	
D-	60% - 62%	
F	59% or less	Fail (no credit)

**Please note:** decimal numerals between 1-4 are rounded down while 5-9 are rounded up: e.g., expect 89.4 to be 89.0 while 89.5 to round up to 90.

## Attendance (10%)

Attendance is an essential part of this course. If you attend all the meetings, you will receive 10% for this part of your grade. There are no make-ups offered for attendance.

## Homework (40%)

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.

## Final Recital (40%)

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

## Extension & Submitting Late Work

Work submitted after the deadline will receive a grade of zero, not partial credit. Each student is allowed one extension of 24 hours over the entire semester. This can be used for any assignment but the final project. Students need to email the instructor before the deadline and inform the instructor of their use of the extension. Any work submitted after the 24-hour extension will be marked zero.

As for all policies, exceptions can be made by the Director for students with special accommodations or in case of medical emergencies, etc.

### Attendance & Lateness Policy

Attendance is expected and mandatory for classroom times and co-curricular activities. Regular attendance is a critical component of academic success and students are expected to attend all scheduled classes unless there is a legitimate reason for absence. Students are also expected to be on time for all classes and co-curricular activities. Each unexcused absence will affect the final grade by 3% up to a maximum of 10%. Each incident of tardiness (late arrivals to or early departures from class) is 1% off the final grade. Excessive unexcused absences (4 or more) may result in a failing grade or disciplinary action. It is the student's responsibility to be aware of the number of absences or late arrivals for each course, and to ask the instructor when in doubt.

If students miss class, they are responsible for obtaining class notes from other students and/or for meeting the professor during office hours. Any work missed in class because of an excused absence may be made up within one week of the return to the class. Any work missed that was a quiz or other test must be made up outside of class time and will, in the interest of intellectual honesty, be a slightly different test than the one given in class. Presence during mandatory field trips is especially important. Missing a mandatory field trip for a course, unless for a very serious reason that is communicated to Umbra staff in a timely manner, will be considered the equivalent of two unexcused absences. As such, absence from the co-curricular field trip will lower students' final grade in that course by 3% (the equivalent of two unexcused absences).

Legitimate reasons for an excused absence or tardiness includes: death in immediate family, religious observances, illness or injury, local inclement weather, medical appointments that cannot be rescheduled. Absences relating to illness may be excused by the Director but only if a medical certification is provided.

Students who request an approved absence to observe a religious holiday must submit a formal request to the Institute's Director within one week after the add/drop period when course schedules, including any field trips, are finalized. No exceptions will be made after this deadline.

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.

### **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 set on silent mode before the beginning of each class. Computers and other electronic devices cannot be used during class lectures and discussions for anything other than note-taking, unless there has been a specific academic accommodation.

## **Schedule of Topics, Readings, and Assignments**

### **WEEK 1**

Meeting 1: Singing techniques

### **WEEK 2**

Meeting 1: Singing techniques

### **WEEK 3**

Meeting 1: Standard classical repertoire

### **WEEK 4**

Meeting 1: Italian classical standard and pronunciation

### **WEEK 5**

Meeting 1: Improvise with vocal scat

### **WEEK 6**

Meeting 1: Italian classical standard and pronunciation

## **Semester Break**

### **WEEK 7**

Meeting 1: Singing technique and improvisation

### **WEEK 8**

Meeting 1: Singing technique and improvisation

### **WEEK 9**

Meeting 1: Italian classical standard and pronunciation

### **WEEK 10**

Meeting 1: Italian classical standard and pronunciation

Syllabi available for download from the Umbra Institute website only with the purpose of informing students and advisers about course content. **All rights are reserved.**

**WEEK 11**

Meeting 1: Review

**WEEK 12**

Meeting 1: Practice for final exhibition

**WEEK 13**

**Final Exams and Special Academic Events Week**

Appointments will be announced later in the term.