SYLLABUS
MUP 132/332/532: Opera Workshop
Spring 2016

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Course Description:
The SFA Opera Theater is a performance ensemble of the School of Music. Admission is by audition. Students may participate on several levels: chorus, secondary leads, leading roles, and backstage. This course includes experiential training in singing on the stage, which encompasses the skills of musical preparation, acting, stage movement, working with period costumes, and may include make-up application, and dance.

Course Objectives:
1. This course will provide the opportunity for the Vocal Performance major to gain knowledge and experience in operatic repertoire and to develop techniques for role preparation and performance.
2. In addition, this course will provide the opportunity for the Music Education/Voice Emphasis major to gain knowledge through performance as well as production experience, a necessary preparation for a career as a music educator.
3. It is the goal of this course to prepare and educate the student in the skills and attitudes that are expected of a professional singer.
4. This being said, the main objective of the course is to enjoy all aspects of opera production by having fun while being professional in actions and attitude.

Course Requirements:
You are required to learn and memorize music assigned to you outside of class, to listen to or read any assignments in a timely fashion, to attend all rehearsals and coaching sessions for which you are scheduled, and to complete any character analysis forms that may be assigned by the due date specified when the assignment is given.

Schedule:
Classes are MW 3:00–5:00 and F 2:00–4:00. Evening rehearsals are MTR from 7:30-10:00. Weekly rehearsal schedules are posted by Friday each week. All rehearsals will be held in M125 unless posted otherwise. Plan to be available for rehearsal every night the ten days prior to opening night. (See production schedule overview).

Performances:
Performance dates for The Bartered Bride are April 7, 8 & 9. This is your final exam.

Attendance:
You are responsible for checking the callboard every day! Attendance and preparation are absolutely essential to the success of a production. When an individual misses a rehearsal the value of that rehearsal is compromised for everyone. NO UNEXCUSED ABSENCES ARE PERMITTED! In order for an absence to be excused from a rehearsal, the student must contact the director in advance. Rehearsals are to begin on time. The director reserves the right to remove a student from a role or dismiss them from the ensemble for unexcused and/or chronic absences or lateness.

Scores/Materials:
Students are required to purchase a score for the announced repertoire for the semester. Students must provide basic footwear as instructed by the costume designer and a basic stage make-up kit. Make-up kits are available at Barnes & Noble and other bookstores near the SFA campus.

Rehearsals:
If you have a question about the music or the staging, do not hesitate to ask the director or conductor at an appropriate break. Put all markings into your score in pencil. Put your name on your music. Come to rehearsal prepared to work with the assigned music studied and with an open mind. Be prepared to take risks and experiment. That is why we rehearse!
Policy on disruptive classroom behavior:
The university policy on acceptable student behavior reads as follows:

“If classroom behavior should not interfere with the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or the ability of other students to learn from the instructional program (see the Student Conduct Code, policy D-34.1). Unacceptable or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Students who disrupt the learning environment may be asked to leave class and may be subject to judicial, academic or other penalties. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including electronic, classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The instructor shall have full discretion over what behavior is appropriate/inappropriate in the classroom. Students who do not attend class regularly or who perform poorly on class projects/exams may be referred to the Early Alert Program. This program provides students with recommendations for resources or other assistance that is available to help SFA students succeed.”

We expect you to conduct yourselves as adults and to demonstrate respect for your classmates and for your instructors at all times. Therefore, the following behaviors will not be tolerated in class. If you participate in these behaviors you may be asked to leave class, and points may be deducted your final course grade.

- **Cell Phones (READ THIS TWICE, PLEASE):** There are NO cell phones permitted to be within your reach or within your sight. This class requires your engagement, and all use of cell phones serves to detract from that engagement. Additionally, your phone should be not only put away in your bag, but set on “silent” (NOTE: vibrate is NOT silent). If your phone is out and/or in sight of an instructor or of other students, you will be asked to put it away, and you will lose 2 points off of your FINAL course grade. Should your phone ring/vibrate during class, you will consider yourself dismissed for the day. You are to silence it immediately, and quietly leave the class session. You will be counted absent for the session. Failure to adhere to this will result in more stringent disciplinary action.

- **Inattentive behaviors:** Talking and whispering during class will not be tolerated. If you are asked more than once to stop talking or whispering during class you may be asked to leave class and you will be counted absent for the class session. You are expected to remain in class for the entire rehearsal period, leaving only in the event of an emergency. You are expected to attend to personal needs, such as buying food, speaking with professors, getting drinks of water, or utilizing restroom facilities, either before or after class so that you do not have reason to arrive late or leave during class. Leaving class or entering late disrupts the learning process. Eating and drinking during class may be disturbing to others and should be avoided. These ground rules are designed to provide an atmosphere conducive to active learning.

**Grading:**
Students will be evaluated on collegiality, musical preparedness and progress in the role: musical coaching, staging rehearsals, growth in the assigned role, performance readiness, and attendance. **ALL STUDENTS ARE REQUIRED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SET STRIKE FOLLOWING THE LAST PERFORMANCE.** Failure to participate and to be present until dismissed by the director will result in a failing grade for the course.

Students with documented disabilities that need course adaptations or accommodations please make an appointment with me as soon as possible.