

**MUS 426A (UNDERGRADUATE) MUS 526 (GRADUATE)
OPERA WORKSHOP: PRESSER 222
TUESDAY 4-6; WEDNESDAY 4-6 (Seminar); THURSDAY 4-6**

Instructor: E-mail: Phone: Office/hours: Prerequisites:

Professor Benjamin Smolder
smoldebw@miamioh.edu
513-546-4435 (cell phone—please try to avoid my office phone)
235 Center for the Performing Arts. By appointment.

Course Description: The opera workshop is a class for moderate to advanced classical singers. Topics are wide ranging and include acting improvisation, stage deportment, audition techniques, historic performances, introduction to Meisner and Alexander Method, role preparation and performance.

Course Objectives: To develop practical skills for the stage and classroom setting. To collaborate, prepare and perform a performance that highlights the strengths of the individuals comprising the group. By the end of the semester, the students will use what has been learned to present an educated and inspired performance.

Attendance: Attendance is EXTREMELY important. Since you will be working with your colleagues for the whole of this class to prepare the final performance, please respect them and their time by making every effort to be at class and on time. You are expected to come to class already vocally warmed-up and ready to go if you are scheduled to sing that day. If you are unable to sing due to illness, attendance is still required so that notes/blocking is not missed. You MUST notify Prof. Smolder in advance if you must miss class or you will be late. Missing rehearsals and/or not being prepared for class will result in the lowering of your grade.

For every unexcused absence, your grade will be lowered by one letter grade. Every three tardies will equal one unexcused absence. If you are so unprepared for rehearsal that it is affecting others or taking time away from the rehearsal process (having to teach you notes, etc.), you will be asked to leave the rehearsal, and you will be marked as unexcused. Be punctual, be prepared, and be responsible.

Excused absences: Students are granted excused absences from class for the following reasons: illness of the student or serious illness of a member of the student's immediate family, the death of a member of the student's immediate family, trips for student organizations sponsored by an academic unit, trips for university classes, trips for participation in intercollegiate athletic events, subpoena for a court appearance, and religious holidays. Students who wish to have an excused absence from class for any other reason must contact the instructor in advance of the absence to request permission. The instructor will weigh the merits of the request, and render a decision. When feasible, the student must notify the instructor prior to the occurrence of any excused absences, but in no case shall such notification occur more than one week after the absence.

Appropriate documentation for all excused absences is required. Please see the Policy on Class Attendance found in University Policies for more information on excused absences.

Missed in-class work: Students are responsible for all material covered during rehearsals in which they are absent. They should practice and master that material so that they are prepared for the next rehearsal they attend. Failure to do this may result in poor performance and may affect your ability to achieve grades as described in the grading criteria above.

Suggested Books:

Acting for Singers: Creating Believable Singing Characters by David F. Ostwald

An Actor Prepares by Constantine Stanislavski

Respect for Acting by Uta Hagen

Sanford Meisner on Acting by Sanford Meisner

Acting Onstage and Off by Robert Barton

Style for Actors by Robert Barton

Power Performance for Singers by Shirlee Emmons and Alma Thomas

Singing in Style: A Guide for Performances Practices by Martha Elliott

The Timetables of History: A Horizontal Linkage of People and Events by Bernard Grun and Eva Simpson

EVALUATION RUBRIC

PROJECT GRADE

The work will be evaluated on the following criteria: (50% of Grade)

- ___ Participation of group members 5 points
- ___ How well did the group collaborate? 30 points
- ___ Graphic Design of the Piece 10 points
- ___ Marketing Plan for Social Media and Distribution 10 points
- ___ Program notes for the piece 5 points
- ___ Execution of the piece 10 points
- ___ Programing of the work 5 points
- ___ Creativity 10 points
- ___ Cohesiveness 10 points
- ___ Incorporation of skills developed in class 5 points

ACTIVE PATICIPATION 30%

ASSIGNMENTS 20%

Disabilities Accommodations: Students who need special accommodations in class, as provided for by the Americans with Disabilities Act, should make an individual appointment with the instructor during the first week of classes, or as soon as possible if accommodations are needed immediately. You must bring a copy of your Accommodation Memo and an Instructor Verification Form to the meeting.

Academic Honesty Policy: Students are expected to behave with integrity. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated and will be dealt with in the manner specified in the Student Academic Honesty Code found in University Policies.

Students may withdraw (although with a W on their transcript) until mid-semester.

The final public performance for the semester will substitute for the final exam unless otherwise specified by the instructor.