**ESSEX COUNTY COLLEGE**

**Humanities Division**

**MUS 121 *–* Voice Class I**

**Course Outline**

**Course Number & Name:**  MUS 121 Voice Class I

**Credit Hours:**  2.0 **Contact Hours:**  2.0 **Lecture:** 2.0 **Lab:**  N/A **Other:**  N/A

**Prerequisites**:  None

**Co-requisites:** None **Concurrent Courses:** None

**Course Outline Revision Date:**  Fall 2010

**Course Description**: This course is designed to train and develop the individual voice and ear for solo work as well as for ensemble singing. Areas of study include breathing, tone production, diction, general musicianship, and interpretation. Four to six credits in voice class are recommended for students planning to major in music education. This is the first of a four-part sequence: MUS 121, MUS 122, MUS 221, and MUS 222.

**Course Goals:** Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to do the following:

1. demonstrate correct singing techniques; and

2. demonstrate correct performance techniques.

**Measurable Course Performance Objectives (MPOs)**: Upon successful completion of this course, students should specifically be able to do the following:

1. Demonstrate correct singing techniques:

1.1 *identify and* *use correct posture;*

1.2 *identify and use correct breathing*;

1.3 *use clear singing diction/vowel formation;*

1.4 *use correct pitch;* and

1.5 *use correct rhythm*

2. Demonstrate correct performance techniques:

2.1 *employ sufficient song preparation*;

2.2 *perform assigned vocal exercises;*

2.3 *perform at least one assigned song from memory;* and

2.4 *employ correct performance etiquette*

**Methods of Instruction**: Instruction will consist of a combination of demonstrations, posture and breathing exercises, vocal exercises, diction exercises, preparation and practice skills, performance etiquette, and the learning of a selected repertoire.

**Outcomes Assessment:** Rubrics are used to evaluate exercises and performances for the presence and mastery of course objectives. Data is collected and analyzed to determine the level of student performance on these assessment instruments in regards to meeting course objectives. The results of this data analysis are used to guide necessary pedagogical and/or curricular revisions.

**Course Requirements:** All students are required to:

1. Maintain regular attendance.

2. Complete all assigned homework.

3. Take part in exercises and performances as scheduled.

**Methods of Evaluation:** Final course grades will be computed as follows:

**% of**

**Grading Components final course grade**

* **Homework and Class Participation/Attendance 20%**

Students must be present to benefit from the musical expertise of the instructor and interaction with classmates. Homework is designed to reinforce course objectives.

* **Midterm Performance** **30%**

The Midterm Performance will provide evidence of the extent of student mastery of all course objectives covered in the first half of the course.

* **Final Performance 50%**

The Final Performance will provide evidence of the extent of student synthesis of course content and mastery of all course objectives.

**Academic Integrity:** Dishonesty disrupts the search for truth that is inherent in the learning process and so devalues the purpose and the mission of the College. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, the following:

* plagiarism – the failure to acknowledge another writer’s words or ideas or to give proper credit to sources of information;
* cheating – knowingly obtaining or giving unauthorized information on any test/exam or any other academic assignment;
* interference – any interruption of the academic process that prevents others from the proper engagement in learning or teaching; and
* fraud – any act or instance of willful deceit or trickery.

Violations of academic integrity will be dealt with by imposing appropriate sanctions. Sanctions for acts of academic dishonesty could include the resubmission of an assignment, failure of the test/exam, failure in the course, probation, suspension from the College, and even expulsion from the College.

**Student Code of Conduct:** All students are expected to conduct themselves as responsible and considerate adults who respect the rights of others. Disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. All students are also expected to attend and be on time for all class meetings. No cell phones or similar electronic devices are permitted in class. Please refer to the Essex County College student handbook, *Lifeline*, for more specific information about the College’s Code of Conduct and attendance requirements.

**Course Content Outline:** based on the text **Simply Singing with CD**, by Hedley Nosworthy and Peter Summers; published by Thompson/Shirmer, CA, 2005; ISBN #: 0-534-62334-4

**Week Chapter/Topics/Class Activities**

1 Chapter 1 Posture

### 2 Chapter 2 Inhalation

3 Chapter 3 Exhalation

4 Chapter 6 Vowels

5 Chapter 7 Consonants

6 Review and Preparation for the Midterm Performance

7 **Midterm Performance**

8 Chapter 10 Stage Fright: Overcoming It

9 Chapter 11 The Song: Choosing a Song to Sing

10 Chapter 12 Interpretation

11 Chapter 13 Characterization

12 Chapter 14 Style

13 Review and Preparation for the Final Performance

14 **Final Performance**

Note: Each chapter in the text contains vocal exercises and repertoire that are assigned to the students.