

# McLennan

C O M M U N I T Y

# COLLEGE

WACO, TEXAS

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## **COURSE SYLLABUS**

## **AND**

## **INSTRUCTOR PLAN**

**APPLIED VOICE**

**MUAP 1281 01**

**EDGAR SIERRA**

**NOTE: This is a 16-week course.**

### **COVID 19 Notice:**

McLennan Community College is committed to providing you with every resource you need to reach your academic goals including your safety. We will continue to monitor the evolving situation with COVID 19 and adjust our safety guidelines to make sure we offer a safe environment for you and our faculty. Please make sure to consult your faculty and the MCC website at <https://www.mclennan.edu/crisis-management/coronavirus-updates/index.html> on any changes to these guidelines.

**Course Description:**

Individual Instruction in voice or brass, percussion, woodwinds, strings, or keyboard. Available to music majors, non-majors as well as music majors who wish to study a secondary applied emphasis. May be repeated for credit.

**Prerequisites and/or Corequisites:**

Co-requisite: MUEN 1141 or MUSI 1157. Approval of Instructor

**Course Notes and Instructor Recommendations:**

1. A method to mark music scores (pencil or stylus) etc. Please do not mark scores in pen.
2. Folder to keep assigned musi.
3. No cellphone usage during lessons unless asked by instructor or emergencies.
4. Purchase and download the Appcompanist accompaniment app for 6 songs by Week 4.  
You may use YouTube recorded accompaniment or pay a pianist out of your own pocket to record accompaniment for your songs. However, it will not be possible to alter keys or tempi, which the Appcompanist app will allow you to do.
5. **Reading** at the college level means the ability to analyze and interpret a variety of printed materials -- books, articles, and documents. A core curriculum should offer students the opportunity to master both general methods of analyzing printed materials and specific methods for analyzing the subject matter of individual disciplines.
6. **Critical thinking** embraces methods for applying both qualitative and quantitative skills analytically and creatively to subject matter to evaluate arguments and to construct alternative strategies. Problem solving is one of the applications of critical thinking, used to address an identified task.
7. Included under **critical thinking skills development** is the requirement for Students to:
  - Warm up their own voices correctly and cultivate healthy practice habits.
  - Complete Self-Evaluation Reflections to cultivate self-awareness for improving vocal technique.
  - Research song and aria translations and write them into the music score.
  - Write IPA (International Phonetic Alphabet) symbols or foreign language sound tips into music scores based on student's current and developing skills.
8. **Students are required to:**
  - Study and memorize notes, rhythms, words of songs, find translations, and to perform all assigned repertoire and exercises on due dates specified in the Class Schedule and Outline.
  - Inform the Instructor of **all** On-campus, Off-campus, and recorded performances as a soloist, regardless of genre. Review repertoire with the Instructor at least 1-2 weeks **BEFORE** the event.

- Dress professionally with decorum and elegance and to obtain approval on attire choices from the Instructor before performances as a soloist.
- Check MCC email accounts and D2L Brightspace daily for important announcements and updates.
- Opt-in to Brightspace during Week 1 to receive regular notifications.

9. **Studio Class:**

- Perform **ONCE** each semester during Studio Class. Alternate accommodations may be made for those unable to attend due to work obligations.
- Perform memorized songs with correct rhythms, notes, and text for the Instructor 1-2 weeks before the Studio Class performance. Performances dates will be pre-assigned.
- Studio Class is held weekly on Mondays from 2:30-3:30pm in MTA 106. Students registered for MUAP 1281 are required to attend this weekly class. Exceptions will be made on an individual basis.
- Students in MUAP 1281 are **required** to attend studio class. **\* Unless communication with instructor has been made about conflicts\***

10. **Notebook:**

- Complete vocal notebook by due date (Thursday April 28<sup>th</sup> 5:00 pm).
- Fill out required information on song/aria sheet.

11. **Recital credit:**

- Music majors are to attend fifteen (15) recitals to receive recital credit.
- Recital credit can be transferred to four year institution to satisfy requirements.

12. **Recitals: All music majors (only) are required to**

- Perform **ONCE** each semester during the Recital.
- Repertoire must be rehearsed with the pianist and performed from memory for the Instructor 1-2 weeks before the performance.
- Performance dates will be preassigned.

13. **Final Juries: All Voice Students are are required to**

- Repertoire must be memorized, rehearsed, and performed for the Instructor 1-2 weeks before the jury.
- Jury panel will not request songs performed in Studio Class and in Recitals.
- Spring 2022 juries are scheduled for **TBA**

14. **NATS:**

- *Students may be asked to participate in DFW NATS.*

**Instructor Information:**

Instructor Name: Edgar Sierra

MCC Email: ersierra@mclennan.edu

Office Phone Number: 254-299-8222

Office Location: BPAC 107

Office/Teacher Conference Hours: By Appointment

Other Instruction Information:

**Required Text & Materials:**

**Appcompanist:** Download the Appcompanist app for iPhone or Android by Week 4, unless registered for Vocal Coaching.

Pricing:

**Apple/iOS**

Musical theater library- \$9.99/ month

Classical library- \$9.99/month

Complete library- \$14.99/ month

**Pick six**

\$3.99/month

**Android**

Complete collection \$9.99/month

**Scanner app**

Downloading a scanner app is highly recommended. iPhone users have access on Notepad app.

**Music Scores:** Most music scores will either be in the public domain or scanned and emailed directly to the student by the Instructor.

It is recommended that students begin building their own library as their pocketbooks allow. National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS) rules require originals for all Student Auditions competitions. Please obtain the appropriate Copyright Permission for the songs you perform for off-campus performances.

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Students may be required to purchase the 28 Italian Songs and Arias of the 17th and 18th Centuries Anthology for their specific voice type (with CD or online recordings of pronunciation and accompaniment). English Italian, Publisher: G. Shirmer. Publication dates vary depending on voice type.

Each Student will be asked to purchase anthologies suiting their individual needs in consultation with the Instructor such as the Standard Vocal Literature series mentioned below. Some of the suggested anthologies and songs are available through the MCC Bookstore, legal online downloads, libraries, and through local merchants or catalog sales. Assignments will be at the Instructor's discretion.

1. Title: Standard Vocal Literature - An Introduction to Repertoire: Soprano (Vocal Library)

Author: Richard Walters

Publisher Hal Leonard

Publication date January 1, 2005

ISBN-10 0634078739

ISBN-13 978-0634078736

2. Title: Standard Vocal Literature - An Introduction to Repertoire: Mezzo-Soprano (Vocal Library)

Author: Richard Walters

Publisher Hal Leonard

Publication date January 1, 2005

ISBN-10 0634078747

ISBN-13 978-0634078743

3. Title: Standard Vocal Literature - An Introduction to Repertoire: Tenor (Vocal Library)

Author: Richard Walters

Publisher Hal Leonard

Publication date January 1, 2005

ISBN-10 9780634078750

ISBN-13 978-0634078750

4. Standard Vocal Literature - An Introduction to Repertoire: Baritone (Vocal Library)

Author: Richard Walters

Publisher Hal Leonard

Publication date January 1, 2005

ISBN-10 0634078763

ISBN-13 978-0634078767

5. Standard Vocal Literature - An Introduction to Repertoire: Bass

Author: Richard Walters

Publisher Hal Leonard

Publication date January 1, 2005

ISBN-10 0634078771

ISBN-13

**MCC Bookstore Website:** <http://www.mclennan.edu/bookstore/>

**Methods of Teaching and Learning:**

One-on-one weekly synchronous lessons, Lab exercises (voice warmups and vocalizes), research and critical thinking skills (Verbal Quizzes, and Self-Evaluation Reflections). Students will be asked to demonstrate vocalizes learned throughout the semester and “how to practice”

**Course Objectives and/or Competencies:**

MUAP 1281 engages in the creative process and comprehend the physical and intellectual demands of the musical artist. A private “one-on-one” Voice Class and Group Class (Studio Class), synchronous and asynchronous performances for self-evaluation, participate in the constructive critiquing of oneself and colleagues to demonstrate improvement in the study of the singing voice.

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Demonstrate through memorized live and recorded performances various types of Western Classical repertoire with an efficient, free vocal technique.
- Establish correct breath support and a “noble” posture to facilitate projection, resonance, and tone quality for the purpose of beautiful solo singing.
- Use excellent lyric diction to support vocal production.
- Interpret and express the meaning of the text in songs and arias.
- Develop musicianship and constructive criticism evaluation skills.
- Memorize and perform 5-6 songs per semester. Number of songs are determined at the Instructor’s discretion.

- Students performing Opera and/or Musical Theater Roles receive credit toward one repertoire item in both the Fall and Spring. Please discuss this with your Instructor.

**Course Outline or Schedule:**

***Module 1 : Weeks 1-4***

- Demonstration of vocalizes/how to warmup by Week 3.
- Instruction on daily practice habits/goals i.e.: 4-5 hrs minimum practice time for 50 min lessons.
- First/second song learned and 80% memorized by Week 4.

**Module 2: Weeks 5-8:**

- Continuation of Weeks 1-5.
- Student repertoire assignments should be complete by Week 7 (totaling 4-5 songs, at Instructor's discretion.)
- Third/Fourth song learned and 80% memorized by Week 8.

**Module 3: Weeks 9-11:**

- Continuation of Weeks 1-8
- Fifth/sixth song learned and 80% memorized by Week 11.
- Preparation for final voice exam (Jury).

**Module 4: Weeks 12-15:**

- Continuation of Weeks 1-11.
- All music learned and memorized by week 12.
- Music memorization deadline is Monday, April 11<sup>th</sup>
- Studio Class performance must have taken place by Week 13.
- Student Recital performance (voice majors only) must have taken place by Week 15.
- Final Voice Juries – TBA.
- Students are required to present semester repertoire excluding songs performed in Studio Class and Student Recitals to faculty panel for final voice jury.

**Course Grading Information:**

- Weekly lesson= 40%
- Recital performances/attendance= 20%
- Notebook=10%
- Jury=30%

**Total=100 %**

**Each lesson is graded on:**

- Level of Preparation, Progress, and Retention
- Attitude/Willingness to Learn/Adaptability
- Completion of Assignments and Tasks
- Attendance & Promptness
- Attentiveness & Correction/Adjustment Skills

**Late Work, Attendance, and Make Up Work Policies:**

- A 15 min. tardy for a 50 min. lesson = a missed lesson = 0% grade.
- “No call, no show” = unexcused absence = 0% grade. Will **not** be made up.
- Twenty-four hour written notice (text or email) is required for all excused absences e.g. MCC related trips, etc. If 24 hr advance notice is not received, the lesson will not be made up.
- Students are required to attend a minimum of 75% of Applied Voice lessons to prevent being dropped/or for absences not to negatively impact their progress and grade.
- Only TWO make up lessons for excused absences are allowed per semester. No further makeups will be given unless teacher absences are involved.
- For emergency-related absences: please call or text my cell phone and/or send an email.
- Lessons missed due to Instructor absences will be made up. Make-up lessons missed by Students, will **not** be Made up. I will be professional and respectful of your time and would appreciate you doing the same for mine.



**Additionally:**

- This schedule is subject to change. All deadlines are listed on Brightspace. Students will be notified of changes through Brightspace, text messages, and synchronous class announcements.
- Grades are weighted. Please keep track of deadlines on Brightspace, and exercise good time management skills regarding all assessments. I believe in you. You can do it!

**Student Behavioral Expectations or Conduct Policy:**

In studying and teaching voice, one needs to be aware that the body is the musical instrument. There is a certain amount of touching that must occur in the live Face to Face lesson. The teacher may ask permission to touch the student in the mid torso area, neck, face, arms. In turn, the student may be asked to touch the teacher as he/she demonstrates a technique. It is important to remember that this is part of the professional process of teaching/learning about the singing voice.

**[Click Here for the MCC Attendance/Absences Policy](https://www.mclennan.edu/highlander-guide/policies.html)**

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## ACADEMIC RESOURCES/POLICIES

### **Accommodations/ADA Statement:**

Any student who is a qualified individual with a disability may request reasonable accommodations to assist with providing equal access to educational opportunities. Students should contact the Accommodations Coordinator as soon as possible to provide documentation and make necessary arrangements. Once that process is completed, appropriate verification will be provided to the student and instructor. Please note that instructors are not required to provide classroom accommodations to students until appropriate verification has been provided by the Accommodations Coordinator. For additional information, please visit [www.mclennan.edu/disability](http://www.mclennan.edu/disability).

Students with questions or who require assistance with disabilities involving physical, classroom, or testing accommodations should contact:

[disabilities@mclennan.edu](mailto:disabilities@mclennan.edu)

254-299-8122

Room 319, Student Services Center

### **Title IX:**

We care about your safety, and value an environment where students and instructors can successfully teach and learn together. If you or someone you know experiences unwelcomed behavior, we are here to help. Individuals who would like to report an incident of sexual misconduct are encouraged to immediately contact the Title IX Coordinator at [titleix@mclennan.edu](mailto:titleix@mclennan.edu) or by calling Dr. Drew Canham (Chief of Staff for Diversity, Equity & Inclusion/Title IX) at (254) 299-8645. Individuals also may contact the MCC Police Department at 299-8911 or the MCC Student Counseling Center at MCC at (254) 299-8210. The MCC Student Counseling Center is a confidential resource for students. Any student or employee may report sexual harassment anonymously by visiting <http://www.lighthouse-services.com/mclennan/>.

Go to McLennan's Title IX webpage at [www.mclennan.edu/titleix/](http://www.mclennan.edu/titleix/). It contains more information about definitions, reporting, confidentiality, resources, and what to do if you or someone you know is a victim of sexual misconduct, gender-based violence or the crimes of rape, acquaintance rape, sexual assault, sexual harassment, stalking, dating violence, or domestic violence.

**Student Support/Resources:**

MCC provides a variety of services to support student success in the classroom and in your academic pursuits to include counseling, tutors, technology help desk, advising, financial aid, etc. A listing of these and the many other services available to our students is available at <http://www.mclennan.edu/campus-resource-guide/>

College personnel recognize that food, housing, and transportation are essential for student success. If you are having trouble securing these resources or want to explore strategies for balancing life and school, we encourage you to contact a Success Coach by calling (254) 299-8226 or emailing [SuccessCoach@mclennan.edu](mailto:SuccessCoach@mclennan.edu). Students may visit the Completion Center Monday-Friday from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. to schedule a meeting with a Success Coach and receive additional resources and support to help reach academic and personal goals. Paulanne's Pantry (MCC's food pantry) provides free food by appointment to students, faculty and staff based on household size. Text (254) 870-7573 to schedule a pantry appointment. The Completion Center and pantry are located on the Second Floor of the Student Services Center (SSC).

**MCC Foundation Emergency Grant Fund:**

Unanticipated expenses, such as car repairs, medical bills, housing, or job loss can affect us all. Should an unexpected expense arise, the MCC Foundation has an emergency grant fund that may be able to assist you. Please go to <https://www.mclennan.edu/foundation/scholarships-and-resources/emergencygrant.html> to find out more about the emergency grant. The application can be found at [https://www.mclennan.edu/foundation/docs/Emergency\\_Grant\\_Application.pdf](https://www.mclennan.edu/foundation/docs/Emergency_Grant_Application.pdf).

**MCC Academic Integrity Statement:**

Go to [www.mclennan.edu/academic-integrity](http://www.mclennan.edu/academic-integrity) for information about academic integrity, dishonesty, and cheating.

**Minimum System Requirements to Utilize MCC's D2L|Brightspace:**

Go to <https://www.mclennan.edu/center-for-teaching-and-learning/Faculty-and-Staff-Commons/requirements.html> for information on the minimum system requirements needed to reliably access your courses in MCC's D2L|Brightspace learning management system.

**Minimum Technical Skills:**

Students should have basic computer skills, knowledge of word processing software, and a basic understanding of how to use search engines and common web browsers.

**Backup Plan for Technology:**

In the event MCC's technology systems are down, you will be notified via your MCC student email address. Please note that all assignments and activities will be due on the date specified in the Instructor Plan, unless otherwise noted by the instructor.

**Email Policy:**

McLennan Community College would like to remind you of the policy (<http://www.mclennan.edu/employees/policy-manual/docs/E-XXXI-B.pdf>) regarding college email. All students, faculty, and staff are encouraged to use their McLennan email addresses when conducting college business.

A student's McLennan email address is the preferred email address that college employees should use for official college information or business. Students are expected to read and, if needed, respond in a timely manner to college emails.

**Instructional Uses of Email:**

Faculty members can determine classroom use of email or electronic communications. Faculty should expect and encourage students to check the college email on a regular basis. Faculty should inform students in the course syllabus if another communication method is to be used and of any special or unusual expectations for electronic communications.

If a faculty member prefers not to communicate by email with their students, it should be reflected in the course syllabus and information should be provided for the preferred form of communication.

**Email on Mobile Devices:**

The College recommends that you set up your mobile device to receive McLennan emails. If you need assistance with set-up, you may email [Helpdesk@mclennan.edu](mailto:Helpdesk@mclennan.edu) for help.

**Forwarding Emails:**

You may forward emails that come to your McLennan address to alternate email addresses; however, the College will not be held responsible for emails forwarded to an alternate address that may be lost or placed in junk or spam filters.

**Disclaimer:**

The resources and policies listed above are merely for informational purposes and are subject to change without notice or obligation. The College reserves the right to change policies and other requirements in compliance with State and Federal laws. The provisions of this document do not constitute a contract.