

Updated 07/18/2023



WACO, TEXAS

**COURSE SYLLABUS
AND
INSTRUCTOR PLAN**

Opera Workshop

MUSI 1157

Mrs. Mandy Morrison

Dr. Alber Chien

Dr. Donnie Balmos

NOTE: This is a 16-week, Face-to-Face course.

OPERA WORKSHOP

MUSI 1157_001

Course Description:

Presents opera music, libretti, characterization, and motivational staging through the performance of an opera or opera scenes. Recommended for all music vocal majors and minors, but open to all students with consent of instructor.

Prerequisites and/or Corequisites:

None

Course Notes and Instructor Recommendations:

Please see performance contract.

Instructor Information:

Instructor Name: Mandy Morrison
MCC Email: mmorrison@mclennan.edu
Office Phone Number: 254-299-8113
Office Location: BPAC 110
Office/Teacher Conference Hours:
Tuesday/Thursday 12:30 – 2:30

Instructor Name: Dr. Alber Chien
MCC Email: achien@mclennan.edu
Office Phone Number: 254-299-8285
Office Location: BPAC 114
Office/Teacher Conference Hours:
TBA

Instructor Name: Dr. Donnie Balmos
MCC E-mail: dbalmos@mclennan.edu
Office Phone Number:
Office Location:
Office/Teacher Conference Hours: Tuesday/Thursday 1:00 – 2:30
TBA

Required Text & Materials:

A copy of the *Princess and the Pea* score will be issued in class at no cost.

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

Methods of Teaching and Learning:

Students in Opera Workshop study a new operatic work each fall. The study of this work extends into the spring semester culminating in a performance of the production. This year, students will be participating in two shows. In the fall, students sang famous opera courses in *A Christmas Carol*, devised by Joseph Taylor, professor of theatre in collaboration with McLennan Theatre Department. In the spring, students will perform *The Princess and the Pea*, by Michael Jacobsen and Danielle Sinclair with music from Sir Arthur Sullivan.

Course Objectives and/or Competencies:

The study of music, libretti, characterization, and staging through rehearsal and performance.

Course Attendance/Participation Guidelines:

If a student is not in attendance in accordance with the policies/guidelines of the class as outlined in the course syllabus as of the course census date, faculty are required to drop students from their class roster prior to certifying the respective class roster. A student's financial aid will be re-evaluated accordingly and the student will only receive funding for those courses attended as of the course census date.

Before the 60% point of the semester, a student who is absent for 10% or more of a face-to-face or blended course or who misses 10% or more of assigned work for an online course will be withdrawn from the course with a grade of W. A student may also request to be withdrawn with a grade of W before the 60% point of the semester. After the 60% point of the semester, the student may request to be withdrawn if the student is passing, or be assigned the final grade earned at the end of the semester after grades have been updated to reflect missing work.

- Attendance is taken at the start of class. Please plan to be early and prepared.
- One unexcused absence (no show, no prior notice) will result in the final grade being dropped one letter grade.
- Two unexcused absences will result in a meeting with the production team and the lowering of the final grade by an additional letter grade.
- Three unexcused absences will result in the student being dropped from the course.
- Absence from any dress rehearsal or "strike" (tear-down of set, costumes, clean-up) will result in the final grade being dropped one letter grade.
- Please see performance contract for additional attendance obligations.

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

(<https://www.mclennan.edu/highlander-guide/policies.html>)

Click on the link above for the college policies on attendance and absences. Your instructor may have additional guidelines specific to this course.

Course Outline or Schedule:

Please see the course calendar and performance contract.

OPERA WORKSHOP

MUSI 1157_001

Course Grading Information:

- 20% Assignments
- 70% Participation Grades
- 10% Final Exam

<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Participation Grades:<ul style="list-style-type: none">Rehearsal preparationPUNCTUAL rehearsal attendanceContribution to the class/ensembleResponsible and professional behaviorAttendance and attention to detail in all tech calls- Final Exam:<ul style="list-style-type: none">Extended graded rehearsal (usually a partial run of the spring show)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Weekly Assignment Grades:<ul style="list-style-type: none">Timely SubmissionProfessional approachAccuracyEvident PracticeThorough Completion
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Additional Grading Information as outlined in the Attendance Policy:

- One unexcused absence (no show, no prior notice) will result in the final grade being dropped one letter grade.
- Two unexcused absences will result in a meeting with the production team and the lowering of the final grade by an additional letter grade.
- Three unexcused absences will result in the student being dropped from the course.
- Absence from any dress rehearsal or “strike” (tear-down of set, costumes, clean-up) will result in the final grade being dropped one letter grade.

Late Work and Make-Up Work Policies:

- The rehearsal process is unique in that it requires a collaborative effort by all participants. Careful scheduling efforts are made based on the assumption of full attendance. Absence from a rehearsal impacts more than just one individual.
- If a student misses class, it is their responsibility to learn the music being rehearsed during class on their own.
- Please ask for help if you need it.

Student Behavioral Expectations or Conduct Policy:

Students are expected to maintain classroom decorum that includes respect for other students and the instructor, prompt and regular attendance, and an attitude that seeks to take full advantage of the education opportunity. Please see the performance contract for more behavioral expectations.

Please bring a yoga mat or towel, pencil, handheld mirror, and music/score to every class/rehearsal.

Opera Singer Pre-Coaching Checklist

- ☐ Highlight every word, pitch, stage direction, etc. that directly relates to your character (confirm and secure cuts)
- ☐ Copy sung/spoken text by hand on a piece of paper
- ☐ Read text
- ☐ Speak text in rhythm, carefully noting score indications, like meter, tempo, expressive marks, dynamics, etc.
- ☐ Conduct and speak in rhythm
- ☐ At piano, slowly play vocal line
- ☐ Intone vocal line
- ☐ Sing pitches with text in rhythm

Congratulations, you are ready to meet your coach!

Coaching etiquette and tips for the singer:

Applied voice teachers build vocal technique. Vocal coaches correct pitches, rhythms, words/diction, phrasing, expression. While some of a coach's suggestions may sound technical in nature, the coach's advice and corrections are secondary to that of the applied teacher. If information seems contradictory, ask questions. It is common for some aspects of vocal performance to be presented in wildly different ways by different teachers and coaches. For the most part, voice teachers and coaches desire the same result, but they may have unique ways of guiding you there. Trust in your innate ability to make music, but be willing to accept constructive criticism and work hard. Approach your vocal studies with a spirit of adventure -- willing to fix mistakes, try new things, and don't forget to bring some of your own ideas to the table!

MCLENNAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE – OPERA

Opera Workshop, McLennan Opera | MUSI 1157_001 | **PERFORMANCE CONTRACT**

January 8, 2024

McLennan Community College

1400 College Dr.

Waco, TX 76708

Dates: See attached schedule

Compensation: Opera Workshop credit and multiple performance experiences with piano & orchestra

Signatures below confirm that the parties have read and approved each and all terms and conditions from all pages attached.

Performer Name (Please Print): _____

Instructors:

Prof. Mandy Morrison
mmorrison@mcclennan.edu
254-299-8113
BPAC 110

Dr. Alber Chien
achien@mcclennan.edu
254-299-8285
BPAC 114

Dr. Donald Balmos
dbalmos@mcclennan.edu

1. The performer, in signing this contract, acknowledges his/her/their responsibility for the following rehearsal and performance schedule.
2. The performer can expect that the rehearsal schedule will not change, if at all possible, nor be extended.
3. The performer can expect to be guided through the learning process with professionalism.
4. The performer can expect to perform with quality accompaniment provided by piano and/or full orchestra.
5. The performer may not cancel this contract except for the proven inability to perform due to sickness, accident, acts of war, acts of God, or other legitimate causes beyond their control.
 - a. The performer is expected to arrange all transportation to and from rehearsal and performance.
 - b. The performer is expected to provide a doctor's note in the case of legitimate sickness and may be asked to observe rehearsal from a distance or via Zoom.
 - c. Immediate contact should be made with the instructor in the case of instances listed above.
 - d. The performer is expected to attend all contractual obligations according to the dates and times outlined in the rehearsal and performance schedule. Any changes or additions will be communicated in writing and agreed upon between the instructor and performer.
 - e. The performer agrees to arrive in time to be prepared for rehearsal unless prior arrangements have been made with the instructor(s).
6. The performer shall be responsible for all equipment required for rehearsal and performance including score, pencil, props, set pieces, and costume pieces. All costume pieces shall remain hung when not worn.
7. The performer will maintain professionalism during the opera preparation process and will demonstrate respect for directors and colleagues.
8. The performer agrees to abide by college policies, safety procedures, and all directions given, especially for the purpose of safety.
9. **The inability to meet the requirements as outlined will result in a meeting with the directors (or the directors and division chair) and the lowering of the performer's grade by one letter. The evaluation of the performer's ability to perform their role and/or maintain enrollment in the course shall be considered upon breach of the contract.**
10. Any and all conditions are to be made prior to signing this agreement and shall be stated herein. This contract and the terms and conditions contained herein may be enforced by the instructor(s) and performer.
11. It is agreed that this contract shall not be binding unless signed by both parties.
12. **Rehearsal conflicts will be in writing (on the back) and agreed upon by all parties.**

Performer Signature _____ Instructor Signatures _____

10/09/2023



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

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

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 or by calling, Dr. Claudette Jackson, (Accommodations/Title IX) at (254) 299-8465. MCC employees are mandatory reporters and must report incidents immediately to the Title IX Coordinator. Individuals may also contact the MCC Police Department at (254) 299-8911 or the MCC Student Counseling Center at (254) 299-8210. The MCC Student Counseling Center is a confidential resource for students. Any student may report sexual harassment anonymously by visiting <http://www.lighthouse-services.com/mclennan/>

Additionally, Title IX provides rights and protections for pregnant and newly parenting students. Go to McLennan's Title IX webpage at 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/>

Academic Support and Tutoring is here to help students with all their course-related needs. Specializing in one-on-one tutoring, developing study skills, and effectively writing essays. Academic Support and Tutoring can be found in the Library and main floor of the Learning Commons. This service is available to students in person or through Zoom. You can contact the Academic Support and Tutoring team via Zoom or email (ast@mclennan.edu) by going to our website (<https://www.mclennan.edu/academic-support-and-tutoring/>)

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 either MCC CREW – Campus Resources Education Web by calling (254) 299-8561 or by emailing crew@mclennan.edu or a Success Coach by calling (254) 299-8226 or emailing success@mclennan.edu.

Paulanne's Pantry (MCC's food pantry) provides free food by appointment to students, faculty and staff. To schedule an appointment, go to <https://calendly.com/paulannespantry-mcc/15min>.

The CREW, Success Coaches, and Paulanne's Pantry are all located on the second floor of the Student Services building in Success Coaching Services.

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

MCC Academic Integrity Statement:

Please view our [Academic integrity statement](#) for more information about academic integrity, dishonesty, and cheating. The unauthorized use of artificial intelligence (AI) for classwork can be a violation of the College's General Conduct Policy. Whether AI is authorized in a course and the parameters in which AI can be used in a course will be outlined by each instructor.

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. For more information about your student email account, go to www.mclennan.edu/studentemail.

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 for help.

You can find help on the McLennan website about connecting your McLennan email account to your mobile device:

- [Email Setup for iPhones and iPads](#)
- [Email Setup for Androids](#)

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.

For more helpful information about technology at MCC, go to [MCC's Tech Support](#) or email helpdesk@mclennan.edu.

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.