



FRESHMAN SEMINAR SYLLABUS

Period 1 (A Days) 2024-2025

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Course Description

This class serves as an introduction to the PCCA program with particular emphasis on preparing for private lessons, individual practice skills, and organizational skills. Subjects in this course range from acting techniques for a soloist, stage presence, collaborating with an accompanist and other performers, preparation for lessons, auditions, and performances, and managing performance anxiety. When students complete this class, they will be prepared to perform in recitals, take regular lessons, and be a leader in PCCA.

Goals and Objectives

- To introduce students to the rigors of magnet program work in high-quality musical experiences
- To create a supportive environment and culture for musical and interpersonal development
- To provide opportunities to practice music performance with an emphasis on stage presence and performance anxiety management

Expectations

1. You will attend class regularly and on time. You will use the restroom for emergencies only.
2. You will participate in all class functions including discussions, performing, and other activities as they relate to your lesson literature.
3. You will maintain passing grades in your academic classes.
4. You should take notes and utilize the concepts that we learn in your own musicianship practice.
5. You will have your music and school-owned device with you during all class meetings and lessons.

Daily Practice Outside of School

You must commit to 30 minutes per day to practice your applied lesson music. Applied lessons provide you with the tools that you need to be successful. These tools are useless if they are not practiced.

Required Materials

- Music (provided)
- Water bottle
- School provided computer or personal tablet (cellphones are unacceptable for this class)

General Course Topics

Quarter 1	Meeting fellow music majors and developing interpersonal skills Adjusting to life in high school, developing coping skills, and personal organization Musical practice techniques review Understanding ensemble vs. solo repertoire and the repertoire/composers for one's instrument The importance of posture, breathing, and other foundational aspects of music-making Basic written music terms and concepts review, in addition to music theory I or II
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Quarter 2	Moving outside of one's comfort zone: challenge by choice and calculated risk-taking Charting practice time and maximizing one's practice time Understanding musical style Sight singing and sight reading skills <i>The Seven Habits of Highly Successful Teens</i> by Stephen Covey Preparation for Jury 1
Quarter 3	Deconstructing difficult repertoire: singing in foreign languages and playing difficult passages Expressing the emotion of music: facial expression, dynamics, etc. Understanding Performance Anxiety <i>The Art of Possibility</i> by Benjamin Zander Preparation for Adjudicated Performances in Florida Vocal, Band, and Orchestra Associations
Quarter 4	Performing Jazz Music, Improvisation, Scat Singing Exploring Jazz History Performing Musical Theater Music Performing Pop Music <i>Grit</i> by Angela Duckworth Preparation for Jury 2

Grading Procedures

Assessments (formal & informal) – 60%

This includes formal assessments such as performances and quizzes or writing assignments as well as more informal assessments based on performance on a daily basis. Also included in this portion of the grade are assessments related to the specific learning goal (Marzano scale) for a given unit.

Daily Participation and Attendance – 40%

Students are expected to attend class and fully participate every day because each lesson and every class is a unique event that cannot be replicated.

Grading Scale

90-100%=A 80-89%=B 70-79%=C 60-69%=D 59% and below=F

Student recital series

Student recital attendance is mandatory for all music majors. Attendance is taken at recitals by turning in a critique provided at the recital. Failure to attend a student recital or submit your form will result in the final quarter grade being lowered by one full letter grade for each recital missed.

All music majors are required to perform on a student recital once per semester beginning their sophomore year. Performing as a soloist is an integral part of this program. Freshmen are exempt from this rule unless their applied teacher assigns the student to sing on a recital. You must sign up with your applied teacher and obtain their signature to be added to the recital. It is your responsibility to schedule rehearsals with your accompanist.

Student Juries

At the end of each semester, music majors perform a jury for the music faculty. Your private lesson teacher will assign pieces that you will prepare for the jury. You must pass your jury to be in good standing in the program. Students must dress professionally for their jury.

All voice majors must sing a technical jury in addition to their performance jury. The student must complete a sight-reading evaluation for two faculty members. The score for this is averaged in the overall jury score. This will be scheduled at a different time than the performance jury.

Freshman Music Major Checklist

- ___ Attend All Weekly Lessons as scheduled by your applied teacher, practicing daily
- ___ Attend All Recitals (the second Thursday of each month)
- ___ Attend All Instrument Studios: Vocal Majors and Instrumental Majors (1 Thursday each month)
- ___ Fall Semester Jury
 - Know your scheduled date/time
 - Dress Up
 - Bring music for your accompanist
 - Memorize your music (vocal majors)
 - Memorize your foreign language text translations (vocal majors)
- ___ Fall Semester Tech Jury
 - Bring proof of 2 outside hours experiences
 - FVA All-State Sight Reading 1
 - GPA and grades in all classes should be passing
- ___ Solo and Ensemble Performance
 - Rehearse with accompanist prior to the day of your performance
 - Know your scheduled date/time
 - Dress Up
 - Be 3 people early to your performance time
 - Review judge sheets the week following your performance
- ___ Perform on at least 1 student recital (TBD with your private lesson teacher)
- ___ Spring Semester Jury
 - Know your scheduled date/time
 - Dress Up
 - Bring music for your accompanist in a binder
 - Memorize your music (vocal majors)
 - Memorize your foreign language text translations (vocal majors)
- ___ Spring Semester Tech Jury
 - Bring proof of 2 outside hours experiences
 - FVA All-State Sight Reading 1
 - GPA and Grades in all classes should be passing