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Description automatically generated**Reedley College, MUS 24**

**Beginning Voice**

**Syllabus, Spring 2024**

**Humanities Division**

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| **Dr. Kirstina Collins, Instructor**  [kirstina.collins@reedleycollege.edu](mailto:kirstina.collins@reedleycollege.edu)  (559) 638-0300 X3657 | **Office hours:**  T/Th 12-1 in HUM 64 (Piano Lab)  T/W 3-4 in MUS 175 (Music Office)  Fri by appointment  **Required Materials**  Pencil, Notebook |

**Welcome**

Welcome to Beginning Voice!  This semester you will gain tools that will help you improve your singing voice, week by week!  In this course you will have individual or small group singing lessons and group voice classes, which will include learning about singing topics as well as master classes.  Our group classes will be combined with the Intermediate/Advanced Voice Class, so we can all learn from each other.  Get ready to see your singing voice transform!

**Course Schedule**

Tuesdays: Voice Class—11:00-11:50am – MUS170

Weekly voice lesson: Non-majors-- Thursday at 11am-- MUS 170

Majors—private lesson to be scheduled –MUS 174

**Course Content**

**Course Description:**

This course will study beginning tone production and basic voice technique, and singing simple solo songs in English or foreign languages. It is designed for the student with little or no formal voice training.

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

*Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:*

1. Learn the basics of vocal technique.
2. Learn the basics of music reading.
3. Perform solos in front of an audience.

**Objectives:**

*In the process of completing this course, students will:*

1. Sing solo repertoire for the voice, in more than one musical style
2. Gain experience and confidence in singing
3. Progress in your singing skills
4. Have a better understanding of the fundamentals of vocal technique

**Weekly Breakdown:**

*Each week students have a private lesson in addition to the following:*

Week 1: Releasing Tension From Your Instrument (Quiz 1)

Week 2: Aligning your Instrument/Warming Up & Practicing (Quiz 2)

Week 3: Breathing for Singing (Quiz 3)

Week 4: Starting and Stopping the Tone (Quiz 4)

Week 5: Masterclass 1/ Reviews Due

Week 6: IPA and English Diction

Week 7: German Diction

Week 8: Vocal Registers (Quiz 5)

Week 9: Masterclass 2A/Reviews Due

Week 10: Masterclass 2B/Reviews Due

Week 11: Italian Diction

Week 12: French Diction

Week 13: Masterclass 3A/ Reviews Due

Week 14: Masterclass 3B/Reviews Due Musical

Week 15: Expression/Telling the Story (Assignment 6 Due)

Week 16: Performing a Song

Week 17: Masterclass 4/Dress Rehearsal (Program Notes Due)

**Course Expectations, Late Work, Visitors, and Extra Credit**

* Attend all classes and your weekly voice lessons—the things you will learn in theory and practice will make a huge impact on your voice!
* Sing every day! Sing in the shower, sing in the car, do lip trills as you walk to class or hum as you cook dinner. You get the idea! Spend time each week practicing your song from your lessons and listening to YouTube recordings and practicing with your accompaniment track. The more you sing, the more opportunities you have to improve.
* Complete all written work, whether it’s an open book quiz on a topic we discuss in class, program notes for your final song, or giving written reviews to your classmates following masterclasses.
* Learn 4 songs over the course of the semester and perform them in masterclasses. We have a supportive singing community, that combines the beginning and advanced voice classes. You should feel safe to perform for your classmates in our masterclasses. Learning to perform is an important part of developing as a singer!
* Per the SCCCD policy, visitors (including children) are not allowed in classes without prior written consent of the instructor.
* Extra credit, while unusual, will be offered to every student in the class equally.

**Course Grading and Evaluation**

**Grading Scale:** A: 90-100 B: 80-89 C: 70-79 D: 60-69 F: below 60.0

**Grade Breakdown:**

30%-- Voice Lessons: attend at least 12 voice lessons and in each lesson, demonstrate improvement and

that you have practiced your singing in your own time

40%-- Performances: You will sing in four masterclasses over the course of the semester.

You will be graded on pitch, rhythm, performance, memorization, and application of vocal techniques

10%-- Class Reviews: In all masterclasses, you will share verbal comments with the other section’s

singers, and written comments for students in your section. Comments are positive between students.

20%-- Quizzes and Program Notes: You will be graded on 6 open-book quizzes, and one program notes

assignment.

Jury – The end of the year Juries will be for Vocal Majors ONLY!!!

All songs must be memorized for the jury, and it is worth half of your performance grade.

**\*For Music Majors, you must receive a 70 or above for this class to count towards your degree**

**Other Schedule**

CLASS WILL NOT MEET: March 25-29th (Spring Break)   
Full Refund Drop Deadline: Friday, January 19th   
Add with authorization/No “W” Drop Deadline: Friday, January 26th

Final Drop Deadline: Friday, March 8th  
If a class is canceled other than these stated dates, there will either be advance notice given by the instructor or an official announcement placed on the classroom door.

**Students with Disabilities**

If you have a verified need for an academic accommodation or materials in alternate media (i.e., Braille, large print, electronic text, etc.) per the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, please contact the instructor as soon as possible.

**Academic Honesty and Disruption**

For detailed information regarding Academic Dishonesty, Plagiarism, and Disruption, please see pages 46-47 of the Reedley College Catalogue. From the catalogue: Because cheating, plagiarism, and collusion in dishonest activities erode the integrity of the college, each student is expected to exert and entirely honest effort in all academic endeavors. Academic dishonesty in any form is a very serious offense and will incur serious consequences.

Please turn off and stow all cell phones and other electronic devices during class. Students may be dismissed from class and counted as absent for creating excessive disruptions.

**Prerequisites:**  None

**Advisories:** English 1A recommended