



## MUSC 3530: Opera Production Course Syllabus—Fall 2011

Individuals with disabilities who need to request accommodations should contact the Disability Services Coordinator, Student Center 255, 678-466-5445  
[disabilityservices@mail.clayton.edu](mailto:disabilityservices@mail.clayton.edu)

If you are already registered with Disability Services and are seeking accommodations for this course, please make an appointment with me to discuss your specific accommodation needs for this course and give me your accommodations letter

### **Dr. Kurt-Alexander Zeller**

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Office Hours: Mondays 11-12 and 5:30-6:30 p.m.; Wednesdays 3:00-4:00 p.m.; Thursdays 3:30-4:30 p.m.

### **Course Description:**

*Number and Title:* MUSC 3530 (CRN 86507): Opera Production

*Credit Hours:* 1.0 semester credit hours

*Course Prerequisite:* Successful completion of Sophomore Barrier exam or permission of instructor

*Catalogue Description:* Preparation for performance of staged operatic production. May be repeated for credit.

*Other Notes:* **Enrollment in MUSC 3530 in Fall Semester is a commitment also to enroll for MUSC 3530 in Spring Semester; Fall-only participation is not available.**

### **Class Meetings:**

The class will meet for two 120-minute class sessions per week, 5:00-7:00 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Tuesday meetings are in Room 157 of the Music Education Building (MEB 157) and Thursday meetings are in Room 150 of the MEB.

### **Required Materials and Text Coverage:**

David Ostwald. *Acting for Singers*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2005. ISBN 0-19-514540-2. Students will need to read the entire book and perform exercises, prepare assignments, and take quizzes based upon various sections of the book.

Legal scores of assigned repertoire.

### **Computer Requirement:**

Each CSU student is required to have ready access throughout the semester to a notebook computer that meets faculty-approved hardware and software requirements for the student's academic program. Students will sign a statement attesting to such access. For further information on CSU's Official Notebook Computer Policy, please go to <http://itpchoice.clayton.edu/policy.htm>.

### **Computer Skill Prerequisites:**

- Ability to use the Windows™ operating system
- Ability to use Microsoft Word™ word processing
- Ability to send and receive e-mail using Outlook™ or Outlook Express™
- Ability to attach and retrieve attached files via e-mail
- Ability to use a Web browser

### **Course Learning Outcomes:**

Students who apply themselves to the work will

- 1) learn and practice skills in text and score analysis necessary for effectively preparing theatrical music and developing characterization,
- 2) prepare and *memorize* the music and text of roles they will perform and/or cover in the CSU production during Spring of 2011,
- 3) begin to develop a dramatically viable characterization of those roles, based upon a written summary of their analysis of the givens of the libretto and score and their own text-imagination work,
- 4) gain some experience with practical aspects of stage effectiveness, and
- 5) gain some cursory experience with non-singing aspects of the opera industry. Some students who are not cast in the opera, or who do not wish to perform but still wish to participate, may be able to receive credit for working in a theatre tech capacity in addition to studying analysis and performance skills with the rest of the cast. In such cases, students will meet the objective above in areas of the opera field other than performance. These may include theatre tech, design, dramaturgy, stage management or other activities. See instructor for details.

## Music Program Learning Outcomes:

Mastering the material will support outcome 1 of all the Music degree curricula as well as outcomes 2 and 4 of the B.M. in Performance curriculum and outcomes 2 and 3 of the BA in Music curriculum:

*Music Outcome #1:* The ability to hear, identify and work with the elements of music (melody, harmony, rhythm, form, texture, and timbre) in sound and notation.

*B.M. Outcome #2:* Demonstrate professional competence in performance including technical mastery, sight-reading and interpretive skills, and artistic self-expression.

*B.M. Outcome #4:* Performance skills appropriate to the student's needs and interests, including competence in sight reading and realizing a variety of musical styles.

*B.A. Outcome #2:* Performance skills appropriate to the student's needs and interests, including competence in sight reading and realizing a variety of musical styles.

*B.A. Outcome #3:* The ability to collaborate effectively in a variety of situations and settings.

## Course Schedule (subject to change)

**NB. Expect to attend every class, either for musical coaching, for group theatre exercises, or acting work. Specific rehearsal schedules will be posted the previous week. Major events listed below:**

Tue 16 Aug: Course organization and discussion of goals

Tue 06 Sept: Faculty Development Day: NO CLASS

Thu 29 Sept: **MIDTERM** (Includes handing in "Givens" list)

(Fri 07 Oct: Last day to drop courses without academic accountability)

Tue 22 Nov: Just a reminder: this IS a class day; we WILL use it!

Thu 24 Nov: THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY—NO CLASS. Eat turkey....

Tue 29 Nov: **Finished written character analyses due**  
**(NB. Possible performance for CSU Holiday Tree event at 4 p.m.)**

Thu 02 Dec: Final class rehearsal

**FINAL: The university-scheduled final for this course is Tuesday, 6 December 2011, 5:00 p.m.**

## Assessment and Course Grading:

Semester grades will be determined according to the following formula:

<i>Assessment Instrument</i>	<i>Applicable Outcomes</i>	<i>Grade Percentage</i>
Midterm:	1, 2, 3	20%
Quality of daily participation/preparation:	1, 2, 3, 4	30%
Characterization paper:	1, 3, 4	15%
Tech calls	4, 5	10%
Performance (including final):	1, 2, 3, 4	25%

**[NOTE: Students who are not “off book” for the final will receive a zero.]**

TOTAL SEMESTER GRADE: 100%

Students will earn grades according to the familiar formula where A=90-100%, B=80-89%, C=70-79%, D=60-69%, F=<60%

*Attendance and quality of participation/preparation* evaluation includes

- ✓ Being present, on time and ready to work, for all calls
- ✓ Being prepared for all calls, with music, text, or other material assigned properly prepared
- ✓ Bringing a willing spirit of inquiry and experimentation to all calls
- ✓ A collegial and cooperative attitude toward instructors and fellow ensemble members
- ✓ Making optimal use of class time when the student is not called for a specific rehearsal so as to continue to progress even when not working with a director

TOTAL POINTS: 120 (30 classes x 4 points—being tardy loses 1 point)

(Course Outcomes 1-3)

*Midterm* includes

- ✓ Being able to speak and sing musically and textually correctly selected sections from assigned script and score and to demonstrate that progress has been made toward solving vocal-technical problems and characterization challenges. This is not a performance, but it should be perfect in its purely notational mechanics (e.g., pitches, rhythms, words).
- ✓ Preparation (to be turned in at the midterm) of a written summary of all the “givens” of the entire scores (even if only scenes assigned) concerning assigned characters, with page number references
- ✓ Test on terms and concepts from Ostwald, including Appendices 1-3.

TOTAL POINTS: 80

(Course Outcomes 1-3)

*Text-Imagination Characterization Paper*: see handout

TOTAL POINTS: 60

(Course Outcomes 1, 3 and 4)

*Tech Call* grading criteria

- ✓ Following instructions exactly and carefully
- ✓ Industry of application. Standing around and talking during a tech call will not earn you points
- ✓ Being present, on time and ready to work

TOTAL POINTS: 40 (Being tardy loses 25% of points)

(Course Outcomes 4 and 5)

*Final* includes

- ✓ Being able to speak and sing your entire part musically and textually correctly **for memory** and demonstrate significant vocal-technical and aural characterization progress over midterm performance
- ✓ Musical and textual *accuracy* should be performance level; parameters of technique and characterization should be at a high level but may still be in progress

TOTAL POINTS: 100

(Course Outcomes 1-4)

SEMESTER TOTAL: 400 points

**Midterm Progress Report:** The reported Midterm Advisory Grade in this course, which will be issued by 4 October, reflects approximately 33% of the entire course grade. Based on the Midterm Advisory Grade, students may choose to withdraw from the course and receive a course grade of "W." Students pursuing this option must fill out an official withdrawal form, available from the SWAN, by mid-term, which occurs this term on 7 October 2011. See <https://secure.clayton.edu/studentforms/withdraw.aspx> for more information about withdrawal policies and procedures.

## Course Policies:

### General Policy

Students must abide by policies in the [Clayton State University Student Handbook](#), the [Basic Undergraduate Student Responsibilities](#), and the [Music Student Handbook](#).

### In-class Use of Student Notebook Computers:

Student notebook computers will not be used in the classroom in this course, except as announced. (Students may need computers to make a presentation to the class but will not normally use them in class.) Computers will be required to access course materials and schedules and to communicate with your instructor.

### University Attendance Policy

Students are expected to attend and participate in every class meeting. Instructors establish specific policies relating to absences in their courses and communicate these policies to the students through the course syllabi. Individual instructors, based upon the nature of the course, determine what effect excused and unexcused absences have in determining grades and upon students' ability to remain enrolled in their courses. The university reserves the right to determine that excessive absences, whether justified or not, are sufficient cause for institutional withdrawals or failing grades.

### Course Attendance and Missed Work Policy

The University Attendance Policy states the following: "Students are expected to attend and participate in every class meeting." In this course, every 2 unexcused absences will result in a one-letter reduction in semester grade. In an ensemble situation, it is not possible to make up to one's colleagues the work that one has missed. If one member of the ensemble is not participating fully, then the work of all members suffers. Live theatre happens only in the moment, so late work will not be accepted. Exceptions will be granted only in very extraordinary circumstances for which the student provides **written documentation from** the appropriate medical, legal, or university sources in a timely manner. Without a valid written excuse, a grade of zero points will be assigned for the missed work.

The final examination must be taken.

### Academic Dishonesty

Any type of activity that is considered dishonest by reasonable standards may constitute academic misconduct. The most common forms of academic misconduct are cheating and plagiarism. All instances of academic dishonesty will result in a grade of zero for the work involved. All instances of academic dishonesty will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct. Judicial procedures are described at <http://adminservices.clayton.edu/studentconduct/>

### **Disruption of the Learning Environment**

Behavior which disrupts the teaching-learning process during class activities will not be tolerated. While a variety of behaviors can be disruptive in a classroom setting, more serious examples include belligerent, abusive, profane, and/or threatening behavior. A student who fails to respond to reasonable faculty direction regarding classroom behavior and/or behavior while participating in classroom activities may be dismissed from class. A student who is dismissed is entitled to due process and will be afforded such rights as soon as possible following dismissal. If found in violation, a student may be administratively withdrawn and may receive a grade of WF.

A more detailed description of examples of disruptive behavior and appeal procedures is provided at:

<http://a-s.clayton.edu/DisruptiveClassroomBehavior.htm>

Students are requested to be mindful and respectful of the respiratory allergies and sensitivities of their colleagues in their use of scented products; excessive scents, even those considered pleasant by many people, can severely disrupt the learning environment for individuals with respiratory sensitivities.

**ALL CELL PHONES, PAGERS, BEEPERS, TIMERS, AND OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICES OF ANY SORT MUST BE TURNED OFF AT THE BEGINNING OF CLASS. If a student's cell phone rings in class, the student may be asked to leave the class and be counted as absent. If the instructor's cell phone rings in class, everyone gets an extra 4 points (the equivalent of an extra class) for the day.**

### **Other Policies and Announcements**

CSU e-mail accounts will be used for all course announcements

Students should note that a grade of D in this course is not sufficient to fulfill the requirements for a major in Music