VOCAL METHODS – MUS 1801 (Section 001/002)
Course Instructor: Prof. Jennifer Moir
E-mail: jmoir@uwo.ca  Phone: x84325
Office: MB 245
Office Hours: By appointment

CLASS SCHEDULE
Monday, Wednesday, Friday 10:30am-11:30pm, TC 101 (001)
Monday, Wednesday, Friday 11:30am-12:30pm, TC 101 (002)

COURSE DESCRIPTION
Vocal Methods (MUS 1801) is a foundations course designed to provide an opportunity for students to
develop their unique expressive skills. Students will explore the fundamentals of singing, including (but
not limited to) voice function, breath control, tone production, diction (basics of the International Phonetic
Alphabet), vocal health, solo and ensemble singing. The format of the class shall consist of a balance of
lecture and performance. This course is a pre-requisite for Choral Conducting (MUS 233).

Note: “Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may
be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no
adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.”

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

- Demonstrate a knowledge of the fundamentals of singing through appropriate
  use of vocal technique in solo and ensemble performances
- Synthesize theoretical and practical knowledge in reflective written
  assignments addressing issues of voice and singing

REQUIRED MATERIALS
Binder/Notebook
Manuscript Paper
A personal recording device, camera, computer etc., to record solo and ensemble performances

OWL:
The syllabus and other important course documents will be available for download on the OWL
site by logging on to https://owl.uwo.ca/portal and following the appropriate links to the MUS
1801A (Section 001/002) area. Any important announcements will also be posted on this site, so
please check regularly for postings.

EVALUATION
Practical Performance (60%) (please note which group you are assigned to for corresponding
performance dates listed on your syllabus. Ensemble group/repertoire must be chosen by the
Due Date listed in the syllabus.
Solo performance #1 – 15%
Solo performance #2 – 15%
Ensemble performance – 15%
Final solo performance – 15%
Student Support Service
The following websites may be useful to you in obtaining support during your studies:

Office of the Registrar: This site provides you with information on things like course enrollment, student finances, and student records, as well as the latest updates from Student Central.
http://www.registrar.uwo.ca/

The Student development centre: The Student Development Centre is home to a variety of services specially designed to meet the needs of undergraduate and graduate students on campus
http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/

Student Services: Within this portal you will find services, application, personal information, along with connections to other services offered to help you during your time here at Western.
https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm/

Written Work:

Written Assignments (15%)
Three assignments, each worth 5% (see syllabus for due dates)

Written Test and Quiz (15%)
Covers material from lectures, all in-class discussions, handouts, and textbook

Participation and Attendance (10%)
Because feedback from colleagues is a crucial part of this course and because each singer learns from observing and analyzing the performances of their colleagues, attendance is mandatory.
Your colleagues depend on your full participation as much as you depend on them for a rewarding learning experience. One full mark will be deducted for each unexplained or invalid absence. In addition to reflecting attendance, the participation mark will also be based on the completion of journals (3), a final progress report (written and verbal), and completion of rehearsal journals and self evaluation forms for each performance.

Vocal Performances
Specific requirements for each solo performance: Please note, all songs must be in English and performers must be accompanied on piano. Performers may not accompany themselves.

Vocal Solo 1: Folksong in English, (does not have to be memorized)
Vocal Solo 2: Art song, folksong or musical theatre in English – (memorized)
Ensemble: In English – (does not have to be memorized– though this can greatly improve the performance. Ensemble pieces will be chosen from the packet of rounds handed out at the beginning of the semester. Students are responsible for choosing groups of 3 or 4 singers from within their section to form ensemble groups of their choosing. Criteria for the ensemble assignment include the following: All performances must have a definite beginning and ending. In addition to singing the round one person per part as written, groups must create at least three variations, making sure to include at least one idea from each person in the group in the final arrangement.)
Final Solo: Art song, folksong or musical theatre in English (This performance will begin with a brief oral report of your progress throughout the term – see final progress report, under assignments) – (memorized)

Missed solos will receive a mark of zero. Please note that in the case of illness or emergency, please call and e-mail your instructor as soon as possible. You may be asked to present proper medical documentation.
Evaluation for performances:
Each solo and ensemble performance will be self-evaluated following review of your recording. Students shall complete the evaluation form provided by the instructor (found under Resources on OWL) and submit it electronically by the class that follows their solo performance. The final mark for each solo will be determined after an individual, collaborative evaluation consultation with the instructor. Because each student will differ in his or her own background in vocal music study, evaluation will be based upon individual progress.

ASSIGNMENTS
All assignments are due at the beginning of the class on their respective due dates. Marks are awarded for content, proper grammatical usage, and spelling.

Assignment 1: Personal Voice Profile and Repertoire Selection and Description
See “Assignment 1” sheet for specific details
Due: _____________________

Assignment 2: CD Review
See “Assignment 2” sheet for specific details
Due: _____________________

Assignment 3: Vocal Health Article Review
See “Assignment 3” sheet for specific details
Due: _____________________

Journals for Vocal Methods:
A: Respond to each of the following quotes/thoughts, journal style!
1) Sing like there’s no one listening! Due: _____________________
2) What are your goals for yourself in this course and why? Due: _____________________

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION:
Illness:
As of May 2008, the University has a new policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness, which states that “in order to ensure fairness and consistency for all students, academic accommodation for work representing 10% or more of the student’s overall grade in the course shall be granted only in those cases where there is documentation indicating that the student was seriously affected by illness and could not reasonably be expected to meet his/her academic responsibilities. Documentation shall be submitted, as soon as possible, to the appropriate Dean’s office...” Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness found at:
http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf
Accommodation for illness:
If illness affects the ability of a student to complete any written assignments on time, extensions may be granted. If illness affects the ability of the student to complete a performance, a make-up performance time will be offered, when possible. If an alternate performance date is not possible, written work will be assigned for the equivalent mark weighting. (Note: The above accommodations are for medical illness of work worth less than 10% of the total course grade. In all cases, medical documentation is required).
Scholastic Offences:

“Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, as found at www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholoff.pdf.”

Mental Health

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western “http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/” for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.