



Loyola University Chicago

John Felice Rome Center

MUSC 142 SYLLABUS SPRING 2026

Professor Delia Surratt

E mail: [dsurratt@luc.edu](mailto:dsurratt@luc.edu)

Lesson Schedule Mondays

Lesson time 900 am-12:00pm

\*Extra individual 20 min “homework” lesson to be announced.

#### COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

This is an artistic core introductory course in singing open to any student who wants to discover how the human body can make harmonious, intense sound in a natural way. This course offers a methodic way to study vocal music and explores the technical basis of “Belcanto” as it is understood throughout the world using the Italian musical repertory from the Art Song to Italian Pop music.

The learning objectives are (1) understand the body physically as a wind instrument in sound production; (2) clarifying the role of the ear in sound perception, thus eliminating the problem of being “out of tune”; (3) improve speaking voice in warmth and volume for public speaking; (4) introduce students to the Italian vocal repertory following the musical history from the Italian Art Song to Italian pop music; (5) experience singing in front of an audience (and in the Italian language) using the physical confidence acquired during the course.

#### COURSE STRUCTURE

The course is structured in the following manner:

1. A basic understanding of the human body used as an instrument of sound; nurturing natural breathing as the key to improving singing and speaking voice.
  - a. the important role of the brain
  - b. breathing---the human body, used for singing and speaking, is a wind instrument;
  - c. the mouth and tongue positions
2. Compositions to be studied; All music used during the course will be provided by the professor and will be exclusively Italian.
  - a. Art songs to be studied from the following albums: Parisotti, “Arie Antiche” vol.1, 2, 3. Ed. Ricordi; Knud Jeppesen, “La Flora” Arie Antiche vol. 1, 2, 3. Ed. Hansen.

- b. "Operetta in Europa" vol.1, 2. Ed. Almanacco.
  - c. Operatic Arias by Monteverdi, Pergolesi, Paesiello and Alessandro Scarlatti.
  - d. Popular Music—Italian Pop music from the 30's, 40's 50's, 60's, 70's, 80's, and 90's.
3. Study Method: The course also offers a methodic way to study vocal music:
- a. The text---Translation, Italian diction for singing and an introduction to the "Vaccai "method of word division.
  - b. Physical coordination---Feeling how the body can make sound using the chosen pieces of music to employ the technical notions pointed out during the lessons.
  - c. \*Additional "homework" lessons are one on one individual 20 minute lessons given by the professor to guide the students in understanding and repeating the physical, technical facts introduced during the class time. This will aid the learning the physical technique and the student will benefit from one-on-one time with the instructor.
  - d. Italian music---Part of the full cultural immersion at the Rome Center, the Italian language is perfect for singing because of its many vowels. The music will be chosen keeping in mind the student's personal goals and repertory preferences.

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

### ATTENDANCE POLICY

In accordance with the Rome Center mission to promote a higher level of academic rigor, and in compliance with full-time student visa status, all courses adhere to the following attendance policy.

- a) Prompt attendance, preparation and active participation in course discussions are expected from every student and synonymous with academic success. Attendance is mandatory at every class meeting for each course. Lateness or leaving class early will impact the course grade at the professor's discretion. All absences, including medical absences, will be treated the same, unless they are documented long-term conditions or emergencies. Such situations will be evaluated case by case by the Academic Affairs office.
- b) ONCE-A-WEEK CLASSES: After 1 absence, a 2% final grade reduction will be applied for each missed class. Missing 3 classes or more will result in an automatic failure (F).
- c) Homework:
  - a. home reviewing of the papers that the professor distributes in class;
  - b. listening audio clips provided by professor;
  - c. practicing exercises to stimulate brain training;
  - d. listening assignments suggested by the professor, which will include attendance at both one performance of an opera and one vocal recital.
  - e. Obligatory presence at the homework lessons
- d) Healthy vocal cords---which means that the student has a natural voice that has not been misused to the point of having nodes on the vocal cords.



## GRADING

The students will be graded by the following criterion: Attendance, homework assigned, and most important of all, at midterm and for the final exam the students will be asked to perform a song or duet learned during the course in which they will apply the technical notions learned during the course.

The student's progress will be assessed keeping in mind the initial vocal state, since this is an introductory course.

## PERCENTAGE POINTS IN GRADING

- a. 30% participation: the coordination of the technical notions learned while singing in class. The students will be judged by the correct usage of the technique learned.
- b. 15% homework: attending the homework lessons\*. Listening to the voice clips given by the professor to learn the music without singing. Practicing the exercises given to stimulate imagination. (Brain training)
- c. 20% midterm exam: singing an Italian Art Song
- d. 35% final exam: singing a second song chosen after the midterm from the repertory mentioned in the syllabus. Plus a written exam on the technical facts learned during the course. (ENSEMBLE PERFORMANCE?)

## GRADING

94-100: A

90-93: A-

87-89: B+

84-86: B

80-83: B-

77-79: C+

74-76: C

70-75: C-

67-69: D+



60-66: D

59 or lower F

#### ACADEMIC HONESTY

Plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty are unacceptable at the JFRC and will be dealt with in accordance with Loyola University Chicago's guidelines. Please familiarize yourself with Loyola's standards here: [http://www.luc.edu/academics/catalog/undergrad/reg\\_academicintegrity.shtml](http://www.luc.edu/academics/catalog/undergrad/reg_academicintegrity.shtml). You are responsible to comply with the LUC Student Handbook.

#### LATE OR MISSED ASSIGNMENTS

Late or missed assignments will not be accepted for grading without the authorization of the instructor. As per the JFRC academic policies, students who miss any scheduled exam or quiz, including a final exam at the assigned hours will not be permitted to sit for a make-up examination without approval of the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs. Permission is given rarely and only for grave reason; travel is not considered a grave reason. Make-up exams will only be given for documented absences.

#### ACCESSIBILITY ACCOMMODATIONS

Students registered with the Student Accessibility Center requiring academic accommodations should contact the Office of the Dean at the John Felice Rome Center, the first week of classes.

#### **Title IX**

The Rome Center follows Loyola's [Comprehensive Policy and Procedures for Addressing Discrimination, Sexual Misconduct, Retaliation](#) and will comply with those as indicated and instructed.

#### SPRING SCHEDULE OF CLASS THEMES

Jan. 19 Introduction to the Art of Singing

- a) The human body as an instrument of sound
- b) An audition of each student's basic singing voice.

Jan.26 Breathing---the fundamental basis for sound

- a) Coordination of this natural function under the guidance of the professor using song.

Feb.2 The important role of the brain

- a) Checking the breathing with the sound production of each student

- b) The importance of distance perception in making intense sound
- c) The students use these technical rules singing an art song under the guidance of the professor.

Feb.9            How to study vocal music

- a) The Vaccai method of word division
- b) Student singing using the notions explored during the previous lessons

Feb.16           The positions of the mouth and tongue.

- a) Mouth openings that change with the various areas of the vocal range.
- b) The importance of a relaxed tongue
- c) Student singing and exploring these technical notions.

Feb.23           Review of the technical notions with the Italian art songs chosen.

Mar.2        ---    Rehearsal and midterm exam.

Mar. 6----15    Spring break

Mar.16           Student singing-- reviewing the coordination of the technical notions explored in the previous lessons using new repertory (Italian pop songs, musicals or opera)

Mar. 20           Friday lesson

Mar. 23           Using the new repertory -----Student singing, reviewing the coordination of the technical notions explored in the previous lessons under the guidance of the professor.

April 3—6        Easter

Mar. 30           Singing under the guidance of the professor.

April 13           Singing under the guidance of the professor.

April 20           Singing under the guidance of the professor.

April 27           Final exam



JOHN FELICE

**ROME  
CENTER**