DESCRIPTION:

Opera Workshop is offered only in the spring semester, and is designed to assist students in developing performance skills in the lyric theater. The course presents a systematic and practical approach to stage basics. The course will offer an introduction to opera history, basic stage technique, including acting and stage movement. The course will also analyze and differentiate performance styles and acting for the lyric theater. Seminars will also cover stage make-up, stage combat, 17th and 18th century dance, as well as recitativo practices. Masterclasses with guest artists from the field of opera will also be included.

GOALS/OUTCOMES:

The purpose of this course is to equip the student with tools for characterization, dramatic and musical analysis, and stage movement. The student will learn how to study the musical drama as a performer. Students will develop professional rehearsal skills, etiquette, and the ability to work well within a group. Through improvisation and theater games students will develop spontaneity, confidence, listening skills and emotional access to performance.

REQUIREMENTS:

Text:

Acting for Singers: Creating Believable Singing Characters, David F. Ostwald (Oxford University Press)

Recommended texts:

Actions: The Actors’ Thesaurus, M. Caldarone and M. Lloyd-Williams (Drama Publishers)
Respect for Acting, U. Hagen (Macmillan Publishing Co.)
Scene/Monologue/Musical Preparation:
Students are expected to prepare and learn all scenes, monologues and recitatives assigned. All acting or musical assignments must be performed from memory.

EVALUATION:

Grades:
A grade will be given for each activity/class per week. The grade will consider:

- Class Participation (Effort during class and progress throughout semester)
- Preparation (monologue, scene, recitative preparation, memorization)
- Cooperation (behavior, willingness to try new approaches)
- Attendance (which is recorded and tardiness noted)

Activity Grades – 70%
Written Assignments/Projects – 15%

Grades
A = 93-95%    B+ = 87-89%    C+ = 77-79%    D+ = 67-69%    F = 00-59%
A- = 90-92%   B = 83-86%    C = 73-76%    D = 63-66%
B- = 80-82%   C- = 70-72%    D- = 60-62%

GENERAL POLICIES:

Attendance: Attendance is vital to this class as it is mainly group activity based. You are expected to attend all classes. Daily in-class assignments, quizzes, exercises, and rehearsals cannot be made up for unexcused absences and you will receive an F for such assignments. Your grade will be lowered by one letter grade if you miss 10% of the scheduled classes. If you miss a total (excused or unexcused) of 25% of the scheduled classes you will fail the course.

Punctuality: Please be prompt for class by arriving 5 minutes before the scheduled time.

Absences: If you are unable to attend your class due to legitimate illness or emergency please inform me ASAP via email or text message.

Wardrobe: Please wear loose comfortable clothing that you don't mind getting dirty. No skirts or wear shorts under them so you are comfortable doing floor exercises.
Assignments: Assignments are designed to help you hone your craft as a performer. They will be given to you well in advance of their due date. Their content and requirements will be explained on an assignment-to-assignment basis. Your preparation of and proper execution of assignments make up a large percentage of your final grade for this course. NO LATE WORK WILL BE ACCEPTED. Late work will result in a failing grade for that assignment. Failure to follow instructions for a given assignment will also result in your receiving a failing grade for that assignment. If you have any questions, just ask for clarification.

Professionalism and Collegiality: We will be doing several exercises that are designed to get you out of your shell and into the realm of being a dynamic stage performer. You might feel silly, and as a result, might feel that the best way to get through any embarrassment would be to make fun of the exercise or to not participate at 100% commitment level. Always keep in mind that this is part of the process of what is necessary to be a good performing artist.

It is imperative that we create a safe environment of creativity. Students should display nothing but the utmost respect towards their colleagues and the work that is being presented. Some students in the class may even suffer from performance anxiety, a very normal and common reaction to performing in front of a group.

One of the goals of this class is to help young performers to overcome any anxieties but allowing them a place to practice and to hone their craft. As such, each member is responsible for exuding an atmosphere of safety, support and sensitivity. You all will be in front of the class as much, or even more, than I will be. Any student behaving in any way that I deem unprofessional or disruptive will be asked to leave. The participation grade for that day will be an “F.”

Communication: You must check your e-mail on a regular weekly basis! It is a requirement for this course. This campus is loaded with public computers, so I will not accept any excuse for failure to stay informed. The Opera Bulletin Board will also contain important information.
Opera Workshop – Music 183, 383, 583

Syllabus Spring 2014
Instructors: Toral/Lohorn

Please print this final page, sign it where indicated below, and bring it to class on Wednesday, Jan. 29.

I _______________________________________________ have read the syllabus for this course. I understand and will abide by the requirements therein.

__________________________________________  __________________
Signature                                         Date