

Indiana University School of Music
E596 Advanced Opera Role Preparation
Through Character Development and Score Analysis
Section 9249 Location: Music Library 361/Auer Hall Green Room

Instructor: Martina Arroyo

Class Pianists/Coaches: William Averill
Shuichi Umeyama

Office Hours: by appointment

Course Objectives: This course will entail discussion of methods for operatic role preparation, character development and related topics such as background literature, musical analysis and psychological development. The student is responsible for selecting, with the approval of his or her private teacher, an appropriate role from the operatic repertoire for study during one or more semesters. The singer will also be expected to do in-depth background study on his or her role choice and a detailed translation. There will be two weekly sessions of two hours each, which will be either class sessions or coachings, as per schedule. Enrollment is limited to 8-10 graduate students.

Class Meetings: Friday from 12:15-2:15 p.m. in ML361, and Saturday 12:30-2:30 p.m. in the Auer Hall Green Room. Coachings will meet at the same day and time, but can be flexible according to your pianist's schedule. Rehearsals will be on Thursdays - time and place TBA. See class syllabus for coaching structure.

Attendance: Attendance is required at all class sessions, coachings and musical rehearsals. It is understood that there may be a limited number of absences for reasons of illness or conflicts with University sponsored performances. Absences will be excused if conflicts are documented. More than 2 unexcused absences from either the classes, coachings or musical rehearsals will cause the grade to be lowered by half of a letter grade (ex. from A to A-). Those students who already know when they will be absent for auditions, performances, etc., please submit as soon as possible a note with those dates so that your assignments may be adjusted.

Grading Policies: 40% of your grade is for the translation and singing of the role.
Your word by word translation should be written into your score.
30% of your grade is a term paper, one half of which should be outlined and partially written by mid-term.
15% is class participation
15% percent is the mid-term exam.

Term paper: Total number of pages is unlimited. However, the section of analysis of the emotional development or changes in your character within the opera should be at least 6 pages. Your paper need not include excessive plot synopsis or the emotional development of other characters, except in their relationship to your character. How you choose to plan and arrange your paper is up to your discretion. All additional study and information will only enhance the grade. Your paper **MUST INCLUDE A BIBLIOGRAPHY**, and footnotes where applicable. You must read and refer to original source of opera, and listen to and list recordings which you have used in your research.

Suggested Reading: *The 10th Muse: A Historical Study of the Opera Libretto* by Patrick Smith and *Power Performance for Singers* by Shirlee Emmons and Alma Thomas.

Special Dates: August 31 - Orientation and General Discussion
October 20 - Written Mid-Term Exam
November 16 - Final Paper Due
November 21-25 – Thanksgiving Break
December 7, 8 - Final Vocal Exams
Other dates will be on separate sheet as assignments are individual.

NOTE: Please check out a score of each opera being studied in the class for the semester. These scores may be stored in the classrooms.