

**Syllabus for MUS 4241 Section 3**  
**Louisiana Opera Outreach Program (LOOP)**  
A Service-Learning Course, Spring 2005

MWF 9:30-10:30 plus TBA rehearsals/performances

**Instructor**

Prof. Robert Grayson  
[rgrayson@lsu.edu](mailto:rgrayson@lsu.edu) 578-2648  
Office Hours by Appointment

**Co-Instructors**

Laurelie Gheesling, LOOP Music Director  
[gheesling@lsu.edu](mailto:gheesling@lsu.edu)  
Dugg McDonough, Supervisor of  
Student Directors

**Required Texts**

Opera Scores will be provided for scenes as assigned: Final scene selection is dependent upon students enrolled.

**Course Description**

This is a Service-Learning course in which the student applies what s/he learns to make the community a better place. While helping others, the student gains knowledge that is directly connected to the learning goals of this course. Students will be enrolled by permission of the instructors and will be cast as characters in operatic scenes which will be musically coached by the outreach music director, or serve as student directors, or facilitate as student hosts, technical assistants, student production manager, or student outreach director. All members of the class will collaborate in writing the script that introduces each scene and in preparing a teacher-student study guide to introduce elementary and middle school students to opera basics and repertory before LOOP performances.

**Service-Learning Goals**

1. Students will improve individual musical and dramatic performance skills.
  2. Students will develop a sense of social responsibility by exploring the obligation of performers to society and the role of performer as educator.
  3. Students will develop cross-cultural communication skills through interactive performances/workshops with school students and teachers of many ethnicities and ages.
- Students will complete graded reflection journals and papers, and will participate in directed classroom discussions.

**Community Partners**

Teachers from the East Baton Rouge Parish Public Schools will serve as partners. Their participation will facilitate performances in their own schools and in other cooperating campuses. LOOP expects to offer 6-10 school performances during Fall 2005. The school children will benefit in the following ways.

1. Through preparation accomplished by won teachers utilizing the teacher student study guides prepared by LOOP students for operatic performances.
2. Through performance visits and presentations by the LOOP performers.
3. Through the interactive discussion and question/answer sessions conducted by LOOP performers.
4. Through limited school children's direct participation in LOOP performances.

**Academic Requirements**

1. Each student will fulfill his/her assignments as singer, director, host, or tech crew. Timely completion of each stage of the preparatory process will be assessed, as will performances.
2. Each student will participate in the research and preparation of the teacher-study guides, and scripts for the performances.
3. Each student will participate in a number of performance visits in the schools. In addition to ongoing reflection during regular class times, each student will be asked to write a reflection paper at the end of each performance sequence that will be placed in the reflection journals for future review by the instructors and community partners.
4. Additional rehearsal times may be required to complete the preparation of scenes. All students will be expected to make necessary arrangements to facilitate needed rehearsals.
5. Performances will be scheduled to roughly conform to regular class meeting times. All students will be expected to make necessary arrangements to participate in scheduled performances.
6. Each student will be required to attend (or perform) in all LSU Opera productions during the semester.

## **Course Dynamics**

Developing performances such as these requires collaborative work by each student with the instructors, students in positions of authority and student peers. The dynamic required for this class is one of mutual respect. Preparation and timely completion of assignments is expected. If any student has concerns, she should immediately bring same to the attention of one of the instructors, whose assessment and recommendation regarding the situation will be considered final.

## **Grading**

1. Participation in preparation of teacher-student study guides/scripts/research	10%
2. Timely and accurate preparation of scene (music and drama)	20%
3. Completion of Reflection Journal and related exercises	20%
4. Performances	30%
5. Attendance/on-time arrival/attitude	20%