A&M Commerce  
Performance Practice in Choir  
Spring 2015 Syllabus  
MUS 589.004  
MWF 12:00-1:50  
Music Building 105

Conductor  
Dr. Randall Hooper  
Office: MB 197  
Phone: 903-886-5284  
Email: randall.hooper@tamuc.edu  
Office hours by appointment

The course syllabus provides a general plan for the course; deviations may be necessary.

Philosophy  
The choral music program at Texas A&M University-Commerce is dedicated to the pursuit of excellence in performance of the finest in a variety of style and periods of choral music literature. The Chorale will work with great purpose and discipline toward this goal and toward providing choral experiences that will be rewarding and enriching for choir members and their audiences. In addition, this course is designed to provide the background, training, and experience (when coupled with complementary coursework in other areas) necessary for success in the professional fields of choral/vocal performance and music education. Here are the expectations of every singer in this ensemble:

- Commitment and loyalty
- Strong work ethic
- 100% effort
- Mark everything in your score
- Never be late
- Self-disciplined

The following are the musical expectations of this ensemble:

- The rehearsal
  - An end in itself
  - Be a leader and a sensitive listener
  - No room for the “prima dona” attitude
  - Bring only water to rehearsal room
  - NO CELL PHONES
- The concert
  - Sing the way we rehearsed

Communication  
This syllabus will be distributed through your MyLeo email account only; no hard
copies will be passed out. It is your responsibility to open the document, read its contents and print it if desired. You will be held responsible for the contents of the syllabus. Further, students are expected to establish and maintain a Facebook account along with membership in the TAMUC Chorale Facebook group. It is the students’ responsibility to check the TAMUC Chorale Facebook group on a regular basis in order to stay current with University-related communications, recognizing that certain communications may be time-critical. When necessary, emails will be sent the Chorale membership through the TAMUC Chorale Facebook group and your MyLeo email address.

Charms
Charms will also be used to communicate as well as to keep track of attendance, post the syllabus and the vocal division calendar. The school login is TAMUCMUSIC and your password is your student ID.

Ensemble Participation and Registration Conflicts
The Chorale requires a year-long commitment. It is expected that all singers will register for both the fall and spring terms. It is singer’s responsibility to plan a program of study that will not conflict with the rehearsal of the ensemble in which the singer is placed. All vocal majors should plan accordingly, avoiding class conflicts. Student’s teachers are the only exception to this rule.

University Publicity
Student images will be used by the University for publicity purposes on line and in print. If you do not wish to have your picture and or performance audio made available, contact your ensemble director in writing by the end of the first week of classes.

Cell Phones
Cell phones are strictly forbidden in rehearsal. The use of these devices in a rehearsal is grounds for dismissal.

Music Department Mission Statement
The Music Department of Texas A&M University-Commerce promotes excellence in music through the rigorous study of music history, literature, theory, composition, pedagogy, and the preparation of music performance in applied study and ensembles to meet the highest standards of aesthetic expression.

University Accommodation Policy
Texas A&M University-Commerce is committed to providing access and reasonable accommodation in its services, programs, activities, education and employment for individuals with disabilities. Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accommodations will be made in accordance with the law. To request ADA accommodations, please contact Dr. Chris White 903.886.5327 or the Director of Disability Resources & Services, Hallady Student Services Building, Room 303D, (903) 886–5150.
University Behavior Policy
All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment (Student’s Guide Handbook, Policies and Procedures, Conduct.)

Student Learning Outcomes
Upon successful completion of Ensemble Performance (Choral) MUS 100C and MUS 100S the student will be able to:
1) Exhibit accurate individual, sectional and ensemble intonation and rhythm along with fundamental and advanced instrumental techniques while performing a varied repertoire of music within the ensemble;
2) Perform expressively a varied repertoire of music representing styles and diverse cultures within the ensemble;
3) Utilize standard musical terminology to describe intervals, music notation, chord structure, rhythm/meter, harmonic texture, form, and music symbols and terms referring to dynamics, tempo, and articulation;
4) Utilize problem-solving skills to identify and correct problems with pitch, rhythm/meter, articulation, phrasing, and dynamics within a rehearsal setting.

Rehearsals
1. All singers are expected to be regular and punctual in their attendance of all choral rehearsals. All singers should attend rehearsals with MUSIC and a PENCIL.
2. Rehearsal procedures to be followed include:
   a. Each chorus member is responsible for obtaining a BLACK three-ring binder.
   b. It is your responsibility to return all music, in good condition. The student will be responsible to replace damaged or lost music. All music should have measures numbered starting with the first full measure of the music. You must bring your music to every rehearsal. Not having your music is reason for dismissal from rehearsal which will count as an absence.
   c. Singers are expected to be prepared for all rehearsals and performances. It is expected that each singer will spend time outside the choral rehearsal to learn the literature adequately. If a singer is too sick to participate in the rehearsal, the singer should not attend rehearsal and receive an absence for the rehearsal.
   d. Singers are expected to attend all rehearsals. Chronic absences and lateness will not be tolerated and may result in dismissal from the ensemble. No excused absences will be given, even for illness. If you must be absent from a rehearsal contact Dr. Hooper through email prior to rehearsal. An absence due to illness is still counted as an absence. Be in your assigned place at THE BEGINNING OF REHEARSAL. If you are on time, you are late! Tardiness and absences are reason for dismissal.
form the Chorale. If you are tardy to class, it is your responsibility to see the class secretary to change your absence to a tardy.

e. Do not schedule voice lessons, meetings with faculty members or other organizations, make-up classes or exams, registration, doctor/dental appointments, job interviews or any personal obligations during rehearsal times.

f. No one is allowed to “hide” in this choir. Everyone will contribute equally and is expected to know all the notes, rhythms, text, interpretive markings, etc… If a singer is not able to demonstrate proficiency in these areas it is cause for removal from the ensemble. A variety of singing tests will be used to allow singers to demonstrate proficiency.

g. Weekly sectionals will be held as scheduled by the section leader the section. This one 30 minute extra rehearsal is required of all member of the Chorale. Two sectional absences will count as one rehearsal absence.

h. Grades will be based on the singer’s participation, effort, contribution, cooperation, attitude, adherence to the above criteria, singing tests and on the basis of attendance according to the following formula:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tardies:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Two tardies will equal one absence.</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Absences:</th>
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<td>1-2= no grade change, 3= grade lowered by one letter, 4= grade lowered by two letters, 5= grade lowered by three letters, 6 or more= failure of course.</td>
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Failure to attend the scheduled dress rehearsal will result in final grade being lowered by two letter grades.
Failure to attend a scheduled concert of the chorus will result in an automatic “F” for the course.

Grading definitions beyond attendance:

An A will be earned by the singer who exhibits excellent attentiveness to musical detail, preparation, ensemble participation, is a leader and role mode to others.

A B will be earned by the singer who exhibits superior attentiveness to musical detail, preparation, ensemble participation, and is a valued asset to the ensemble.

A C will be earned by the singer who exhibits no more than average attentiveness to musical detail, preparation, and ensemble participation.

A D will be earned by the singer who exhibits unacceptable attentiveness to musical detail, preparation and ensemble participation.

An F will be earned by the singer who exhibits no attentiveness to musical detail, preparation and ensemble participation.
Concert Responsibilities

1. Performance dates will be announced as early as possible, normally at the beginning of the semester. Singers are expected to be present at all performances. Prior to each performance the conductor will issue a concert call time.
2. The student is responsible for purchasing their own concert attire.
3. Concert dress is as follows:
   Men:
   - Black tuxedo
   - White wing tip tuxedo shirt
   - Black satin vest
   - Black dress shoes (NO TENNIS SHOES!)
   - Black socks
   Women:
   - Black concert dress (order by the department)
   - Black dress heels
4. Casual Concert Dress is as follows:
   - Blue TAMUC Chorale polo shirt (ordered through the choral department)
   - Khaki pants
   - Brown or Black shoes

Vocal Division Schedule 2014-15

January
10th: Area C TMEA All-State Auditions
12th-31st: Opera Rehearsals
20th: First Class Day

February
5th, 6th, and 7th: Opera- 7:30 in the CH
8th: Opera- 3:00 in the CH
11th through 14th: TMEA
20th: NZ UIL Solo and Ensemble- 1:00 10:00
21st: Audition Day (officers help)
25th-28th: ACDA National Convention in Salt Lake City

March
5th: Spring Choir Concert- 7:30 Concert Hall
6th-8th: Chorale Tour
14th: Audition Day (officers help)
16th through 20th: Spring Break
24th: Dress Rehearsal Choral Graduate Recital CH 5:30-8:30
25th: Choral Graduate Recital 7:30
28th: Audition Day (officers help)
April
12th: Chamber Singers Concert- 3:00
19th: Chamber Singers Concert for Dallas Alumni Chapter of Mu Phi Epsilon- Dallas Library 3:00
19th: Choir Dress Rehearsal- Concert Hall 6-10
24th: Choir Concert- Concert Hall Dress Rehearsal 4:30-6:30, Concert 7:30
25th: Opera Workshop dress rehearsal- TBA
26th: Opera Workshop Recital CH- 3:00

May
8th: Conductors Concert- Concert Hall 6:00
21st: Splash Day Choral Festival
22nd: Splash Day Choral Festival

Dates marked in bold are required for this choir

Any additional dates will be given out as they are known. Singers will always be given sufficient notice of required Choral functions.