

A&M Commerce Chamber Singers

Fall 2015 Syllabus

MUS 300S-009

MWF 3:00-3:50

Music Building 105

Conductor

Dr. Randall Hooper

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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 from 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:

Tardies:
Two tardies will equal one absence.

Absences:
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.

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 dress shirt
 - Blue windsor tie (order by the department)
 - Black dress shoes (NO TENNIS SHOES!)
 - Black socksWomen:
 - 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 Calendar 2015-2016

August

- 27th: Sing Alma Mater at Lion Camp 11:15-12:15
- 28th and 29th: Retreat at Cooper Lake State Park
- 30th: Placement Auditions in the Choir Room 1:00-10:00
- 31st: First Class Day

September

- 5th: Region Clinic- Whole Building 9:00-3:30 (workers 8-5)
- 11th: Chorale Palooza- Band Hall and Choir Room 7:00pm-12:00am

October

- 12th: Chorale Women and University Singers Dress Rehearsal in CH
- 14th: Chorale Women and University Singers Dress Rehearsal in CH
- 15th: Fall Choir Concert (Chorale Women, University Singers and Chamber Singers)-
7:30 Concert call 6:30
- 17th: Voice Area Fall Gala 7:30 Lobby
- 17th: Mane Event (officers work information fair)
- 25th: Men's Chorus Rehearsal 4-9 with Dr. Fulton in CH
- 26th: Chorale Rehearsal 12-2 with Dr. Fulton in CH (no Men/Women rehearsal)
- 28th: Chorale and Men's Chorus Dress in CH
- 29th: Chorale and Men's Chorus Fall Concert- 7:30 call 6:30

November

- 11th-14th: Fall NATS at Oklahoma City University
- 8th: Chorale sing at FUMC Commerce
- 21st: Fall Vocal Division Banquet (Off campus) 6:00-11:00
- 22nd: Decorate the Music Building for Christmas 2:00-6:00
- 29th: Candlelight Dress Rehearsal- Concert Hall 5-11
- 30th: Choir Dress Rehearsals in CH

December

- 1st: Candlelight Concert- 7:30 Concert Hall All Day
 - 3:00-4:00 combined rehearsal with Sachse HS
 - 4:00-5:00 Sachse HS rehearsal on stage
 - 5:00-5:45 Campus tours
 - 5:45-7:00 Dinner and Change Clothes
 - 7:00 warm up
 - 7:30 concert
- 5th: Vocal Mock Juries 10-10 (See applied teacher for specific time)
- 6th: Vocal Mock Juries 1-5 (see applied teacher for specific time)
- 6th: Chamber Singers Holiday Concert at First Presbyterian 6:00
- 10th: Holiday Gala Dress Rehearsal- Concert Hall 5-10
- 11th and 12th: Holiday Gala- Concert Hall 7:30

January

- 8th: Area Audition building set up
- 9th: Area C TMEA All-State Auditions
- 19th: First Class Day

February

- 10th-13th: TMEA
- 6th: NZ UIL Solo and Ensemble- Entire Building
- 20th: Audition Day (officers help)
- 27th: Audition Day (officers help)
- 28th -March 1st: Chorale Spring Tour

March

- 2nd: Choir Dress Rehearsals in CH
- 3rd: Spring Choir Concert- 7:30 call 6:30
- 5th: Mane Event (officers work information fair)
- 12th: Audition Day (officers help)
- 14th - 18th: Spring Break

April

- 2nd: Audition Day (officers help)
- 9th: Choir Dress Rehearsal (Major Work) 2-5, lobby set up 6-9
- 10th: Chamber Singers Concert 3:00
- 11th: Choir Dress Rehearsals in CH

13th: Choir Dress Rehearsals in CH
14th: Choir Dress Rehearsal-Concert Hall 3:00-5:30
15th: Choir Concert 7:30 call 6:30
28th – May 1st: Department Musical in Ferguson Auditorium evening 7:30, Sunday 3:00

May

2nd: Choir Dress Rehearsal for Austrian Trip in CH
4th: Choir Dress Rehearsal for Austrian Trip in CH
5th: Dress Rehearsal for Austrian Trip in CH 5-10
6th: Pre-Austrian Trip Concert 7:30 WE and Choir
7th: Mock Juries 10-10 (See applied teacher for specific time)
8th: Mock Juries 2-6 (See applied teacher for specific time)
13th: Splash Day Choral Festival CH, Band Hall and Choir Room, All Day
14th – 16th: Austrian Trip Rehearsals TBA
17th-26th: Austrian Trip

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