

MEN'S CHORUS

Fall, 2020
MUN 1330/3333/6335
M/W Periods 10 & 11 (5:10-7:05)
1 Credit
MUB 121 & Online (hybrid)

Dr. Cory Alexander
Phone: 336-402-6605
e-mail: alexanderc@ufl.edu
Office: MUB 344
Office hours: TBA

OBJECTIVES: The goals of this course are to prepare and perform appropriate choral literature at the highest possible level, and to represent the UF School of Music in public performance. In the process, students will learn proper and healthy singing techniques, musical terms, and choral concepts.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

- This is a non-auditioned course and all interested singers of appropriate vocal range may enroll.
- Attendance is crucial to the success of the class as a whole (see “Grading” below).
- Professional behavior, proper attitude, and full participation are expected at all times.
- Students are required to have all necessary music and a pencil at ALL rehearsals and performances.
- No food, drink (other than water), or gum chewing are allowed during class.
- Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

TEXT and MATERIALS:

- No textbook is required for this course; however, students must use a black folder. Highly recommended is THE black folder (www.musicfolder.com—Deluxe, Standard, or Choralex Compact).
- All materials for the course will be distributed to students and will be either public domain, legally purchased, or include appropriate permissions/licenses.
- Masks/face coverings must be worn on the UF campus during the Fall 2020 semester. Several companies have advertised masks especially designed for singing (for example: <https://www.mymusicfolders.com/product/resonance-singers-mask-with-disposable-biofilters/>) but such specialized masks are not required.
- Webcam, microphone, headphones are required (those on your phone, tablet, or computer will suffice).
- (Regular concert dress is unlikely to be needed this semester.) Concert dress is all-black (long sleeves).
- Concert dress for online or virtual performances will be discussed in class or on Canvas.
- You are NOT required to dress in concert attire for dress rehearsals, only concerts.

GRADING (please note that some of the following will not pertain this semester, but in the interest of maintaining flexibility such items are included and marked with asterisks*):

- The **final grade** will be determined based on a combination of student attendance/attitude/participation (see “Course Requirements”) and completion of assigned activities on Canvas (50% in person, 50% online assignments).
- All assignments are geared toward the Course Objectives (see above). This includes assignments that promote community—singing together at the highest level requires the trust and support of everyone.

The following pertain to the **IN-PERSON** component of the course:

- Students who are feeling ill should follow university procedures in place for Fall 2020. More information available below under “COVID-19 Addendum,” and here: <https://coronavirus.ufl.edu> (Links to an external site.).
- Students are not excused for work, sorority/fraternity functions, activities related to other courses, etc.
- Common excused absences include illness and circumstances outside your control. Many other absences may be excused if you communicate with the instructor (in advance, if possible).
- Any unexcused absence will result in a 3% deduction.

- In-person classes begin when the instructor begins warm-up exercises. Online class meetings begin at the scheduled meeting time. Unexcused late arrivals for class may merit grade reduction. Exceptions may be made for extenuating circumstances (such as a prior class in a distant location).
- Students who leave class early, who leave and return, or who inappropriately use phones, tablets, etc. without permission may receive a grade reduction up to 3% for each instance depending on the amount of class time missed or disrupted.
- A doctor's note may be required to excuse illness.
- *Unexcused absence from any scheduled performance will result in a grade no higher than "C." Depending upon the number of scheduled performances and other factors, absence may result in failure for the semester.
- *Unexcused absence from a designated dress rehearsal or special rehearsal (see "Required Rehearsals, Dress Rehearsals, and Concerts" below) will result in a one-letter grade reduction of the final grade.
- *Unexcused Tardiness to a dress rehearsal, special rehearsal, or warm-up for a performance will result in the loss of 1/3 of a letter grade.
- *Leaving after a concert before the stage is cleared and all equipment is put away will result in the loss of one letter grade (if applicable).
- *If a student has any potential conflicts with any performances or dress rehearsals, she should contact the instructor during the first week of classes or as soon as possible after becoming aware of the conflict.

The following pertain to the **ONLINE** component of the course:

- The two video submissions are worth 25 points each.
- All other assignments are worth 10 points each.
- Discussion contributions must demonstrate thought and consideration to receive credit. Thoughtful questions are perfectly acceptable. Discussion posts that do not demonstrate appropriate respect will not receive credit and may be deleted (please see below).
- Assignments will be graded as complete or incomplete (therefore, students will receive the entire 10 or 25 points for each completed assignment).
- Late work may be accepted at full credit depending on the circumstances. Please contact the instructor to discuss any issues arising from technology failure, health related issues, or other unforeseen circumstances.

The following pertain to **BOTH** components of the course:

- In both the in-person and online components of this course, you should strive to speak with empathy and understanding. We may have students with very different backgrounds and experiences, which you are encouraged to value for the variety of perspectives that brings us. Please consider how your classmates may interpret your words before speaking or posting and strive to be respectful and inclusive of everyone.
- Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx> (Links to an external site.).
- UF's Grading Policy may be found here: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx> (Links to an external site.).

COVID-19 Syllabus Addendum (General UF Requirements): We will have face-to-face instructional sessions to accomplish the student learning objectives of this course. In response to COVID-19, the following policies and requirements are in place to maintain your learning environment and to enhance the safety of our in-classroom interactions.

- You are required to wear approved face coverings at all times during class and within buildings. Following and enforcing these policies and requirements are all of our responsibility. Failure to do so will lead to a report to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution.
- This course has been assigned a physical classroom with enough capacity to maintain physical distancing (6 feet between individuals) requirements. Please utilize designated seats and maintain appropriate spacing between students. Please do not move desks or stations.
- Sanitizing supplies are available in the classroom if you wish to wipe down your desks prior to sitting down and at the end of the class.
- Follow your instructor's guidance on how to enter and exit the classroom. Practice physical distancing to the extent possible when entering and exiting the classroom.
- If you are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms ([Click here for guidance from the CDC on symptoms of](#)

[coronavirus](#)), please use the UF Health screening system and follow the instructions on whether you are able to attend class. [Click here for UF Health guidance on what to do if you have been exposed to or are experiencing Covid-19 symptoms.](#)

- In the event of illness, course materials will be provided to you with an excused absence, and you will be given a reasonable amount of time to make up work. [Find more information in the university attendance policies.](#)

COVID-19 Syllabus Addendum (Additional School of Music Requirements): Numerous studies have taken place specifically regarding the transmission of COVID-19 in musical rehearsal settings. Singing, in particular, appears to spread tiny particles from the lungs (aerosols) a greater distance than normal speaking and breathing. As a result, the UF SOM has implemented the following additional procedures.

- Students will maintain 15 feet of distancing during rehearsal.
- Maximum continuous rehearsal time is 30 minutes with a 15-minute break (requires vacating the room).
- In the University Auditorium, maximum occupancy is 35. In MUB Room 121, maximum occupancy is 8.

Schedule: Please be aware that, because of the circumstances surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic, this schedule will be subject to possible significant changes. If circumstances require us to move to a fully online course delivery, the outside of class assignments may change or increase. On the other hand, if circumstances allow us to meet together safely, we may return to normal activities without the online component of the course.

In-person class sessions will always consist of a warm-up, followed by rehearsal of selected literature. The material covered in each rehearsal will depend upon the ensemble's progress during the prior rehearsal.

The weekly schedule for the online component of this hybrid course is as follows. ALL ASSIGNMENTS DUE BY MIDNIGHT FRIDAY OF THE WEEK THEY ARE ASSIGNED unless otherwise noted. Assigned Discussion required response to items posted by the instructor under "Discussions" on Canvas. The two video submissions are worth 25 points each. All other submissions are worth 10 points. The total of all online activities will make up 50% of the final grade (see Grading above).

Week 1 (Week of August 31): All students will meet online during class time (on Zoom both Monday and Wednesday). Introductions, discussion of syllabus, expectations for the course, explanation of assignments, preliminary split into two groups. Monday Assignment: fill out choir info sheets. Wednesday Assignment: 3-2-1 quiz.

Week 2 (Sep 7): No class Monday. Wednesday IN CLASS music majors & new students. Voice placements. Assignment: watch video on posture and breathing. Take quiz on posture and breathing.

(Which students are required at which rehearsals for all future in-class meetings will be determined by information collected on the Choir Info Sheets and voice placement activities during week 2 class. Please refer to Canvas after week 2 for this information)

Week 3 (Sep 14): Watch video on voice function. Take quiz on voice function.

Week 4 (Sep 21): Read "Statement on Culture and Values" and respond to the statement in writing. What do you think is its purpose? Do you think it could be useful/helpful for an organization like ours? What is the reason for your response?

Week 5 (Sep 28): After reflecting on the "Statement of Culture and Values," respond in writing with at least three ideas on how a statement like this might be adopted by our choir. These can be alterations (subtle or significant) to the statement, items you especially like and want to keep, or things you would omit from the statement. Please include a brief explanation for your reasoning.

Week 6 (Oct 5): Begin Canvas discussion of "Statement of Culture and Values." Outside-of-class rehearsal of choral repertory (rehearsal tracks available on Canvas if needed). Suggested—30 to 60 minutes per week divided into several small sessions of 10-15 minutes.

Week 7 (Oct 12): Continue Canvas discussion of "Statement of Culture and Values." Begin Canvas discussion of

choral repertory. Continue outside-of-class rehearsal.

Week 8 (Oct 19): Review draft “Statement of Culture and Values” specific to this choir and provide comment. Continue discussion of repertory. Continue outside-of-class rehearsal.

Week 9 (Oct 26): Continue discussion of repertory. Continue outside-of-class rehearsal. Read instructions for submission of virtual choir recordings.

Week 10 (Nov 2): Continue discussion of repertory. Continue outside-of-class rehearsal. DUE first virtual choir video submission.

Week 11 (Nov 9): No class Wednesday. In-class rehearsal only this week (first-half/second-half).

Week 12 (Nov 16): Continue discussion of repertory. Continue outside-of-class rehearsal.

Week 13 (Nov 23): No class Wednesday. DUE second virtual choir video submission (use Monday’s class time for this—no in-person class this week).

Week 14 (Nov 30): View first virtual choir project (and second, if available). Respond in writing to the experience. How was it different from a typical choral performance? The same? What did you like and/or dislike about it? Could the experience be improved? How?

Week 15 (Dec 7): Monday in-class rehearsal for everyone (first-half/second-half). Wednesday whole class meeting on Zoom celebrating the semester—looking back, looking forward. Bring snacks ☺

Noteworthy Dates:

Monday, September 7—NO CLASS (Labor Day)

Wednesday, November 11—NO CLASS (Veterans’ Day)

Wednesday, November 25—NO CLASS (Thanksgiving Break)

Wednesday, December 9—LAST DAY OF CLASSES

Required Extra Rehearsals, Dress Rehearsals & Concerts: Unfortunately, there is currently no expectation of live events taking place this semester. Recording sessions or outdoor events may be scheduled outside of class if it is safe to undertake such activities. If so, dates and times will be communicated to the students, and students will have input regarding scheduling. There will be much flexibility regarding changes to the schedule as long as students communicate with the instructor regarding potential conflicts as early in the process as possible.

Academic integrity: UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” The Honor Code (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

Americans with Disabilities Act: Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.