

**Humboldt State University
Department of Music**

Syllabus

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Office hours:
Mon. 2:00-3:00 pm
Wed. 2:00-3:00 pm
and by appointment

**Music 106F/406F – Mad River Transit Singers
Spring 2017
Tues/Thurs 1:00-2:20 pm
Music A ~ Room 131**

*“Forgive me if I don’t have the words. Maybe I can sing it and you’ll understand.”
– Ella Fitzgerald*

Course Description and Objectives

We will rehearse and perform small ensemble vocal music with an emphasis on jazz-idiom choral music. We will explore vocal techniques, musicianship skills and stylistic interpretation. Occasional off-campus concerts.

1. Rehearse and perform jazz choral music and related genres.
2. Strive to achieve choral balance, blend, style and technique of the highest quality.
3. Appreciate choral singing as an expressive means to aesthetic ends. Cultivation of intellect, imagination, sensibility, and sensitivity will be attained through the study and performance of choral music. Students will be encouraged to respond subjectively to the music studied and performed, to lead to the development of a sense of integrity of emotional response.
4. Voice building through proper breathing and singing techniques.
5. To perform as musicians by committing to the musical organization and by being prompt, by attending all rehearsals and by adopting a positive attitude.
6. Develop vocabulary necessary to explore ideas in choral music and foster the development of critical standards for the evaluation of their own and others artistic works; students may sing individually, in ensemble, attend concerts and festivals, listen to recorded music and write reports about their musical experiences.
7. Choral music is representative of many diverse cultures. Students will become more aware of the richness of human culture as expressed in choral music. This will include examination of the contribution of performers of choral music as well as the contributions of composers and arrangers of choral music.
8. By adding to the student's knowledge of music, and by cultivating the subjective response to choral music, the student will become aware of the artistic context of choral music as an art form, and the student will become aware of how artists reflect on and participate in the human experience.

Course Guidelines

Engagement and Rehearsal Etiquette

To gain the most out of singing in choir, you are encouraged to be enthusiastic, keep an open mind, maintain mental focus, and be willing to express yourself through singing with others. The benefits to singing in a choir are numerous! You are expected to listen respectfully to others and refrain from side conversations once the rehearsal has begun. Your cell phone should be off at all times, and texting in class is prohibited. You should not leave the class to make a phone call or text. Chewing gum and eating are prohibited in rehearsal. Water bottles are permitted.

Attendance and Punctuality

Punctual attendance at all rehearsals and performances is vital to your successful completion of this course. Due to the cooperative nature of ensemble singing, the primary basis of assessment is regular contribution to the group learning process. This includes attendance and active and positive class participation. Each rehearsal is unique in its content and achievement and doesn't lend itself to having a makeup substitution. A successful grade for the semester comes as a result of coming to rehearsals prepared and taking an active role in the ensemble.

Once you arrive, plan to stay for the entire rehearsal (use the restroom ahead if necessary). Arriving late is disrespectful to the members of the ensemble and disrupts the classroom environment. Please see the instructor about any extenuating circumstances.

With the exception of emergent situations, no one should miss any class during the week of a concert.

If an absence can be predicted, please e-mail the instructor before the absence. In the case of severe illness or other emergency, please notify me via email or phone within a reasonable time period as dictated by the circumstances causing the absence.

If you are absent more than five times during the term, the following will occur:

- 1) You may be required to come and sing in an individual appointment with the instructor in order to determine your ability to keep singing with the group.
- 2) Depending on how that meeting goes, you may or may not be permitted to perform in upcoming concert(s).
- 3) You may receive a grade of NC (no credit) for the class.

Preparation: You are expected to have your choir folder with scores and a pencil with you for every class period. Consistent or frequent lack of preparation will lead to receiving a grade of NC (no credit) for the class.

Performances: Attendance at all performances is required. Failure to attend a performance will result in receiving NC (no credit). Extenuating circumstances that would require missing a performance should be brought to the attention of the instructor within a reasonable time period as dictated by the circumstances. Documentation may be required.

Concert Information

Required Dress Rehearsal and Concerts

Sunday, Dec. 3 @ 8:00 PM in Fulkerson RH – Madrigal Singers and Mad River Transit Singers
Call time: 6:00 PM. Dress rehearsal will occur that day; time TBA.

Also support your colleagues! Please attend the Humboldt Chorale/University Singers concert on Friday, Dec. 8 @ 8:00 PM in Fulkerson RH (optional, but strongly encouraged!)

Concert Attire

Concert Black – The general look is tasteful and simple dressy. All black shoes (not sneakers; no stripes, designs, etc.). Solid black slacks or skirt. If you wear a skirt, you must wear black (not sheer) tights. Very short skirts, even with tights, are not allowed. Skirts should be close to knee length or longer. Solid black dressy top (no T-shirts). No cleavage or spaghetti straps; sleeves preferred. The more coverage the better. No hats or sunglasses. Only minimal jewelry allowed. You may be asked to bring in or show what you will be wearing ahead of time to determine appropriateness. Please plan ahead! If you need any of these items and cannot afford them, please see me ahead of time. Please do not wear strong scents in rehearsal or performance.

Diversity Statement

I consider this classroom to be a place where you will be treated with respect, and I welcome individuals of all ages, backgrounds, beliefs, ethnicities, genders, gender identities, gender expressions, national origins, religious affiliations, sexual orientations, ability – and other visible and nonvisible differences. All members of this class are expected to contribute to a respectful, welcoming and inclusive environment for every other member of the class.

Content of this syllabus is subject to change with reasonable notice.

Best wishes for an enjoyable and successful semester!

“I don’t let my mouth say nothin’ my head can’t stand.” – Louis Armstrong

Syllabus addendum on HSU policies:

Students have rights and responsibilities at HSU and there are many resources on campus to help students succeed. The link below includes information about Add/Drop Policy, Resources for Students with Disabilities, Academic Honesty Policy, Attendance and Disruptive Behavior Policy, Financial Aid, Emergency Procedures, and Counseling and Psychological Services.

<http://www2.humboldt.edu/academicprograms/syllabus-addendum-campus-resou...>

Student Learning Outcomes: Through this course you will make progress towards meeting the following Student Learning Outcomes:

Course SLOs:

- 1) Students will collectively demonstrate improved proficiency on their instrument/voice through rehearsal and performance of literature from a variety of composers and styles.
- 2) Students will collectively practice and refine skills in rhythmic accuracy, intonation, balance, blend dynamics, and phrasing.
- 3) Students will demonstrate understanding of their musical role within the context of the large group setting.
- 4) Students will make meaningful assessments of the quality of their own large ensemble performance.

Music Major SLOs:

- 1) Students will demonstrate the ability to hear, identify, and work conceptually with the elements of music – rhythm, melody, harmony, and structure.
- 2) Students will demonstrate familiarity with, and an ability to perform a wide selection of musical literature representing principal eras, genres, and cultural sources.
- 3) Students will demonstrate ability in performing areas appropriate to the student's needs, interests, and degree path.

You are strongly encouraged to educate yourself on repetitive and overuse injuries. Please go to the music department's website for helpful information.