



**Fine Arts/Music  
Central College**

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**MUEN 1142, 1143 Concert Choir Syllabus**  
CRN 41235, 41236 – Spring 2015  
Central Campus - Room FAC 115 | Time/Day: 11:30-1pm, TTR  
2 credit hour / 51 instruction hours per semester/ 16 weeks

**Instructor: Dr. Andrew Briggs**

**Instructor Contact Information:** Office phone: (713) 718-5913

Office: 221 Office house: Available by appointment

Email: [Andrew.Briggs@hccs.edu](mailto:Andrew.Briggs@hccs.edu) Mailbox: FAC 101

*Please feel free to contact me concerning any problems that you are experiencing in this course. Please include MUEN 1142 on the subject line. I am available by appointment to discuss course topics.*

**Course Description:** Rehearsals with a mixed adult choir, with two concerts as the end product. Students will be coached on diction, voice technique, performance practice, acting and gestures, and background information of texts and music. Students will perform in multiple performances both on and off campus, culminating in a Final Concert during the 16<sup>th</sup> week.

**REQUIRED MATERIALS:** Students are required to bring an empty BLACK binder, and two pencils for notes. Performance attire will be at the expense of the student. Men: Black slacks, black coat/jacket, white dress shirt or dress shirt, and black dress shoes (that take a polish). Women: black dress, dark hose, black shoes (small heel or no heel, open or closed toe), and hair clips to keep hair from face.

**This course meets the core intellectual competencies of reading, writing, speaking, listening and critical thinking.**

**Course Goals/Objectives**

To provide students a meaningful musical experience through the rehearsal and performance of quality choral literature at the highest level possible; To provide students

the opportunity to improve their individual and ensemble singing skills while fostering proper technique and critical listening; To develop student's overall musicianship and encourage sharper sight-reading skills; To enhance student's taste and perception for certain styles and eras of music; To give students a perspective of a college/university setting and rehearsal/performance process, as well as a view of professional expectations; To give students a place to succeed, learn the benefits of hard work and teamwork, and enrich their life by a positive emotional experience through poetry and music.

### **Student Learning Outcomes**

The student will be able to:

1. Sing and perform multiple genres of choral music with correct singer diction in English and other languages.
2. Produce a sound and assess their posture, breath, phonation, and resonant space appropriate for the phrase.
3. Perform a song with the appropriate facial expression, text painting, gestures, and acting abilities free from tension and distraction.
4. Channel and harness thoughts and emotions to free from performance anxiety through practice, positive thoughts, and positive self-talk.
5. Sight read music individually and as an ensemble with diction, rhythm, and pitch.
6. Listen and blend with other singers in their part, and blend with other sections appropriate to the intent of the composer.
7. Follow the rhythm, dynamics, and phrasing as indicated by conductor.

**ATTENDANCE IS MANDATORY!** School policy states that a student who misses more than 12.5% of class time may be dropped from the class with a grade of F. Students who miss **more than FOUR** classes during the semester are subject to this policy.

**GRADING POLICY:** Your music, a pencil, a positive attitude, preparation and punctuality are all important for a successful rehearsal. If you are not a part of the progress made in rehearsal, then you are holding the ensemble back in the following rehearsal. Please make the necessary arrangements to be at class on time and clear your work schedule as soon as we have other rehearsal times and dates for performances. As a courtesy to others, please avoid cell phone use in class. It is not professional and it is rude. It is expected that every student take a small amount of time outside of class in the beginning of the semester to learn their notes and be up to date on their music. This is absolutely necessary for the ensemble to become stronger as a choir, and move quickly through the rehearsal process and into the music-making process.

**WITHDRAWAL DATE:** It is the responsibility of each student to formally withdraw from the class by 4:30 pm on March 24, OR THE COMPUTER WILL ASSIGN A GRADE OF F TO THE STUDENT.

**INCOMPLETE GRADE POLICY:** A grade of I (Incomplete) is reserved for students who are unable to complete the final exam or final week of studies due to extenuating circumstances such as serious illness, not for students who need to make up missed assignments.

**Missed rehearsals: students are responsible for material presented. If a rehearsal is missed, they must follow up with a classmate for the material, and put in the appropriate missed practice time. There will be NO made up exams or concerts – please see Instructor for concerns.**

**TARDINESS:** Class begins promptly at 11:30am. Late entries into class are disruptive and impolite to those who come on time.

**SCHOLASTIC DISHONESTY:** cheating on a test, plagiarism and collusion as defined by HCC. Penalties include, but are not limited to, "0" on test or assignment in question, or "F" in the course.

**SPECIAL NEEDS:** "Students who require reasonable accommodations for disabilities are encouraged to report to Room 102 SJAC, or call (713) 718-6164 to make necessary arrangements. Faculty members are *only* authorized to provide accommodations requested by the Disability Support Services Office.

**NO CHILDREN ALLOWED IN CLASSROOMS DURING CLASSES; NO FOOD OR BEVERAGES ALLOWED IN CLASSROOMS (WATER ALLOWED); NO GUESTS WITHOUT PERMISSION OF INSTRUCTOR.**

**ACADEMIC ADVISEMENT** concerning specific Fine Arts courses and degree plans is available to Central College students during the academic semesters. Please sign up for counseling in the Fine Arts office, FAC 101.

Students who repeat a course for a third or more times may face fee increases at HCC and other Texas public colleges and universities. Please ask instructor for tutoring opportunities before withdrawing or failing a course; HCC Central provides a music tutor for students who need help.

## 16 WEEK CALENDAR

**Please note the professor reserves the right to change the course outline as needed. If any changes occur, the students will be notified in class.**

Week 1	Rehearsals
Week 2	Rehearsals
Week 3	Rehearsals
Week 4	Rehearsals
Week 5	Rehearsals
Week 6	Rehearsals (Presidents Day)
Week 7	Rehearsals
Week 8	Rehearsals, Possible Concert, March 11-13, 2015
Week 9	Spring Break - March 16-20 (no classes)
Week 10	Rehearsals, Choral Festival, March 28, Sat. Performance
Week 11	Rehearsals
Week 12	Rehearsals
Week 13	Rehearsals
Week 14	Rehearsals
Week 15	Rehearsals, Final Concert TBA
Week 16	<b>FINAL EXAM WEEK – VOICE JURIES, WED. 5/13, 4:30-6PM</b>

**Scheduled recitals at HCC include: March 28 - Choral Festival (Heinen theatre), April 15, 10am- Faculty Recital (Heinen Theatre), April 28, 7pm - Song Writer's Recital (Theater One), April 29, 10am – Student Recital (Theater One), May 5, 7:30pm – Honors Recital (Heinen Theatre)**

### **Student Assignments**

Assignments have been developed that will enhance your learning and develop your musical skills. To better understand a topic, you will be given assignments with key information that you will need to in your career as a musician. Students will be required to successfully complete the following:

Each student must attend 4 concerts (recitals, operas, musical theater performances) and write a half-page report on what they saw and heard, and what they liked, and turn it in to instructor with program or ticket stub.

**A Grade of FX will be given to students who stop attending class; this distinction is made between a grade of F for poor performance in class.**

**GRADING:**

HCC Grading System:

90-100=A	45% for class participation and attendance
80-89=B	40% for performances and dress rehearsals
70-79=C	15% for concerts attendance and concert reports
60-69=D	
0-59=F	

**HCC Course Withdrawal Policy**

If you feel that you cannot complete this course, you will need to withdraw from the course prior to the final date of withdrawal. Before, you withdraw from your course; please take the time to meet with the instructor to discuss why you feel it is necessary to do so. The instructor may be able to provide you with suggestions that would enable you to complete the course. Your success is very important. Beginning in fall 2007, the Texas Legislature passed a law limiting first time entering freshmen to no more than **SIX** total course withdrawals **throughout** their educational career in obtaining a certificate and/or degree.

To help students avoid having to drop/withdraw from any class, HCC has instituted an Early Alert process by which your professor *may* “alert” you and HCC counselors that you might fail a class because of excessive absences and/or poor academic performance. It is your responsibility to visit with your professor or a counselor to learn about what, if any, HCC interventions might be available to assist you – online tutoring, child care, financial aid, job placement, etc. – to stay in class and improve your academic performance.

If you plan on withdrawing from your class, you **MUST** contact a HCC counselor or your professor prior to withdrawing (dropping) the class for approval and this must be done **PRIOR** to the withdrawal deadline to receive a “W” on your transcript. \*\*Final withdrawal deadlines vary each semester and/or depending on class length, please visit the online registration calendars, HCC schedule of classes and catalog, any HCC Registration Office, or any HCC counselor to determine class withdrawal deadlines. **Remember to allow a 24-hour response time when communicating via email and/or telephone with a professor and/or counselor. Do not submit a request to discuss withdrawal options less than a day before the deadline.** If you do not withdraw before the deadline, you will receive the grade that you are making in the class as your final grade.

**Repeat Course Fee**

The State of Texas encourages students to complete college without having to repeat failed classes. To increase student success, students who repeat the same course

more than twice, are required to pay extra tuition. The purpose of this extra tuition fee is to encourage students to pass their courses and to graduate. Effective fall 2006, HCC will charge a higher tuition rate to students registering the third or subsequent time for a course. If you are considering course withdrawal because you are not earning passing grades, confer with your instructor/counselor as early as possible about your study habits, reading and writing homework, test taking skills, attendance, course participation, and opportunities for tutoring or other assistance that might be available.

### **Classroom Behavior**

As your instructor and as a student in this class, it is our shared responsibility to develop and maintain a positive learning environment for everyone. Your instructor takes this responsibility very seriously and will inform members of the class if their behavior makes it difficult for him/her to carry out this task. As a fellow learner, you are asked to respect the learning needs of your classmates and assist your instructor achieve this critical goal.

### **Use of Camera and/or Recording Devices**

As a student active in the learning community of this course, it is your responsibility to be respectful of the learning atmosphere in your classroom. To show respect of your fellow students and instructor, you will turn off your phone and other electronic devices, and will not use these devices in the classroom unless you receive permission from the instructor.

Use of recording devices, including camera phones and tape recorders, is prohibited in classrooms, laboratories, faculty offices, and other locations where instruction, tutoring, or testing occurs. Students with disabilities who need to use a recording device as a reasonable accommodation should contact the Office for Students with Disabilities for information regarding reasonable accommodations

### **Instructor Requirements**

As your Instructor, it is my responsibility to:

- Provide the grading scale and detailed grading formula explaining how student grades are to be derived
- Facilitate an effective learning environment through class activities, discussions, and lectures

Description of any special projects or assignments

- Inform students of policies such as attendance, withdrawal, tardiness and make up
- Provide the course outline and class calendar which will include a description of any special projects or assignments
- Arrange to meet with individual students before and after class as required

To be successful in this class, it is the student's responsibility to:

- Attend class and participate in class discussions and activities
- Read and comprehend the textbook
- Complete the required assignments and exams  
Ask for help when there is a question or problem
- Keep copies of all paperwork, including this syllabus, handouts and all assignments

**A Music Tutor is available for students who need extra help in understanding any music subject. You may inquire in the Fine Arts Office for instructions on how to utilize and contact the music tutor(s) provided by the department.**