

# **Sam Houston State University School of Music**

## **Syllabus for Choral Methods SED 464.5 FALL 2007 MW 10:00-11:50 am**

**PROFESSOR:** Allen Hightower, DMA  
**OFFICE:** School of Music, Room 322  
**PHONE:** (936) 294-1391  
**EMAIL:** choirs@shsu.edu  
**OFFICE HOURS:** MWF 2-4 pm or by appointment

### **TEXTS**

Choral Concepts, Donald Neuen  
The Conductor's Manual of Choral Music Literature, Kjelson and McCray

### **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

- 1) To develop the skills necessary to teach great singing skills to ensembles
- 2) To develop excellent rehearsal skills
- 3) To develop a philosophy and techniques for success in the choral classroom

### **TOPICS**

1. What Does it Take to Succeed?
2. A Vocal Approach to Choral Singing
3. Breath Support and Control
4. Choral Sound Schools of Choral Tone
5. A Unified Approach to Vowel Formation
6. Specific Section Characteristics
7. Vocalizing and Warm-ups
8. Rhythmic Interest and Forward Motion, Phrasing
9. Diction
10. Score Preparation
11. Managing the Choral Classroom
12. Sight-Reading Procedures
13. Choosing Appropriate Choral Literature
14. Recruitment and Retention
15. Audition Procedures
16. UIL Contests/TMEA Auditions

## **POLICIES**

### **Attendance:**

Punctual attendance is required. In accordance with Sam Houston State University policy, three absences will not in themselves adversely impact the student's grade. However, the fourth absence will result in an automatic lowering of the student's grade by one letter. Each additional absence beyond this would further lower the grade by a letter. Two tardies will be considered as one absence. If a student enters the classroom after the instructor has begun, the student is considered tardy. Be sure that your clock is in agreement with the clock in room 202. The class will begin promptly at 10:00 am.

Although an absence in itself does not necessarily impact the grade, the student's inability to perform the required daily assignment may in fact impact the student's grade for that particular assignment. Don't expect the instructor to allow conducting assignments to be done later than assigned. Furthermore, don't expect the instructor to accept late written work. You are highly encouraged to keep the instructor notified of any anticipated absences or delays.

If a health-related issue should arise which would cause you to miss this class on numerous occasions, thereby adversely impacting your grade, you should consider dropping the class. Though the instructor is sympathetic to health issues, a grade cannot be earned when the student is not present to participate in class.

### **Grading:**

Grades will be given for participation in class discussions, preparation of assigned materials, and completion of observation expectations. Details of observation expectations will be given to you separately from this document. Written work will not be accepted late. If in fact you are ill on the date in which an assignment is due, it is still your responsibility to get the material to the instructor by class time. If the assignment can be emailed, do so. If it cannot be emailed, have a classmate bring the assignment to class.