

**Sam Houston State University
School of Music**

**Syllabus for Choral Ensembles
(ENS 111.01/311.01; 111.02/311.02; 111.03/311.03)
Spring 2008**

PROFESSOR: Allen Hightower, DMA
OFFICE: School of Music, Room 322
PHONE: (936) 294-1391
EMAIL: choirs@shsu.edu
OFFICE HOURS: MWF 2-3 pm
Or by appointment

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- 1) To consistently strive for excellence in the preparation and artistic performance of high quality and varied choral repertoire of diverse styles and historical periods.
- 2) To help prepare students for success in life through meaningful ensemble experiences.

COURSE STRUCTURE

CHORALE	(ENS 111.01/311.01) MWF 1:00-1:50 PM T TH 12:30-1:50 PM
CONCERT CHOIR	(ENS 111.02/311.02) MWF 1:00-1:50 PM T TH 12:30-1:50 PM
WOMEN'S CHORUS	(ENS 111.02/311.02) MWF 2:00-2:50 PM T TH 2:00-3:20 PM
SYMPHONIC CHOIR	(ENS 111.03/311.03) LISTED IN CHOIR CALENDAR

ATTENDANCE AND PUNCTUALITY

Choir members are expected to punctually attend each scheduled rehearsal and performance of the semester. The class roll will be checked at the beginning of each rehearsal. There is no way to make up a missed rehearsal. Unless you are too sick to get out of bed, you should attend rehearsal to either sing or to listen carefully and make notes. Absences and tardies will inevitably impact not only the choir's performance, but also the *esprit du corps* of the ensemble.

- 1) Notification of Conductor: It is customary that you email Dr. Hightower to offer an explanation for your absence from a rehearsal. This is a professional courtesy.
- 2) Do NOT schedule a doctor's appointment during choir time. This is not considered an excuse. Choir meets for at a set time. Appointments should be made outside of this time.

CHORALE, CONCERT CHOIR, WOMEN'S CHORUS

- 1) If a student should miss more than three classes, each additional absence will lower the final grade by a full letter grade. There is essentially no difference between an excused and an unexcused absence. This policy is in specific compliance with the University's attendance policy. Missing rehearsal for a University obligation must be prearranged with the conductor.
- 2) 2 tardies = 1 absence
- 3) ANY MISSED DRESS REHEARSAL: A maximum grade of D.
- 4) ANY MISSED CONCERT: Failure of the course
- 5) Symphonic Choir is part of the grade requirement for each choir member.

ILLNESS

If the student is required to miss an excessive amount of classes because of an on-going illness or surgery, the student should seriously consider withdrawing from school. If that is not possible, the student should consider dropping the ensemble and private voice studies for the semester. On rare occasion, it becomes physically impossible for a student to fulfill the attendance and performance requirements of a major ensemble. In such cases, it is the responsibility of the student to take the proper course of action. In the interest of academic integrity, each student, regardless of health issues must complete the requirements of the course in order to receive a passing grade.

GRADING POLICY

The grades given for each choral ensemble are determined by the following:

- 1) Attendance and Punctuality
- 2) Participation and Contribution
- 3) Preparation of Assigned Repertoire (periodically individuals or small groups from within the choir will sing assigned sections of the repertoire.)

MATERIAL

Each choir member will need the following:

- 1) Black Folder (3-ring binder), with pocket for pencil
- 2) Music (BRING YOUR MUSIC TO EVERY REHEARSAL)
- 3) Pencil (ALWAYS HAVE A PENCIL IN REHEARSAL)
- 4) Concert Attire:
 - MEN: Black tails, white tie, white vest, black socks, and black shoes.
 - WOMEN: Uniform black concert dress, black hose, and black closed-toe shoes.