



A&M-Commerce
Chorale, Chamber Singers and Performance Practice
Fall 2024 Syllabus

Chamber Singers/Performance Practice MUS 300S

MWF 12:00-1:50

Music Building 105 and 113

Chorale/Performance Practice MUS 100C

MWF 3:00-3:50

Conductor

Dr. Randall Hooper

Office: MB 197

Phone: 903-886-5284

Email: randall.hooper@tamuc.edu

Office hours by appointment

Course Information

No textbooks or software required

Course Description and Philosophy

The choral music program at Texas A&M University-Commerce is dedicated to the pursuit of excellence in performance of the finest choral music in a variety of styles and periods of choral music literature. The Chorale will work with great purpose and discipline toward this goal and toward providing choral experiences that will be rewarding and enriching for choir members and their audiences. In addition, this course is designed to provide the background, training, and experience (when coupled with complementary coursework in other areas) necessary for success in the professional fields of choral/vocal performance and music education. Here are the expectations of every singer in this ensemble:

- Commitment and loyalty
- Strong work ethic
- 100% effort
- Mark everything in your score
- Never be late
- Self-disciplined

The following are the musical expectations of this ensemble:

- The rehearsal
 - An end in itself
 - Be a leader and a sensitive listener
 - No room for the “prima dona” attitude
 - Bring only water to rehearsal room
 - NO CELL PHONES

- The concert
 - Sing the way we rehearsed

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of Ensemble Performance (Choral) MUS 100C and MUS 100S the student will be able to:

- 1) Exhibit accurate individual, sectional and ensemble intonation and rhythm along with fundamental and advanced instrumental techniques while performing a varied repertoire of music within the ensemble;
- 2) Perform expressively a varied repertoire of music representing styles and diverse cultures within the ensemble;
- 3) Utilize standard musical terminology to describe intervals, music notation, chord structure, rhythm/meter, harmonic texture, form, and music symbols and terms referring to dynamics, tempo, and articulation;
- 4) Utilize problem-solving skills to identify and correct problems with pitch, rhythm/meter, articulation, phrasing, and dynamics within a rehearsal setting.

Course Requirements

Rehearsals

1. All singers are expected to be regular and punctual in their attendance of all choral rehearsals. **Chorale Starts at Noon!** All singers should attend rehearsals with **MUSIC and a PENCIL.**
2. Rehearsal procedures to be followed include:
 - a. Each chorus member is responsible for obtaining a BLACK three-ring binder. Students may choose to make use of digital music and sing from their personal device such as an ipad. **Please do not plan on using a smart phone to read music during the rehearsals.**
 - b. It is your responsibility to return all music, in good condition. The student will be responsible to replace damaged or lost music. All music should have measures numbered starting with the first full measure of the music. You must bring your music to every rehearsal. **Not having your music is reason for dismissal from rehearsal which will count as an absence.**
 - c. Singers are expected to be prepared for all rehearsals and performances. It is expected that each singer will spend time outside the choral rehearsal to learn the literature adequately. **If a singer is too sick to participate in the rehearsal, the singer should not attend rehearsal and receive an absence for the rehearsal.**
 - d. Singers are expected to attend all rehearsals. Chronic absences and lateness will not be tolerated and may result in dismissal from the ensemble. **No excused absences will be given, even for illness.** If you must be absent from a rehearsal contact Dr. Hooper through email prior to rehearsal. An absence due to illness is still counted as an absence. Be in your assigned place at THE BEGINNING OF REHEARSAL. *If you are on time, you are late!* Tardiness and absences are reason for dismissal from the Chorale. If you are tardy to class, it is your responsibility to see the class secretary to change your absence to a tardy.

- e. Do not schedule voice lessons, meetings with faculty members or other organizations, make-up classes or exams, registration, doctor/dental appointments, job interviews or any personal obligations during rehearsal times.
- f. No one is allowed to “hide” in this choir. Everyone will contribute equally and is expected to know all the notes, rhythms, text, interpretive markings, etc... If a singer is not able to demonstrate proficiency in these areas it is cause for removal from the ensemble. A variety of singing tests will be used to allow singers to demonstrate proficiency.
- g. Weekly sectionals will be held as scheduled by the section leader of each section. This one 30 minute extra rehearsal is required of all members of the Chorale. Two sectional absences will count as one rehearsal absence.
- h. Grades will be based on the singer’s participation, effort, contribution, cooperation, attitude, adherence to the above criteria, singing tests and on the basis of attendance according to the following formula:
 - i. Tardies: Two tardies will equal one absence.
 - ii. Absences: 1-2= no grade change, 3= grade lowered by one letter, 4= grade lowered by two letters, 5= grade lowered by three letters, 6 or more= failure of course.
 - iii. **Failure to attend the scheduled outside of class dress rehearsal will result in final grade being lowered by two letter grades.**
 - iv. **Failure to attend a scheduled concert or recording session will result in an automatic “F” for the course.**
 - v. Grading definitions beyond attendance:
 - An A 90%-100% will be earned by the singer who exhibits excellent attentiveness to musical detail, preparation, ensemble participation, is a leader and role mode to others.
 - A B 80%-89% will be earned by the singer who exhibits superior attentiveness to musical detail, preparation, ensemble participation, and is a valued asset to the ensemble.
 - A C 70%-79% will be earned by the singer who exhibits no more than average attentiveness to musical detail, preparation, and ensemble participation.
 - A D 60%-69% will be earned by the singer who exhibits unacceptable attentiveness to musical detail, preparation and ensemble participation.
 - An F 59% or Below will be earned by the singer who exhibits no attentiveness to musical detail, preparation and ensemble participation.

Concert Responsibilities

1. Performance dates will be announced as early as possible, normally at the beginning of the semester. Singers are expected to be present at all performances. Prior to each performance the conductor will issue a concert call time.
2. The student is responsible for purchasing their own concert attire.
3. Concert dress is as follows:
Those identifying as a male:
Black tuxedo (including tux pants)

Black dress shirt
Black windsor tie (ordered by the department)
Black dress shoes (NO TENNIS SHOES!)
Black socks

Those identifying as female:

Black concert dress (ordered by the department)
Black dress heels

4. Casual Concert Dress is as follows:

Blue A&M Commerce Chorale Polo (ordered through the department)
Khaki pants
Brown or Black shoes

Communication

This syllabus will be distributed through your MyLeo email account only; no hard copies will be passed out. It is your responsibility to open the document, read its contents and print it if desired. You will be held responsible for the contents of the syllabus. Further, students are expected to establish and maintain a facebook account along with membership in the TAMUC Chorale Current Students facebook group. It is the student's responsibility to check the TAMUC Chorale facebook group on a regular basis in order to stay current with University-related communications, recognizing that certain communications may be time-critical. When necessary, emails will be sent the Chorale membership through the TAMUC Chorale facebook group and your MyLeo email address.

Ensemble Participation and Registration Conflicts

The Chamber Singers requires a year-long commitment. It is expected that all singers will register for both the fall and spring terms. It is singer's responsibility to plan a program of study that will not conflict with the rehearsal of the ensemble in which the singer is placed. All vocal majors should plan accordingly, avoiding class conflicts. Student's teachers are the only exception to this rule.

University Publicity

Student images will be used by the University for publicity purposes on line and in print. If you do not wish to have your picture and or performance audio made available, contact your ensemble director in writing by the end of the first week of classes.

Cell Phones

Cell phones are strictly forbidden in rehearsal. The use of these devices in a rehearsal is grounds for dismissal.

School of Music Mission Statement

The Music Department of Texas A&M University-Commerce promotes excellence in music through the rigorous study of music history, literature, theory, composition, pedagogy, and the preparation of music performance in applied study and ensembles to meet the highest standards of aesthetic expression.

Technology Requirements LMS

All course sections offered by Texas A&M University-Commerce have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are technical requirements

LMS Requirements:

<https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements>

LMS Browser Support:

https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm

YouSeeU Virtual Classroom Requirements: <https://support.youseeu.com/hc/en-us/articles/115007031107-Basic-System-Requirements>

Access and Navigation

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@tamuc.edu.

Note: Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a TAMUC campus open computer lab, etc.

Communication and Support

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your Instructor.

Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found here: <https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport>

Interaction with Instructor Statement

The instructor will provide timely feedback on assignments and email questions.

Course and University Procedures/Policies

Course Specific Procedures/Policies

Attendance is imperative to success in the class. This course will be the basis of your teaching and every topic covered will be imperative to your teaching. If you miss one class you will be behind and will have missed important information. It is up to the student to get missed work and materials from his/her peers. If you miss class when assigned to conduct, you will not be allowed to make up the missed conducting assignment and your grade will be affected. Your attendance is also important to your peers. Often you will be conducting each other. If you are not in class to sing for your classmates, their experience is diminished. If absenteeism becomes an issue, you will be asked to drop the class.

Syllabus Change Policy

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

University Specific Procedures

Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the [Student Guidebook](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx>

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum: <https://www.britannica.com/topic/netiquette>

A&M-Commerce Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance](#) webpage and [Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf>

Academic Integrity

Students at Texas A&M University-Commerce are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/graduate/13.99.99.R0.10GraduateStudentAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

Students with Disabilities-- ADA Statement

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

Texas A&M University-Commerce

Gee Library- Room 162

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

Nondiscrimination Notice

Texas A&M University-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

Campus Concealed Carry Statement

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun.

Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

For a list of locations, please refer to the [Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus](#) document and/or consult your event organizer

Web url: <http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

A&M Commerce Supports Students' Mental Health

The Counseling Center at A&M-Commerce, located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers counseling services, educational programming, and connection to community resources for students. Students have 24/7 access to the Counseling Center's crisis assessment services by calling 903-886-5145. For more information regarding Counseling Center events and confidential services, please visit www.tamuc.edu/counsel

Vocal Division Calendar 2024-2025

August

23rd: Choir Retreat at Cooper Lake State Park (Leave Commerce at 3 pm, return by 10 pm)

24th: Placement Auditions 9:00-6:00 Vocal Division Office

25th: Opera Auditions RH 3:00-6:00

26th: First Class Day

26th: 5:00 pm Vocal Division meeting CH

September

12th: Faculty Showcase Recital CH 7:30

6th: Chamber Palooza- Band Hall and Choir Room 7:00-12:00

25th: Sopranos and Altos Only Workshop 8:00-3:00

26th: SOM Concert Chorale and WE Dress Rehearsal 6:30-9:00

27th SOM Concert Dress Rehearsal 12:00-2:00

29th: SOM Concert CH 6:00 pm, 1:30-3:00 Alumni and Chorale rehearsal, 4:00-4:30 Alumni/Chorale/WE, 4:30-5:30 Chamber Singers (5:00 unveiling of Band Hall naming)

October

2nd: Tenors and Basses Only Workshop 8:00-3:00

12th: Mane Event (officers work information fair)

19th: Homecoming Choir Tailgate and game

24th: Choir Concert CH 7:30

November

5th: Chorale and WE Dress CH 7:30-10:00

6th-9th: Texoma NATS at SHSU

10th: Chorale and WE Concert CH 6:00 Dress 3:00-4:00 Chorale/WE, 5:00-5:30 Chamber Singers

?11th: Chorale Veteran's Vigil RSC (time TBA)

16th: Fall Vocal Division Banquet (FMUC) 7:00-11:00
27th-30th: Thanksgiving Break (classes usually cancelled at noon on the 27th)

December

1st: Candlelight Dress Rehearsal- CH 5:00-10:00

2nd: All Choirs Holiday Candlelight Concert CH 7:30

Guest Choirs- NMHS and Richardson HS

12:00-1:30 Chamber on stage

1:30-3:00 HS choirs on stage

3:00-4:00 Chorale on stage

4:00-5:00 Combined rehearsal with brass, percussion and HS choirs

5:00-6:00 pizza dinner (officers help)

6:00-7:00 hang out and change clothes

7:00 warm up

7:30 concert

3rd: Holiday Gala Processional Rehearsal 7:15-9:00

5th: Holiday Gala Dress Rehearsal 4:00-11:00

6th and 7th: Holiday Gala CH 7:30 (Call 5:30)

8th: Chamber Singers Holiday Concert at First Presbyterian Church 6:00 (dress 3:00)

9th: Vocal Juries RH 9-6

10th: Vocal Juries RH 9-6

29th-31st: Opera rehearsals

January

1st-22nd: Opera rehearsals

13th: First Class Day

20th: MLK Day- No Classes

20th and 21st: Possible concert with Dallas Winds on Carmina Burana

23rd: Opera Production CH 7:30

24th: Opera Production CH 7:30

25th: Opera Production CH 7:30

26th: Opera Production CH 3:00

February

12th-15th: TMEA

9th: Honors Recital CH 3:00

22nd: Vocal and Instrumental Audition Day (officers help)

23rd-25th: Chorale and Chamber Tour off campus

27th: Faculty Vocal Recital CH 7:30

March

1st: Vocal and Instrumental Audition Day (officers help)

1st: Mane Event (officers work information fair)

8th: Vocal and Instrumental Audition Day (officers help)

10th-14th: Spring Break

27th: Choir Concert CH 7:30 pm
???: DFW NATS
31st: Scenes Rehearsal CH 7-10:00

April

1st: Scenes Rehearsal CH 2-3:30 and 7-10:00
2nd: Scenes Rehearsal CH 7-10:00
3rd: Scenes Rehearsal CH 2-3:30 and 7-10:00
4th: Scenes Production CH 7:30
6th: Scenes Production CH 3:00
18th: Good Friday, Classes usually cancelled at noon

May

1st: Choir Concert CH 7:30
3rd: End of Year Choir Party 4:30-10
5th: Vocal Juries RH 9-6
6th: Vocal Juries RH 9-6
21st-27th: Chamber Singers Trip

July

16th-19th: Choir Camp (tentative dates)