Concert Choir:

Music 2750/4750/5750

MW 2:00 - 2:50
TTH 2:00 - 3:15
Humanities: 301

Dr. Karen Graffius
HUM 332 678 839-6271
kgraffiu@westga.edu
Office Hours as Posted

Student Assistants: Ansley Marlow & Justin Tarver
Accompanist: Leslie Goldsmith

Course Description: The study and performance of traditional, contemporary and multicultural choral literature. Includes on-campus and off-campus performances. Open to music-major and non music-major students.

- Prerequisite: A demonstration of vocal proficiency.

Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes:

- Through preparation and performance of diverse choral literature, students will:
  1. Sing, in both rehearsal and performance, a variety of choral music selections.
  2. Read music through the use of solfege, rhythm counting and other techniques.
  3. Demonstrate knowledge of the cultural and historical backgrounds of literature studied including composers and text sources.
  4. Perform with techniques appropriate to the style, composer, ensemble, language and setting of the music.
  5. Interact positively with the class in order to contribute to meaningful and high-quality performances.
  6. Perform music in public both with music and by memory.

Learning Activities:

1. Daily vocalization to improve vocal range, breath support, resonance, diction, intonation and sensitivity to choral balance and blend.
2. Choral score study including form and style analysis and phrase, breath and dynamics identification.
3. Group and individual interpretation of text including translation of foreign languages.
4. Reading/rehearsing music in small and large groups using solfege, rhythm counting numbers and other techniques.

Course Materials:

Required Concert Attire: students must provide performance attire at their own expense.

Men - Black tuxedo with black cummerbund, white shirt, black bow tie, black dress shoes and black socks; men may order any of all parts of the tuxedo through UWG at a group rate; entire tux package is $97

Women - Choir dress, single strand pearl necklace and pearl earrings, black closed-toe shoes;
            Gown: $67.00    Pearl Necklace: $8    Pearl Earrings: $5

Payments are due August 29
Class Materials:

Choir Folder and Sheet Music - Folders and music are provided by the music department and should be brought to every class. Singers should check periodically that they have their assigned number. Folders and music are the property of the University and must be returned at the end of the semester. Replacement costs for lost or damaged music will be assessed at the director’s discretion.

Pencils - Singers should bring a #2 pencil to class every day. **Choral music scores should only be marked in pencil.**

Attendance Policy:

Consistent and prompt attendance by every member is essential for the success of the ensemble. As a condition of enrollment, students must commit themselves to attendance of rehearsals and performances. Conflicts should be reported at the beginning of the term to determine whether the conflict will preclude continued enrollment in the Concert Choir.

*Students who miss three consecutive classes without contacting the instructor may be dropped from the course at the instructor’s discretion.*

Absences:

**Excused** - class field trips (when reported in advance), significant illness or death in the immediate family.

**Unexcused** - study sessions, making up tests, advisement, registration, meetings, weddings, attending to ill friends, family events, etc.

**Final grades are lowered by 5 points for each unexcused absence.**

Cell phone use during class or refusal to participate will be considered an absence or tardy based on the severity, at the instructor’s discretion.

Absence Forms:

All absences require the completion of an absence form, located in the pencil box on top of the folder cabinets. Completed forms should be given directly to the instructor of student assistant. Absences reported after the absence may require additional documentation to be considered excused.

**Tardies:** Students not in their seats with music and a pencil when warm-ups begin are considered tardy.

- Three (3) tardies count as an unexcused absence and the final grade will be lowered by five (5) points.
- Any extended tardy of 10 minutes or more or any late arrival for dress rehearsals or concerts will count as two (2) tardies.
- Leaving class early will receive the same consideration as tardies. No exceptions.

Communication: All communication must be made through UWG email domains only. PLEASE NOTE: If you email does not include a greeting and salutation, your email will not merit a response.
Course Policies: Consult the following link for University policies on academic support, online courses, honor code, e-mail policy, credit hour policy and campus carry:

https://www.westga.edu/UWGSyllabusPolicies/

Health and Wellness: The university and the Department of Music are concerned about your health and wellness. Below is a link with vital information to help students maintain their physical and mental health.

https://www.westga.edu/music/wellness/

Assigned Seating: Assigned seating within sections of voice parts is musically and logistically necessary for the operation of the UWG Concert Choir. If you would like to be moved for any reason, please contact Dr. Graffius.

Sacred Music: The University of West Georgia Concert Choir follows the American Choral Directors Association (ACDA) and National Association for Music Education (NAfME) philosophies on sacred music. In representing the history and development of music, vocal music cannot be taught without the inclusion of historic and cultural sacred choral literature. In representing historic composers and the variety of styles and forms in music, the use of sacred repertoire is essential to the curriculum and is introduced without teaching and/or promoting doctrines. Since roughly 80% of existing choral literature is sacred and 20% is secular, that ratio could be heard at any given UWG Concert Choir performance.

Special Needs and Accomodations: If you have any special needs related to your participation in the course, including identified visual impairment, hearing impairment, physical impairment, communication disorder, and/or specific learning disability that may influence your performance in this course, you should meet with the instructor to arrange for reasonable provisions to ensure an equitable opportunity to meet all the requirements of this course.

Common Courtesy: Please plan bathroom breaks with class length in mind. Eating and drinking in class is prohibited, except for water in enclosed containers. Students attending to other matters such as electronic devices, print materials, etc., will be given an unexcused absence for the day, and may be asked to leave. Turn cell phones off and put them away before class begins. Exceptions to the above are certainly possible, and students with extenuating circumstances should discuss them with the instructor.

Important Dates:

Thursday, Aug. 29 - Uniform Payments Due
Monday, Nov. 4 - Fall Concert at Carroll County Schools Performing Arts Center, call 5:30p.m., Concert 8:15p.m.
Grading/Evaluation:

Grading Scale:
A: 90-100%, B: 80-89%, C: 70-79%, D: 60-69%, F: 0-59%

Observation - 20%
Through observation the director will determine the student's ability to sing the music after a reasonable amount of rehearsal time, to perform the music as rehearsed (including phrasing, diction, style and expression), and to exhibit leadership characteristics commensurate with the student’s vocal ability, training, and experience.

Upper Division students (4750) are expected to model rehearsal and performance decorum for Lower Division students to emulate. This may include serving as a sectional leader.

Graduate students (5750) are expected to assist undergraduate students in acquiring the Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes. This may include leading sectional rehearsals or warm-ups.

Demonstration of Music Reading Techniques - 10%
The director will determine through observation, the student’s ability to read music using solfege, rhythm counting numbers or other techniques commensurate with the student’s training and experience.

Oral Questioning - 10%
Elements evaluated through question-and-answer dialogue include such things as musical/historical facts and perspective, elements of technique and style and text meanings and interpretation. The depth of understanding exhibited by student responses is expected to be commensurate with the level of enrollment.

Memory Check - 10%
Students are expected to memorize at least one selection for the fall concert. The director will determine through observation if the selection has been memorized. This will be an announced observation.

Concert Attendance - 50%
Participation in the fall concert is mandatory. Missing the fall concert will result in failure of the class. Students not dressed properly for the concert will not receive full credit and may not be allowed to perform.

Grades may be further adjusted to reflect class attendance as described above.

Disclaimer:
All information in this syllabus is subject to change. Any additional information or adjustments provided through UWG email, CourseDen, or in class serve as a binding part of the syllabus. It is the responsibility of the student to stay up to date with all information.