Catalog Course Description:

Prerequisite: Vocal proficiency.

The study and performance of choral literature composed for vocal chamber ensembles from traditional, contemporary, and diverse cultural sources. Includes on-campus and sometimes off-campus performances. Open by audition to music-major and non-music-major students.

Required materials:

Men: Black tuxedo with black cummerbund, white shirt, black bow tie, Black dress shoes and black socks

Women: Choir dress, single strand pearls and pearl earrings, black hose and black shoes

Choir members must provide performance attire at their own expense. The choir dress is $63. Pearl necklace is $5; pearl earrings are $3. Men may order any or all parts of a tuxedo through UWG at a group rate. Entire tux package is $108. Students arrange for their own shoes. Payment is due before attire can be ordered.

Course Objectives/Learning Outcomes:

Through the guided study, rehearsal, and performance of choral literature, the student will demonstrate:

1. the ability to rehearse and perform a variety of choral music.
2. an understanding of a variety of musical styles, including the various style periods in Western art music, musics of other cultures, and occasional American popular styles.
3. knowledge about the composer, history, and style of the music performed.
4. the ability to respond to instruction and contribute positively to the performance level of the group.
5. the ability to apply performance techniques appropriate to the style, composer, ensemble, and setting.
6. the ability to perform music (often from memory) in public.

Learning activities:

1. Guided vocalization to develop individual vocal technique, including breath control, resonance, diction, and flexibility, and choral technique, including sensitivity to balance, vowel uniformity (blend), & rhythmic precision.
2. Experiences in score study and sight reading to develop musicianship
3. Study, rehearsal, and performance of choral literature
Attendance policy:

Consistent, prompt attendance by every member is essential for the success of any choral ensemble. This is especially true for small, select ensembles such as the Chamber Singers. As a condition of enrollment, students must commit themselves to prompt attendance at all rehearsals and performances. Schedule conflicts should be reported at the beginning of the term, and a conference with the instructor will be held to determine whether the conflict will preclude continued enrollment in the Chamber Singers.

All absences require the submission of a completed absence form. Forms are provided in the pencil box located on top of the folder rack. Completed forms should be left on the piano. Whenever possible, students should notify the instructor before an absence. Absences reported after-the-fact may require additional documentation to be considered excused. Examples of excused absences are class field trips (if reported in advance), significant illness, or death in the immediate family. Examples of unexcused absences are study sessions, making up tests, advisement, registration, meetings, weddings, attending to ill friends, family events, etc. Students are allowed two unexcused absences without penalty for these purposes. A third unexcused absence will result in your grade being lowered one letter-grade. Thereafter, every two unexcused absences will result in the grade being lowered an additional letter-grade. Students not in their seats with music and a pencil when warm-ups begin are considered tardy. Three tardies count as an unexcused absence. Extended tardies, or late arrival for dress rehearsals or concerts may count as two tardies. Leaving class early or temporarily (except in emergencies) will receive the same consideration as tardies. Please plan bathroom breaks with class length in mind. Eating and drinking in class is prohibited, except for water in closed containers. Students attending to other matters such as newspapers, cell phones, PDAs, etc., will be counted absent for the day, and may be asked to leave. Exceptions to the above are certainly possible, and students with extenuating circumstances should discuss them with the instructor.

Evaluation:

Through observation and verbal dialogue, the instructor will evaluate each student’s demonstration of the Course Objectives/Learning Outcomes described above. Observed elements include 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 are expected to model rehearsal and performance decorum for Lower Division students to emulate. Graduate students are expected to assist undergraduate students in acquiring the Course Objectives/Learning Outcomes. Elements evaluated through question-and-answer dialogue include such things as musical/historical facts and perspective, and elements of technique and style. The depth of understanding exhibited by student responses is expected to be commensurate with the level of enrollment.

Grades determined as above may be adjusted to reflect individual’s effort and attitude as demonstrated by prompt attendance at all rehearsals and performances, preparedness for rehearsals (including materials), proper rehearsal and performance decorum (including posture and refraining from distracting activities), and assistance with tasks as needed, (equipment, displaying publicity, tickets, etc.)

Grades may be further adjusted to reflect attendance as described above.
Performances:
You must be able to attend all rehearsals and performances to enroll in Chamber Singers. **Make the necessary arrangements now to attend all events.**

**GMEA All-College Chorus – January 25-28** (selected members)
We will depart at 2:00 PM on Wednesday, January 25 and travel via UWG bus to Savannah, returning Saturday, January 28, about 9:00 PM. Singers will stay at the Fairfield Inn in Savannah. Wear performance dress for the concert on Saturday, January 28. A per diem will be given to each student to help offset meal expenses.

**Mid-Winter Concert:** (with the Concert Choir)
dress rehearsal: Monday, Feb. 20, 2:00-3:15 Townsend Center for the Performing Arts. Please arrive early, wear casual clothes and comfortable shoes, but no hats, cologne, or perfume.
performances: **Tuesday, February 21**
7:00 p.m. Call time, Townsend Center
8:15 p.m. Concert

**Honors Day Concert** (tentative): **Wednesday, March 29**
Classes are Cancelled campus-wide for this midday event

**Tour** (tentative) – **April 9-11** (destination to be determined)
We will depart early afternoon on Sunday, April 9 and travel via UWG bus, returning Tuesday, April 11, by early evening. Lodging expenses will be covered, and a per diem will be given to each student to help offset meal expenses.

**Additional run-out concerts to high schools are possible.**

**Choral-Orchestral Concert:** (with the Concert Choir)
dress rehearsals: Monday, April 24, 2:00-3:15 & 7:00-10:00 p.m. (with orchestra)
performances: **Tuesday, April 25**
7:00 p.m. Call time
8:15 p.m. Concert