

MUS 377 – Choral Methods

Spring 2011, 5 – 6:15 p.m. CAB 1059

Instructor: [Joe Hickman](#), Office CAB 1060, 910 – 962-3588
office hours 11 – 11:45 MWF; 11 – 12:15 TR and by appointment

Catalog Description: MUS 377. Choral Methods (3) Prerequisite: Admission to the Watson School of Education or consent of instructor. Goals, objectives, methodology, and assessment procedures for teaching choral music. Topics may include repertoire and programming, learning theory applied to choral rehearsal, group vocal training techniques, rehearsal procedures, and program management strategies. Field experience required.

Additional Description: The class is designed to prepare the individual to manage learning in the choral rehearsal setting, whether in public school, church, or community choir. It is required for all Music Education-Choral students, and thus the field experience requirements and other specific requirements dictated by the NC Department of Public Instruction. These are expected both of Music Education majors and of all other students in the class.

Required textbook: Michele Holt and James Jordan, *The School Choral Program: Philosophy, Planning, Organizing, and Teaching*. Chicago, GIA Publications, 2008.

Each student will also be expected to have access to the world wide web and such sites as the North Carolina Standard Course of Study for Music. In addition, regular reading assignments will involve standard choral textbooks found in the Curricular Materials Center in the Watson School of Education.

Student Learning Objectives

- The student will develop a philosophy of the values of a good choral program and will learn to design a marketing and communication program to attract and retain capable choral musicians.
- The student will develop an overview of the curriculum for choral music and develop strategies for retaining choral musicians who move from Elementary to Middle School, Middle School to High School, and High School to Higher Education.
- The student will learn to analyze and classify singers (voice part, usable range, dynamic range, special concerns for individual singers and voice parts, etc.)
- The student will learn to analyze repertoire for quality, level of difficulty, estimating rehearsal time needed for preparation, etc.
- The student will develop a vocabulary of proper vocal techniques to utilize to achieve beauty, blend, balance, etc. in choral performance.
- The student will develop an approach to choral musicianship (sight-reading techniques, techniques of articulation, etc.) needed for excellence in choral performance
- The student will develop utility with the expression of language and in matters of word inflection, projection of the meaning of a text, and skills associated with singing in other languages.

- The student will develop an ability to evaluate ensembles at each level, from elementary school through professional choirs.
- The student will develop an ability to assess the work of individuals within ensembles, both for the purpose of evaluation of choral members and for the assessment and improvement of choral ensembles.
- The student will consider extra-musical activities that lend value and attractiveness to choral programs (tours, musical theater productions, festival performances and adjudications, etc.)

Course Requirements

Regular attendance is a must and regular preparation for discussions and for quizzes (mostly unannounced) in class. Quizzes and tests will primarily be open-notebook BUT NOT OPEN BOOK. You must read the assignments and take notes, take notes on the discussions and presentations, and expect periodic spot checks of the notebook, which is intended to become a personal resource manual.

Each student will be expected to do presentations on selected topics in class and/or report on resources or books as assigned. Three announced tests plus a final exam will be part of the course requirements.

Evaluation

Final Exam – 25% of grade for the class.

The balance will be an average of the top 5 (@ 15% each) of the following scores:

1. Quizzes
2. Discussions
3. Presentations and reports
4. Test 1
5. Test 2
6. Test 3

Policy on due dates and exam/quiz scores: These are non-negotiable. Papers, presentations, etc. should be prepared to send electronically in the event you cannot attend class for any reason. If you are scheduled to present to the class on a specific date and cannot attend, you are responsible to find a substitute (someone else in the class to make a presentation on your day and you on his/her day) AND have prior approval.

Academic Honor Code

"The University of North Carolina at Wilmington is committed to the proposition that the pursuit of truth requires the presence of honesty among all involved. It is therefore this institution's stated policy that no form of dishonesty among its faculty or students will be tolerated. Although all members of the university community are encouraged to report occurrences of dishonesty, each individual is principally responsible for his or her own honesty." (Above is an excerpt from the "Student Code of Life" in the UNCW Student

Handbook. All students are encouraged to read all of section V, "Academic Honor Code" for definitions of plagiarism, bribery, and cheating; and the procedures for reporting and adjudication of any activities involving student dishonesty).

University Statement on Academic Expectations

"In choosing UNCW, you have become part of our community of scholars. We recognize that the UNCW learning experience is challenging and requires hard work. It also requires a commitment to make time available to do that hard work. The university expects you to make academics your highest priority by dedicating your time and energy to training your mind and acquiring knowledge. Academic success in critical thinking and problem solving prepares you for the changes and challenges you will encounter in the future. Our faculty and academic support resources are readily available as partners in this effort, but the primary responsibility for learning is yours."

Disability Accommodation

Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities will be made as specified in federal regulations. If you have a disability and need accommodation, please follow this procedure. First, contact and register with the office of Disability Services in Westside Hall (962-3746). Second, obtain a copy of your accommodation letter, and then make arrangements to speak with me.