MUSA 1151 University Chorus – (Hybrid)
Spring 2021 || CRN: 21217 and 28064

Professor: Mr. Brian Downen
- o bgdownen@utep.edu
  Office: (915) 747-6352
  Mobile: (646) 591-6471

Office Hours virtually via Zoom M/W 10:30-11:20 a.m. by appointment
- o Zoom Meeting Information (for online class and office hours)
- o https://utep-edu.zoom.us/j/3866725274
  Meeting ID: 386 672 5274
  Passcode: 787715

Important Dates: Rehearsals and/or performances outside class time

Monday, February 15	Spring Concert	7:30 p.m.	via Youtube
Monday, February 22	Spring Concert 2	7:30 p.m.	via Youtube
Monday, April 19	Choralfest	5:00 – 8:00 p.m.	(f2f) FFA Recital Hall
Tuesday, April 20	Choralfest	5:00 – 8:00 p.m.	(f2f) FFA Recital Hall

Course Information: What this class is about and what we will do

COURSE DESCRIPTION

MUSA 1151 (University Chorus) fulfills one of several large ensemble credits required by all music majors. Non majors are welcome and this course may be repeated. The primary goal of University Chorus is to learn and perform choral literature from a wide variety of historic time periods, styles and languages. This course provides the unique experience of singing together with common purpose resulting in compelling art and a sense of community and pride among its members.

University Chorus meets three times weekly, M/W/F from 11:30 a.m. - 12:20 p.m. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, this course will be taught in a hybrid setting with face-to-face meetings on Mondays in Fox Fine Arts Recital Hall and synchronous online meetings on Wednesdays and Fridays. (THE F2F MEETING DAY MAY CHANGE) Students who do not want to attend in-person classes due to COVID-19 may attend f2f rehearsals by Zoom. ALL MEETINGS FOR THIS CLASS ARE SYNCHRONOUS.

At this time, there will be no large ensemble concerts taking place at UTEP this semester. If conditions indicate and university restrictions are lifted, this may change.

VERY IMPORTANT: During rehearsals via Zoom, you are expected to rehearse and fully participate with your camera on. Those attending rehearsals with their cameras dark will be counted absent.

COURSE OBJECTIVES OR EXPECTED LEARNING OUTCOMES

Students who take this course will improve their skills in the following areas
- o Maintaining correct posture, breath management and free phonation while singing
- o Sight singing in a multi-part choral setting
- o Creating a unified choral sound through accurate intonation, correct diction, blend and balance

- Modifying vocal tone through vowel shape and diction to sing authentically in different styles of music
- Using audio and visual recording technology to create virtual choir recordings

REQUIRED MATERIALS

Music for this course will be provided electronically through a shared OneDrive folder and in paper copy at in-person rehearsals. Those students taking the course on-line are responsible for printing their personal copy of the music.

In Person Meetings
- Black three ring binder with copies of assigned music in back to back format, three-hole punched
- Pencil with eraser
- Well-fitting cloth face mask that covers both nose and mouth, leaving room to freely move jaw and with enough space in front to breathe freely.

Synchronous Online Meetings
- Black three ring binder with copies of assigned music in back to back format, three-hole punched
- Pencil with eraser
- Access to technology requirements (see below)

GRADING SCALE

- 100%-90% = A, 89%-80% = B, 79%-70% = C, 69%-60% = D, 59% and Below = F

GRADING DISTRIBUTION

- 50% Attendance and active participation
  - 0-2 absences = 100%
  - 3 absences = 90%
  - 4 absences = 80%
  - 5 absences = 70%
  - 6 absences = 60%
  - 7 absences = 50%
  - After 7 absences, it is recommended the student drop the course
- 25% Repertoire Assessments
- 15% Virtual Choir Submissions or attendance at live recording sessions
- 10% Written Assignments
- **Attendance:** In person or Synchronous attendance by Zoom. According to UTEP Curriculum and Classroom Policies. I will not drop you from the course. However, if you feel that you are unable to complete the course successfully, please let me know and then contact the Registrar's Office (https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/registrar/students/registration.html) to initiate the drop process. If you do not, you are at risk of receiving an "F" for the course.
- **Participation:** Students are expected to actively participate in rehearsals, whether by Zoom or face to face. Participation equals arriving in teachable condition, taking part in all physical and vocal activities, being in possession of required materials and taking written notes in their musical copy.

- o **Repertoire Assessments:** Students will demonstrate their ability to independently sing their voice part in person or by recording in scheduled assessments.
- o **Virtual Choir Submissions:** Students will submit personal recordings of course repertoire both in audio and video format for use in virtual choir presentations.
- o **Written Assignments:** Students will be assigned written assignments related to the learning goals of each piece of repertoire.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

Ensure your UTEP e-mail account is working and that you have access to the Web and a stable web browser. Google Chrome and Mozilla Firefox are the best browsers for Blackboard; other browsers may cause complications. When having technical difficulties, update your browser, clear your cache, or try switching to another browser.

You will need to have access to a computer/laptop, a webcam, and a microphone. You will need to download or update the following software: Microsoft Office, Adobe Acrobat Reader, Windows Media Player, QuickTime, and Java. Check that your computer hardware and software are up-to-date and able to access all parts of the course.

If you do not have a word-processing software, you can download Word and other Microsoft Office programs (including Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook and more) for free via UTEP's Microsoft Office Portal. Click the following link for more information about Microsoft Office 365 and follow the instructions.

IMPORTANT: If you encounter technical difficulties beyond your scope of troubleshooting, please contact the UTEP Help Desk as they are trained specifically in assisting with technological needs of students.

ADDITIONAL SOFTWARE APPLICATIONS REQUIRED

- o Microsoft OneDrive (set up your free account at my.utep.edu)
- o MusicFirst Account (provided by UTEP Dept. of Music)
- o Access to Blackboard

Course Communication: How we will stay in contact with each other

Because this is hybrid class, we won't see each other in person as often as you may be accustomed to and during on-line class time, private conversations are not possible. However, there are a number of ways we can keep the communication channels open:

- o **Office Hours**: Mondays and Wednesdays: 10:30-11:20 a.m. by appointment on Zoom
  Zoom Meeting Information
  https://utep-edu.zoom.us/j/3866725274
  Meeting ID: 386 672 5274
  Passcode: 787715

- o **Email**: UTEP e-mail is the best way to contact me. I will make every attempt to respond to your e-mail within 24-48 hours of receipt. When e-mailing me, be sure to email from your UTEP student account and please put the course number in the subject line. In the body of your e-

mail, clearly state your question. At the end of your e-mail, be sure to put your first and last name.

NETIQUETTE

As we know, sometimes communication online can be challenging. It's possible to miscommunicate what we mean or to misunderstand what our classmates mean given the lack of body language and immediate feedback. Therefore, please keep these netiquette (network etiquette) guidelines in mind. Failure to observe them may result in disciplinary action.

- o Always consider audience. This is a college-level course; therefore, all communication should reflect polite consideration of other's ideas.
- o Respect and courtesy must be provided to classmates and to the instructor at all times. No harassment or inappropriate postings will be tolerated.
- o When reacting to someone else's message, address the ideas, not the person. Post only what anyone would comfortably state in a face-to-face situation.

Course Policies: What do you need to do to be successful in the course

ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION

- o Regular Attendance synchronously on-line or face to face is expected. (See grading for attendance policy.)
- o Participants are expected to learn their music thoroughly, demonstrating accuracy of pitch, rhythm, diction and appropriate tone quality.
- o Participants are expected to complete all assignments, both written and audio/visually recorded.

DEADLINES, LATE WORK, AND ABSENCE POLICY

- o Written Assignments and recording submissions: A loss of 10% for each day the assignment is late

MAKE-UP WORK

Make-up work will be given *only* in the case of a *documented* emergency. Note that make-up work may be in a different format than the original work, may require more intensive preparation, and may be graded with penalty points. If you miss an assignment and the reason is not considered excusable, you will receive a zero. It is therefore important to reach out to me—in advance if at all possible—and explain with proper documentation why you missed a given course requirement. Once a deadline has been established for make-up work, no further extensions or exceptions will be granted.

INCOMPLETE GRADE POLICY

Incomplete grades may be requested only in exceptional circumstances after you have completed at least half of the course requirements. Talk to me immediately if you believe an incomplete is warranted. If granted, we will establish a contract of work to be completed with deadlines.

ACCOMMODATIONS POLICY

The University is committed to providing reasonable accommodations and auxiliary services to students, staff, faculty, job applicants, applicants for admissions, and other beneficiaries of University programs, services and activities with documented disabilities in order to provide

4

them with equal opportunities to participate in programs, services, and activities in compliance with sections 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 and the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA) of 2008. Reasonable accommodations will be made unless it is determined that doing so would cause undue hardship on the University. Students requesting an accommodation based on a disability must register with the UTEP Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS). Contact the Center for Accommodations and Support Services at 915-747-5148, or email them at cass@utep.edu, or apply for accommodations online via the CASS portal.

COVID-19 ACCOMODATIONS

Students are not permitted on campus when they have a positive COVID-19 test, exposure or symptoms. If you are not permitted on campus, you should attend f2f rehearsals by Zoom.

SCHOLASTIC INTEGRITY

Academic dishonesty is prohibited and is considered a violation of the UTEP Handbook of Operating Procedures. It includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, and collusion. Cheating may involve copying from or providing information to another student, possessing unauthorized materials during a test, or falsifying research data on laboratory reports. Plagiarism occurs when someone intentionally or knowingly represents the words or ideas of another as ones' own. Collusion involves collaborating with another person to commit any academically dishonest act. Any act of academic dishonesty attempted by a UTEP student is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. All suspected violations of academic integrity at The University of Texas at El Paso must be reported to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution (OSCCR) for possible disciplinary action. To learn more, please visit HOOP: Student Conduct and Discipline.

CLASS RECORDINGS

The use of recordings will enable you to have access to class lectures, group discussions, and so on in the event you miss a synchronous or in-person class meeting due to illness or other extenuating circumstance. Our use of such technology is governed by the Federal Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and UTEP's acceptable-use policy. A recording of class sessions will be kept and stored by UTEP, in accordance with FERPA and UTEP policies. Your instructor will not share the recordings of your class activities outside of course participants, which include your fellow students, teaching assistants, or graduate assistants, and any guest faculty or community-based learning partners with whom we may engage during a class session. **You may not share recordings outside of this course.** Doing so may result in disciplinary action.

COPYRIGHT STATEMENT FOR COURSE MATERIALS

All materials used in this course are protected by copyright law. The music for the course has been purchased by UTEP, and disseminated to you online. The course materials and music for the course are only for the use of students currently enrolled in this course and only for the purpose of this course. They may not be further disseminated.

COVID-19 PRECAUTIONS

You must STAY AT HOME and REPORT if you
- have been diagnosed with COVID-19,
- are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, or
- have had recent contact with a person who has received a positive coronavirus test.

Reports should be made at screening.utep.edu. If you know of anyone who should report any of these three criteria, you should encourage them to report. If the individual cannot report, you can report on their behalf by sending an email to COVIDaction@utep.edu.

For each day that you attend campus—for any reason—you must complete the questions on the UTEP screening website (screening.utep.edu) prior to arriving on campus. The website will verify if you are permitted to come to campus. Under no circumstances should anyone come to class when feeling ill or exhibiting any of the known COVID-19 symptoms. If you are feeling unwell, please let me know as soon as possible, and alternative instruction will be provided. Students are advised to minimize the number of encounters with others to avoid infection. Wear face coverings when in common areas of campus or when others are present. You must wear a face covering over your nose and mouth and a face shield that attaches to a baseball cap at all times in this class. If you choose not to wear a face covering, you may not enter the classroom. If you remove your face covering, you will be asked to put it on or leave the classroom. Students who refuse to wear a face covering and follow preventive COVID-19 guidelines will be dismissed from the class and will be subject to disciplinary action according to Section 1.2.3 *Health and Safety* and Section 1.2.2.5 *Disruptions* in the UTEP Handbook of Operating Procedures.

Please note that if COVID-19 conditions deteriorate in the City of El Paso, all course and lab activities may be transitioned to remote delivery.

Course Resources: Where you can go for assistance

UTEP SERVICES AND SUPPORT

Technology Resources
- Help Desk: Students experiencing technological challenges (email, Blackboard, software, etc.) can submit a ticket to the UTEP Helpdesk for assistance. Contact the Helpdesk via phone, email, chat, website, or in person if on campus.

Academic Resources
- UTEP Library: Access a wide range of resources including online, full-text access to thousands of journals and eBooks plus reference service and librarian assistance for enrolled students.
- University Writing Center (UWC): Submit papers here for assistance with writing style and formatting, ask a tutor for help and explore other writing resources.
- Math Tutoring Center (MaRCS): Ask a tutor for help and explore other available math resources.
- History Tutoring Center (HTC): Receive assistance with writing history papers, get help from a tutor and explore other history resources.
- RefWorks: A bibliographic citation tool; check out the RefWorks tutorial and Fact Sheet and Quick-Start Guide.

Individual Resources
- Military Student Success Center: Assists personnel in any branch of service to reach their educational goals.
- Center for Accommodations and Support Services: Assists students with ADA-related accommodations for coursework, housing, and internships.
- Counseling and Psychological Services: Provides a variety of counseling services including individual, couples, and group sessions as well as career and disability assessments.

6