

## MUSA 1151 University Chorus

Rm. 243 (Recital Hall) and Rm. 340 Fox Fine Arts Bldg.; MWF 11:30 a.m.-12:20 p.m.

Dr. Elisa Fraser Wilson

342 FFA Music; 747-8708; [ewilson@utep.edu](mailto:ewilson@utep.edu)

Information about Dr. Wilson can be found at:

<http://faculty.utep.edu/Default.aspx?alias=faculty.utep.edu/ewilson>

Mr. Brian Downen

333 FFA Music, 747-6352; [bgdownen@utep.edu](mailto:bgdownen@utep.edu)

Information about Mr. Downen can be found at:

<http://faculty.utep.edu/Default.aspx?alias=faculty.utep.edu/bgdownen>

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

The University Chorus provides opportunities to learn about and experience a variety of music styles, to work together with peers to obtain excellence of performance and to sing with other musicians who share an interest in choral music. Course content will include the study and performance of choral repertoire from a variety of style periods with additional study and evaluation in the areas of historical performance practice, vocal/choral pedagogy, and concert performance practice.

### COURSE OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this course are to prepare singers to:

- Strive for excellence in rehearsals and presentations.
- Gain an awareness of their part within the fabric of the whole ensemble.
- Understand and participate in the development of choral sound.
- Sing healthily in choral rehearsal and performance.

### COURSE OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of this course, the student should be able to:

- Perform the music studied with correct rhythms, pitches and dynamics in public performances.
- Demonstrate expressive use of the voice while employing healthy singing technique.
- Sing a wide variety of choral literature.
- Demonstrate professional standards of stage presence and concert etiquette during public performances.

### COURSE MATERIALS

- Scores will be provided to the student and must be returned to the librarian after each concert. Failure to return music will result in the holding of grades. Students will be held financially responsible for replacing lost or damaged scores.
- Please place all items in a black, 3-ring binder. ***Do not hole punch choir materials.***
- Bring a pencil to all rehearsals. ***All music markings will be made in pencil.***

### CONCERT ATTIRE

- ***OPTION #1: Students are required to provide their own full-length black dress. More information will be given to the students during the first few weeks of the semester. Students will wear black closed toe dress shoes with black hose. Hair should be kept away from the face.***
- ***OPTION #2: Students are required to provide their own black tuxedo with appropriate pleated tuxedo shirt, black cummerbund/vest, black bow tie, black dress socks, and black dress shoes. Shirts should have cuff links and black stud covers. Hair should be kept away from the face.***

## **COURSE EXPECTATIONS**

**Participation:** All choral rehearsals are mandatory. The only excused absences are conflicts that are outside of the control of the student (e.g. illness, death in the immediate family). All excused absences must be documented **the day of the occurrence** by emailing the instructor; if not, the absence will be counted as an unexcused absence. Unexcused absences are conflicts that are within the control of the student. Each unexcused absence will be considered in the semester evaluation.

**Participation at all performances is mandatory. Failure to participate in a concert performance will result in no credit for the course.**

**Dress Rehearsals:** Participation in the entire dress rehearsal before a concert is mandatory. Students may not perform in the concert if they fail to attend the entire dress rehearsal; thus resulting in no credit for the semester.

**Tardiness:** You are expected to be on the risers with materials before 11:30 a.m. Any person entering after 11:30 a.m. is tardy. **Three unexcused tardies will carry the weight of one unexcused absence.**

**Cell phones and electronic devices must be turned off during rehearsal and concerts.**

**GRADING:** The following criteria determine your grade as well as the success of the ensemble:

### **A. Participation 60%**

1. Active participation and positivity factor into your grade.
- 2. Failure to attend a performance and/or dress rehearsal will result in a failing grade for the semester.**
3. Grades will be based upon satisfactory performance of ensemble music within the rehearsal. Punctuality and regular attendance are mandatory. Unexcused absences may be cause for removal from the ensemble.

### **B. Preparation 40%**

1. Music and pencil are required at each rehearsal.
2. Small Group Exams: Students may be called to perform music individually in small groups and/or to submit practice recordings. Such exams will be announced in class.

**Grading Scale: 100-90 A; 89-80 B; 79-70 C; 69-60 D; 59-below F**

**2 absences - A; 3 absences - B; 4 absences - C; 5 absences - D; 6 absences - F**

## **GRADUATE CREDIT**

This course is available for Graduate level credit. Students taking this course for **Graduate Credit** are required to complete additional coursework beyond the requirements of the undergraduate students enrolled in the course. This work may include additional assignments, preparatory work, or performances. Graduate students will also be expected to assist with sectional rehearsals and individual coachings of undergraduate students as needed. Additional required course work will be established and communicated to the student by the instructor at the beginning of the semester.

**Academic Honesty:** Any questions regarding university policies on academic honesty may be found at <http://sa.utep.edu/osccr/academic-integrity/>

**Accessibility for Students with Disabilities:** Any reasonable accommodations for students with limitations due to disabilities, including learning disabilities, will be made. If you have a documented disability and require specific accommodations, you will need to contact the Center for Accommodations and Support Services Office in the East Union Building, Rm 106 within the first two weeks of classes. CASS can be reached at: <http://www.sa.utep.edu/cass> or call (915) 747-5148 voice or TTY [cass@utep.edu](mailto:cass@utep.edu).