

# MUSA 1151 University Chorus

## Spring 2022 || CRN: 21102

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Professor: Mr. Brian Downen

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Mobile: (646) 591-6471

Office Hours: In person or online by appointment

Mondays and Wednesdays: 10:30-11:20 a.m., M333

Zoom Meeting Information

<https://utep-edu.zoom.us/j/3866725274>

Meeting ID: 386 672 5274

Passcode: 787715

### REQUIRED DATES (call times subject to change)

Sun. Feb. 13	Beethoven 9 Combined Rehearsal	6:00-7:30 p.m.	FFA Rm. 140
Tues./Wed./Thurs. Feb. 15, 16 & 17	Beethoven 9 Orchestra Rehearsals	6:30 p.m. (call) for 7:00 p.m. reh.	Plaza Theater
Fri./Sat. Feb. 18 & 19	Beethoven 9 Concerts with EPSO	TBA (call) for 7:30 p.m. concert	Plaza Theater
Mon./Tues. April 18 & 19	UTEP ChoralFest	6:00 p.m.	FFA Recital Hall

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

MUSA 1151 (University Chorus) fulfills one of several large ensemble credits required by all music majors. Non majors are most 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. in Fox Fine Arts Recital Hall.

### COURSE OBJECTIVES OR EXPECTED LEARNING OUTCOMES

Students who complete this course will improve their skills in the following areas

- Maintaining correct posture, breath management and free phonation while singing
- Sight singing in a multi-part choral setting
- Creating a unified choral sound through accurate intonation, correct diction, ensemble 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 track progress

### REQUIRED MATERIALS

Music for this course will be provided.

You will need to provide

- 1 inch Black three ring binder to hold your music
- 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.
- Access to technology requirements (see below)

## REQUIRED 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.

## GRADING SCALE

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

## GRADING DISTRIBUTION

- 60% Class attendance and active participation
  - 0-1 absences = 100%
  - 2 absences = 95%
  - 3 absences = 90%
  - 4 absences = 85%
  - 5 absences = 80%
  - 6 absences = 75
  - 7 absences = 70
  - 8 absences = 65
  - 9 absences = 60%
  - After 9 absences, it is recommended the student drop the course Each absence will lower the grade 5%
  - **Each missed dress rehearsal or a concert will lower the final grade 1 letter grade.**
- 25% Repertoire Assessments (live or recorded on Soundtrap)
- 15% Written Assignments (uploaded to Blackboard)
  
- **Attendance:** You are expected to attend all class sessions and arrive on time. You will be recorded as late if you arrive more than 5 minutes past class time, rehearsal or performance call time. Every three sessions that you arrive late will count as 1 absence.  
**Each absence for a dress rehearsal or performance will lower the final letter grade by one letter.**  
Absences may be excused for occasional illness, COVID-19 exposure or illness, and family medical emergency or death in the family, all with proper documentation. Prolonged or frequent absences will not be excused. If you feel that you are unable to complete the course successfully, please let me know and then contact the [Registrar's Office \(https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/registrar/students/registration.html\)](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. 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.
- **Repertoire Assessments:** Students will demonstrate their ability to independently sing their voice part in person or by recording scheduled assessment exams.
- **Written Assignments:** Students will be assigned written assignments related to the learning goals of each piece of repertoire.

## COVID-19 PRECAUTION STATEMENT

- Please stay home if you have been diagnosed with COVID-19 or are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms. If you are feeling unwell, please let me know as soon as possible, so that we can work on appropriate accommodations. If you have tested positive for COVID-19, you are encouraged to report your results to [covidaction@utep.edu](mailto:covidaction@utep.edu), so that the Dean of Students Office can provide you with support and help with communication with your professors. The Student Health Center is equipped to provide COVID-19 testing.
- The Center for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that people in areas of substantial or high COVID-19 transmission wear face masks when indoors in groups of people. The best way that Miners can take care of Miners is to get the vaccine. If you still need the vaccine, it is widely available in the El Paso area, and will be available at no charge on campus during the first week of classes. For more information about the current rates, testing, and vaccinations, please visit [epstrong.org](http://epstrong.org).

## 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, with a built in or external microphone. You will need to download or update the following software: Microsoft Office and Adobe Acrobat Reader. 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

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

## COMMUNICATION

- **Office Hours:** Mondays and Wednesdays: 10:30-11:20 a.m. in by appointment in-person (M333) or by Zoom  
Zoom Meeting Information  
<https://utep-edu.zoom.us/j/3866725274>  
Meeting ID: 386 672 5274  
Passcode: 787715
- **Email:** Please contact me through UTEP Email. I will make every attempt to respond to your e-mail within 24-48 hours of receipt. When e-mailing me, be sure to use your UTEP student account and 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.

## **DEADLINES AND LATE WORK**

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

## **MAKE-UP WORK**

Make-up work will be given *only* in the case of a *documented* emergency and will apply only to written assignments and recording submissions. 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 are not available for this course.

## **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 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](mailto:cass@utep.edu), or apply for accommodations online via the [CASS portal](#).

## **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](#).

## **COPYRIGHT STATEMENT FOR COURSE MATERIALS**

All materials used in this course are protected by copyright law. 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.

## 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.