

MUSA 1250 UTEP CONCERT CHORALE

Rm. 340 & 243 (Recital Hall), Fox Fine Arts Bldg.; MTR 1:30-2:50 P.M.

Dr. Elisa Fraser Wilson

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Office Hours: By appointment

Information about Dr. Wilson can be found at the following link:

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

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Study and performance of choral repertoire from a variety of genres and time periods with additional study and evaluation in the areas of genre-specific performance practice, vocal/choral pedagogy, and self- and peer assessment.

COURSE CONTENT:

*Depending on performance schedule, course content **may** include:*

- Preparation, rehearsal, and performance of choral concerts, both on and off campus, including collaborations with El Paso Opera and the El Paso Symphony Orchestra.
- Sectionals and/or individual rehearsal outside class time as needed. "Weekend work" will be regularly assigned.
- Research, listening, and/or written assignments guided by specific demands of individual pieces.
- In-class and recorded performance testing, in small groups and one on a part.
- Local, regional, and national outreach performances and tours.

COURSE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:

The goals of this course are to prepare singers to:

- Enjoy the singing and performing processes.
- Strive for performance of the highest quality in rehearsals and presentations.
- Sing healthily in choral rehearsal and performance.
- Develop the interpretative and critical thinking skills necessary to present quality performance.
- Provide arts outreach to local and international audiences.
- Utilize technology as an evaluative tool.
- Read printed music more efficiently.
- Listen more acutely, critically, and effectively to self, ensemble, and external performances.
- Function effectively as part of a vocal *ensemble*.

At the completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- *Independently* prepare selections from the choral repertoire.
- Accurately identify and use vocal/choral terminology in verbal and written form.
- Perform selections from the choral repertoire with accuracy of pitch, rhythm, diction, style-appropriate tone quality, performance practice, and *musical expression*.
- Prepare, perform, and develop choral materials to a level acceptable for professional presentation at the university, local, regional, and national levels.
- Evaluate self and ensemble performances with appropriate terminology and constructive commentary, in person and in writing.

Course Requirements

In order to achieve these objectives, the student will:

- attend class, sectionals and all extra rehearsals regularly.
- participate in all course performances as assigned.
- complete all research/ preparatory assignments as assigned.
- perform "quiz" performances in class as assigned.
- acquire all performance material assigned according to schedule.
- communicate regularly and effectively with peers and faculty.
- respect and assist all class participants and directors in a *positive and professional manner*.

GRADING:

- **Rehearsal attendance and preparation 60%**
 - Present. Each student receives **one free absence**. After that, only three absences will be allowed. After the third absence, students may be dropped from the class. **2 absences - A; 3 absences - B; 4 absences -C. On time (3 tardies = 1 absence) Attendance: 2 absences - A; 3 absences - B; 4 absences - C; 5 absences - D**
 - **1 absence = 100%, A**
 - **2 absences = 95%, A**
 - **3 absences = 88%, B**
 - **4 absences = 78%, C and possible drop from the course**
 - **Punctuality: (3 tardies = 1 absence). NOTE: 10 minutes late= tardy.**
 - In possession of required materials: music, folder, pencil, tape recorder as needed
 - Prepared: regularly, you will be asked to prepare your music outside class time. Please take these assignments seriously.
 - Memorized as assigned.
- **Performance tests 10%**
 - Testing will occur during rehearsal time.
 - Singers will present live performances of previously assigned excerpts in class on an unannounced basis. Grading criteria: accuracy of pitch and rhythm, articulation/dynamics, diction, as assigned prior to testing date.
- **Performance attendance and etiquette 30%**
 - Present: **ALL DRESS REHEARSALS AND CONCERTS ARE MANDATORY. FAILURE TO ATTEND A DRESS REHEARSAL WILL RESULT IN A FAILING GRADE OF 0% FOR THAT REHEARSAL. FAILURE TO ATTEND A CONCERT WILL RESULT IN A LOWERING OF THE TOTAL FINAL GRADE ONE LETTER.**
 - On time
 - Appropriately attired: see Concert Attire Guidelines
 - In possession of required materials, i.e. music in appropriate folder
 - Professional and appropriate behavior

NOTE: No automatic withdrawals will be given by the instructor, and no incompletes will be given.

SERVICE AWARDS

Service awards are given to all participants in the Concert Chorale who register for the course, participate regularly, and fulfill their performance obligations. **After the first free absence, award amounts will be reduced one-third per absence for a total of four allowed absences;** after four absences, the student may be asked to drop the course.

PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE

Dress rehearsals and performances are mandatory. Failure to perform on any concert will result in lowering the final grade one letter. Any added performances will be based upon availability of the majority of performers and balance considerations. **Performance schedules vary each semester; consequently, these are provided separately.**

REHEARSAL MATERIALS

- Scores organized in 3-ring black binder.
- #2 and colored pencils
- Recording device for personal use as needed.

CONCERT ATTIRE GUIDELINES

The following guidelines are intended to ensure professional performances. Please adhere to these simple rules!

Men:

- Black tuxedo coat and pants.
- White tuxedo shirt
- White vest and bow tie
- Black socks and shoes

Women:

- Required Chorale dress.
- Black shoes, 1 - 1.5 inches in height.
- Hair must be pulled/sprayed back from face;
- No colored ribbons or headbands.
- No perfume.
- Moderate jewelry only.

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.