

MUSA 1250 UTEP CONCERT CHORALE/MUSA 4033 MUSIC LAB
Fall 2023 Mondays/Wednesdays/Thursdays 1:30-2:50 PM

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

Large select ensemble, specializing in advanced a cappella and symphonic major works from all periods. Students involved in the UTEP Concert Chorale will have the opportunity to study and perform high quality choral literature. The ensemble works to the highest standards of choral excellence and performs a variety of choral music from all style periods.

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.
- Develop sightreading, listening, and musicianship skills.

COURSE OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will 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 live and virtual performances.
- Evaluate and discuss individual vocal and choral performances using adjudication rubrics.

LEARNING MODULES

Most of the content for this course occurs in F2F rehearsals and performances. Additional assignments may be available in Blackboard, organized by week and date (ex. Week August 26).

COURSE MATERIALS

- Scores will be provided to the student via OneDrive and must be accessible during rehearsals digitally or as hard copies. ***IPads are preferred and will be used in all F2F recording situations; iPads are available for check out from Dr. Wilson.*** Students must download or print out scores before rehearsals; please place hard

copies in a black 3-ring binder. For both iPad and hard copies, bring a pencil (digital or lead) to all rehearsals. All music markings will be made in pencil.

- All scores are for your private use, and subject to copyright laws. Do not share choral music in any form.

CONCERT ATTIRE

Singers will have two (2) concert attire options depending on type of concert activity:

1. Option A – full length black dress (Stage Accents Mariposa) and black shoes
Option B - tuxedo/black cummerbund and tie, black socks and shoes.
2. Choir t-shirts or polos and jeans or black bottoms.

COURSE EXPECTATIONS

Participation: All choral rehearsals are mandatory. The only excused absences are conflicts beyond 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 e-mailing 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. ***All absences will be considered in the semester evaluation, and service awards will be adjusted for absences. Excessive absence may result in removal from the ensemble.***

Performances: Participation at all performances is mandatory. Failure to participate in a concert performance will lower the final course grade by one letter and lower the service award amount. This includes virtual choir recordings/performances.

Dress Rehearsals: Participation in the entire dress rehearsal before a concert is mandatory. Failure to attend will lower the final course grade by one letter and lower the service award amount.

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

A. Rehearsals, testing, and concert participation 90%

1. Active participation and appropriate behavior. Inappropriate behavior may result in removal from performances and the ensemble. Appropriate behavior is defined in the UTEP Handbook of Operating Procedures [here](#).
2. Attendance in all rehearsals and performances.
3. Preparation of assigned music according to grading rubrics for rehearsal, performance, testing, and recording.
4. Lack of preparation will certainly result in lowered letter grades and service awards; additionally, it may result in removal from performances and the ensemble.

B. Written and recorded assignments 10%

Specific assignments and point values will be posted in Blackboard as assigned.

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

ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION

Attendance in the course is determined by participation in the learning activities of the course. Your participation in the course is important not only for your learning and success but also to create a successful ensemble experience for your choir peers. Participation is determined by completion of the following activities as assigned:

- Participation in scheduled rehearsals and performances.
- Reading/Viewing all course materials to ensure understanding of assignment requirements.
- Participating in scheduled sectional rehearsals.
- Completion of quartet tests as assigned.
- Recording, listening and written evaluation assignments of individual and group performances.
- Other activities as indicated in the weekly modules on Blackboard.

Because these activities are designed to contribute to your learning each week, they cannot be made up after their due date has passed.

EXCUSED ABSENCES AND/OR COURSE DROP POLICY

Absences may be excused for occasional 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.

DEADLINES, LATE WORK, AND ABSENCE POLICY

Recordings/Discussion Assignments

- All recordings and written assignments will be due in Blackboard Sundays at midnight (11:59 PM). No late work will be accepted if the reason is not considered excusable.

INCOMPLETE GRADE POLICY

As this is a performance-based course with grades determined by participation in live rehearsals and performances, no incomplete grades will be allowed.

SERVICE AWARDS

Service awards are given to all participants in the Concert Chorale who register for MUSA 1250, participate regularly, and fulfill their rehearsal and performance obligations.

Award amounts will be reduced for absences as outlined above. Auditing and students enrolled in MUSA 4033 Music Lab will not receive a service award.

PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE

Dress rehearsals and performances stated on the syllabus are mandatory. Any added performances will be based upon availability of most performers and balance considerations. Performance schedules vary each semester; consequently, these are provided separately.

COURSE CALENDAR

See separate document and Blackboard modules.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

Course content is delivered via the Internet through the Blackboard learning management system and/or UTEP email. 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, scanner, 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 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. Please do not contact me for this type of assistance. The Help Desk is much better equipped than I am to assist you!

Course Communication:

Office Hours: I am available to you by appointment. Please schedule office hours via email at ewilson@utep.edu.

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.

Facebook: I regularly communicate with Chorale members through our private Messenger “Chorale Chat,” and I will add you upon request.

Announcements: Check your UTEP e-mail daily for any updates, deadlines, or other important messages.

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.

Always consider the audience. This is a college-level course; therefore, all communication should reflect polite consideration of other’s ideas.

Respect and courtesy must be always provided to classmates and the instructor. No harassment or inappropriate postings will be tolerated. This includes social media.

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.

Blackboard is not a public internet venue; all postings to it should be considered private and confidential. Whatever is posted on in these online spaces is intended for classmates and professor only. Please do not copy documents and paste them to a publicly accessible website, blog, or other space.

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, 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 one's 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](#).

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

COPYRIGHT STATEMENT FOR COURSE MATERIALS

All materials used in this course are protected by copyright law. The course materials 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. This includes all musical scores.

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.