Syllabus – UTEP Symphony Orchestra
Dr. Lowell E. Graham

Course Information

MUSA 1162 Orchestra Winds and Percussion -- Lower level - basic participation
MW 1:30 – 2:50

MUSA 1261 Orchestra Strings -- Lower level - basic participation
MW 1:30 – 2:50, TR 1:30 – 2:50

MUSA 3162 Orchestra Winds and Percussion -- Upper level – leadership; expected to take sectionals, tutor lower level.
MW 1:30 – 2:50

MUSA 3261 Orchestra Strings -- Upper level – leadership; expected to take sectionals, tutor lower level.
MW 1:30 – 2:50, TR 1:30 – 2:50

MUSA 5101 Graduate Ensemble -- leadership, scheduling, tutoring upper level and sectional supervision

Instructor Contact Information and Bio

Dr. Lowell E. Graham, Director of Orchestral Activities, Professor of Conducting, Coordinator of the Conducting and Ensembles Area.
legraham@utep.edu
915-747-7825
FFA- 401

Dr. Lowell E. Graham

A native of Greeley, Colorado, Lowell E. Graham is Director of Orchestra Activities and Professor of Conducting at the University of Texas at El Paso. He is the recipient the “Abraham Chavez” Professorship in Music. His distinguished conducting career includes performances with various ensembles in many musical media, including the Green Bay Symphony Orchestra, the Virginia Symphony, the Spokane Symphony, the Valdosta Symphony Orchestra, the El Paso Symphony Orchestra, the American Promenade Orchestra, the Greeley Philharmonic, Chamber Music Palm Beach Chamber Orchestra, the Westsächsisches Symphonieorchester, the Mormon Tabernacle Choir, Banda Sinfónica do Estado de Sao Paulo, Orquestra de Sopros Brasileira, Banda Sinfónica de la Provincia de Cordoba – Argentina, Banda Municipal de Musica de Bilbao – Espana, Banda Municipal de Barcelona – Espana, the National Symphonic Winds, the National Chamber Players, the Avatar Brass Ensemble and the Denver Brass. In 2006 he was named the “Director Honorifico Anual” for the Orquesta Sinfónica Nacional de Paraguay. He has held numerous conducting positions to include that of the Commander and Conductor
of the United States Air Force's premier musical organization in Washington, DC. As a USAF Colonel, he became the senior ranking musician in the Department of Defense.

He received his BA and MA from the University of Northern Colorado (UNC) and the DMA from The Catholic University of America.

Significant honors include: UNC Music “Hall of Honor”; UNC Honored Alumni Award for “Contributions to Music”; Catholic University Alumni Achievement Award; Award of Distinction for Contributions to Music Education from Illinois Music Educators Association; Phi Beta Mu International Outstanding Bandmaster Award; American School Band Directors Association A. Austin Harding Award and membership in the prestigious American Bandmasters Association. He has released numerous recordings on five commercial labels one having won a Grammy.

Course Description

Participate in concert performances of historically significant orchestral repertoire as a player of the UTEP Symphony Orchestra.

Course Goals and Objectives

Comprehend and perform various musical styles, including those of Baroque, Classical, Romantic and Modern and Contemporary periods.

Examine thinking and behavior to provide continuous assessment on micro and macro levels to develop musical progress

Develop technical and musical skills pertinent to the instrument

Rehearsal and Performance Outcomes

Visual and non-verbal communication, critical thinking, physical and aesthetic attributes for orchestral performance.

Acquire the technical ability to learn and perform instrumental parts of orchestral works for public performance.

Gain collaborative skills through coaching and rehearsing within sectionals and with the orchestra as a whole.

Students will be able to perform music expressively as part of an orchestra.

Students will learn how to solve technical problems and apply those solutions to a public performance.
Course Requirements

ATTENDANCE and MANDATORY REHEARSALS

Rehearsal Expectations
Each student is expected to be in his/her chair with their instrument ready to play at the beginning of the class. Anyone not seated and prepared to perform at that time will be considered tardy.

Each student is expected to have their folder with all instructional materials (music, rehearsal technique books, etc.) and a pencil for every rehearsal. No baseball caps or similar head wear will be allowed during rehearsal. Each student is responsible for the preparation of his/her ensemble music outside of scheduled rehearsals.

Rehearsals are for developing ensemble concepts, not individual practice. If a student has not prepared his/her music within an acceptable timeframe, grade point reductions will result. Talking and/or discussions that do not concern the betterment of the music will not be allowed in rehearsal. Conduct that is not conducive to a good rehearsal environment will not be allowed. Each student is expected to strive for improvement in every rehearsal. Failure to do so may result in grade point reductions and/or removal from a rehearsal or ensemble.

Course Policies

Ensemble Attendance and Grading Policy
Concert ensembles are graded using the same letter grading system as classroom courses. Concert ensemble grades are based primarily on the following four factors, all of which are considered when assigning ensemble grades:

• Performance and preparation
• Contribution to the ensemble
• Cooperation and professionalism
• Attendance

Due to the importance of regular attendance by every member of the ensemble in creating a unified and consistent ensemble sound, each student’s attendance record will be a major factor – but not the only factor – in determining their grade. Unexcused absences or tardies to ensemble services will cause a student to accrue grade reduction points as indicated below:

Late to a regular rehearsal: 2 points
Absent from a regular rehearsal: 4 points
Late to a dress rehearsal: 3 points
Absent from a dress rehearsal: 6 points
Late to a performance call: 5 points
Absent from a performance: a grade of F for the semester and a loss of scholarship/service award.

If a student receives an ensemble grade of C or less for the semester, the service award/scholarship for that student will be reduced the following semester. The amount of reduction will be determined by the ensemble conductor.

Any student who misses a dress rehearsal, or who misses a week or more of rehearsals in preparation for a program, may also be removed from the concert at the conductor’s discretion. Also, any student who misses a dress rehearsal or a concert may be expelled from the ensemble for the remainder of
the semester. Willful neglect of ensemble responsibilities may also subject a student to expulsion from the ensemble.

Concert ensembles will have occasional rehearsals that fall outside of the ensemble’s regular rehearsal days and times. These out-of-sequence rehearsals are usually very critical rehearsals, such as dress rehearsals or combined orchestra/chorus rehearsals. All out-of-sequence rehearsals are in the schedule from the very beginning of the school year and students are expected to make note of them and plan to attend them.

Ensemble members arriving at rehearsal after tuning has begun will be marked late. Leaving a rehearsal prior to its scheduled completion is considered the same as being late in terms of the grade reduction points assessed.

To request permission to be excused from a concert ensemble rehearsal, or to be excused from being late or leaving early, students are required to fill out and submit an Excuse Request Form. Paper versions of the form are available in the Orchestra Office. These requests are reviewed by the conductor of the ensemble who will either approve or deny the request. Any absences or tardiness not documented by an approved Excuse Request Form will be considered unexcused. Forms submitted later than the day following the date of the absence or tardiness will not be approved.

In accordance with Ensemble policy, absence or tardiness due to schedule conflicts with classes or private lessons are not excused. This also applies to make-up lessons. Department faculty is aware of this policy and should not attempt to schedule a lesson that would conflict with your large ensemble rehearsals. It is each student’s responsibility to arrange their schedule to avoid conflicts with ensemble services. It is particularly important that students schedule their recitals so as to ensure that no conflicts are created with any ensemble rehearsal or performance, as no excuse requests will be approved under these circumstances.

Music
Music is expensive and a valuable resource for our orchestra. Should your part NOT be returned, $50 will be subtracted from your service award.

**Repertoire**

**PERFORMANCE DATES and REPERTOIRE (all repertoires are subject to change)**

Spring Semester, 2018

1st Concert

**Dress Rehearsal - Monday, February 26, 2018**

**Concert – Tuesday, February 27, 2018**

Alexander Arutiunian
Ms. Nancy Taylor, Soloist
Dmitri Shostakovich

Trumpet Concerto

Symphony No. 5
2nd Concert

Dress Rehearsal – Wednesday, April 4, 2018
Concert – Thursday, April 5, 2018

Franz von Suppe  
Pique Dame Overture
Emmanuel Chabrier  
Habanera
Ralph Vaughan Williams  
The Lark Ascending

Intermission

Aram Khachaturian  
Spartacus - Ballet Suite No. 1
Camille Saint Seans  
Bacchanale from Samson and Delilah

3rd Concert: At the Movies

Dress Rehearsal – Wednesday, May 2, 2018
Concert – Thursday, May 3, 2018

Fanfare for the Common Man  
Aaron Copland
Curtain Up  
Bob Krogstad
Music from Spider-man  
Danny Elfman
Moonlight Sonata  
Ludwig van Beethoven

Dr. Dena Jones, Soloist

Hoe Down  
Aaron Copland
Great Gate of Kiev  
Modest Mussorgsky
La Dona e Mobile  
Giuseppe Verdi

Mr. Brian Downen, Soloist

Enigma Variations  
Edward Elgar
Nimrod

Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets  
John Williams

PLAGIARISM/ACADEMIC DISHONESTY STATEMENT

Cheating/Plagiarism: Cheating is unethical and not acceptable. Refer to http://www.utep.edu/dos/acadintg.htm for further information.

DISABILITIES STATEMENT

Disabilities: I will make any reasonable accommodations for students with limitations due to disabilities. The Disabled Student Services Office can also be reached in the following ways:
Web: http://www.utep.edu/dsso ; E-Mail: dss@utep.edu
Phone: (915) 747-5148 voice or TTY
Fax: (915) 747-8712