

**CHAMBER MUSIC/ACCOMPANYING
WOODWIND CHAMBER MUSIC**

**MUSA 1165, CRN 21319
MW 8:30-9:20 am, Spring 2024
FFA 102/101/402
University of Texas El Paso**

Instructor: Dr. Sara Renner

Email: srrenner@utep.edu

Cell Phone: 402-943-9213 (call/text this number first)

Office Phone: 915-747-6402

Office: FFA M132

Office Hours: Mondays 1:30-2:30pm; Thursdays 1:30-2:30pm; by appointment

*Some weeks, office hours may need to be adjusted. All adjustments will be communicated.

Course Description:

Students will rehearse and perform chamber pieces as an ensemble, meeting with Dr. Renner on a regular basis. Students will be required to perform on a Friday recital. Other performance dates and venues are to be determined. A minimum of two performances are required.

Students will have the opportunity to perform for each other and constructively evaluate other groups.

Course Objectives:

This course is not just about preparing a chamber performance, but about learning the skills to become a stronger chamber musician. By the end of this course, students will be able to demonstrate the following skills in both rehearsal and performance:

1. Rehearsal structure and scheduling
2. Techniques for rehearsing as a chamber group
3. Playing techniques for chamber music, including:
 - Group communication (cuing, eye contact, movement)
 - Ensemble
 - Intonation
 - Group musicality and accuracy
 - Collective interpretation and communication with the listener
4. An increased knowledge the tendencies and capabilities of other woodwind instruments (intonation, dynamic range, etc.)
5. An increased knowledge of chamber repertoire and professional chamber groups
6. How to effectively coach a chamber rehearsal

Course Requirements:

- Each chamber group is required to perform on one or more Friday recital(s).
- Two public performances (Friday recital, Miner Music Mondays, student recitals, community events) are required.
- A final performance of a work will be performed by each group for the rest of the class (this does NOT count as one of the required performances).

Attendance:

- **ATTENDANCE IS MANDATORY.** A chamber group cannot properly function without all its members. **BE READY TO START ON TIME.**
- The method of recording attendance will be communicated by the instructor.
- If an emergency or situation arises, contact the instructor as soon as possible.
- If you are ill, do not come to class!
- Absences due to emergencies, university functions, academic accommodations, and situations discussed with/approved by the instructor may count as excused. The instructor maintains the right to determine what is an excused absence situation.
- Should a group have an absence, they must find time to rehearse on their own as a make-up. The rehearsal must be video recorded and submitted to Dr. Renner for evaluation and coaching.
- Two unexcused absences will result in the lowering of the student's final grade by one letter. The grade deduction will be concurrent following each unexcused absence after 2 (ex: three unexcused absences = 1 letter grade drop, four = 2 letter grade drop, etc.).

Course Materials:

- Repertoire will be assigned by the instructor based upon instrumentation. The instructor will consult with other applied faculty for repertoire recommendations for specific instrument groups.
- Obtaining music will be discussed with the instructor and the chamber groups.
- Each group member is responsible for keeping track of their own music.

Method of Evaluation:

- Effort and execution of Course Objectives: 20%
- Required performances (2 minimum): 40%
- Consistent rehearsals/rehearsal recordings (to be given to the instructor): 20%
- Evidence of group progress (rehearsals/recordings): 10%
- Quality of performances: 10%
 - The instructor determines the level of effort and quality.

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

Communication:

- Group communication is essential for chamber music. Communicate with your group on a regular basis!
- Check Blackboard announcements, emails, and other messages on a daily basis. It is YOUR responsibility to check all methods of communication.
- Check in regularly with the instructor regarding your rehearsal progress, questions, and trouble spots to address during rehearsals.

Recordings:

- Record your rehearsals! Video/audio is preferable, but just audio is permissible.
- Spend time with your group listening and evaluating your recordings. This is a great way to track your progress.
- The instructor may ask to view recordings at any time for coaching and evaluation.
- No need for any fancy recording equipment- a simple phone/iPad recording is sufficient for rehearsal purposes.
- Rehearsal recordings are not allowed to be shared outside of this course. The instructor will not share any recording unless assistance is needed by another faculty member.

Other notes:

- Groups are assigned by the instructor. No groups are allowed to switch members unless indicated by the instructor.
- Groups may be reassigned by the instructor during the course of the semester.
- You are allowed (and encouraged!) to rehearse outside of class time.
- Sometimes, the class will meet as a group to openly discuss progress, rehearsal strategies and techniques, and student coachings. The dates for these types of class meetings will be communicated by the instructor.

Drop Course Policy

If you feel that you are unable to complete the course successfully, please let me know, and contact the [Registrar's Office](#) to initiate the drop process. If you do not, you are at risk of receiving an "F" for the course. The Spring Drop/Withdrawal Deadline is March 28.

Incomplete Grade Policy

Incomplete grades may be requested only in exceptional circumstances after you have completed at least half of the course requirements. Talk to me immediately if you believe an incomplete is warranted. If granted, we will establish a contract of work to be completed with deadlines.

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, 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 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](#).

Artificial Intelligence/Audio and Video Editing

- The use of AI is prohibited in this course.
- Use of AI technologies or automated tools, particularly generative AI such as ChatGPT or DALL-E, is not allowed for assignments in this class. Each student is expected to use critical and creative thinking skills to complete tasks and not rely on computer-generated ideas. Any direct use of AI-generated materials submitted as your own work will be treated as plagiarism and reported to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution (OSCCR).
- The use of any software to edit/alter recordings (unless to make the sound/video clearer) is prohibited. Any alteration will be treated as plagiarism and reported to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution (OSCCR).

Course Resources

UTEP provides a variety of student services and support. Please refer to the QR code below for a listing of campus resources.



***This syllabus is subject to change at any time. Changes will be communicated by the instructor.