



University of Central Florida
MUE 3323-0001 ~ Women's Chorus
 Dr. Kelly A. Miller, Instructor

Course Syllabus ~ Fall 2017	
Time/Location	Class meets on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:00-4:15 in PACM 150
Office Hours:	M/W – 10:30-12:00; T/Th – 1:30-2:30; or by appointment
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Catalog Description

This one-credit course is a study and performance of music for women's voices. Open to all students. Audition and instructor consent required for small ensemble opportunities.

Purpose of Course

The choral organizations at UCF offer an opportunity to study and perform a variety of choral music of many styles, contexts and cultures, including classical masterworks with instruments and art and folk music of many traditions. Choral ensemble experiences encourage and reinforce healthy singing technique, provide an awareness of cultural and historical style, tradition and context, refine critical listening and reading skills, encourage analytical thinking through analysis-in-practice, and provide a community of musicians an opportunity to explore together the power of shared music-making.

Goals

- Development of a beautiful and communicative ensemble sound
- Development of individual vocal technique
- Exploration of important repertoire for women's voices
- Performances sung from memory
- Cultivation of an ethos of excellence

Objectives

- Students will develop consistent vocal technique and expressive singing skills through the study and performance of a stylistically diverse repertoire. (vocal skill development)
- Students will develop discriminating listening skills with regard to ensemble singing, balance, blend, timbre, diction, pitch, rhythm, harmony (aural skill development)
- Students will develop an awareness of and sensitivity to stylistic aspects of western and non-western traditions. (cultural/historical perspective)
- Students will experience and evaluate a variety of music and performance with regard to expressive qualities, interpretation, and musical/emotional effect. (aesthetic judgment)
- Students will diagnose technical and musical problems encountered in rehearsal and prescribe solutions. (analytical thinking and problem solving)

As of Fall 2014, all faculty members are required to document students' academic activity at the beginning of each course. In order to document that you began this course, please complete the following academic activity by the end of the first week of classes, or as soon as possible after adding the course, but no later than August 25. Failure to do so will result in a delay in the disbursement of your financial aid. The academic activity is attendance and participation at rehearsals on Tuesday and Thursday, August 22nd or 24th.

Please note: The rehearsal is a cell-free and portable device-free zone. Please turn off or silence them before each class. Texting is not allowed during rehearsals and performances. Do not bring phones into the performance space. Download a free app that earns you points for staying off your device during class!!!

Attendance, Punctuality, and Participation

Grades are determined through participation as evidenced by musical preparation and regular participation.

Attendance at all daily rehearsals, sectional rehearsals, retreats, dress rehearsals, and concerts is critical and the major determining factor in assigning grades. Other factors include attentiveness, preparedness, and effort in the rehearsal setting. Singing tests may be used to assess individual progress. Music will be memorized for concerts unless otherwise indicated.

- Evidence of musical growth in vocal and personal musicianship skills (Students may be called upon to perform music from class individually, by appointment, or in quartet exams)
- Personal attitude and effort: Failure to prepare your part or actively participate in rehearsal may result in lowering of the final grade.
- Consistent and punctual attendance and participation at required rehearsals, workshops and performances.

Your attendance and participation is required at all rehearsals, special workshops and performances. You are responsible for learning the assigned music outside of rehearsal and are responsible for any score markings, announcements or instructions given in your absence. Be aware that your absence diminishes the success and performance level of the choir. Absences should be limited to illness, extreme emergencies, or other academic obligation approved by Dr. Miller in advance.

Attendance is taken at the beginning of each rehearsal and performance. If you arrive after attendance has been taken, it is your responsibility to notify them of your tardiness before you leave the rehearsal. If you do not, you will be marked absent. As tardiness is disruptive to the class, it is important that you arrive before the rehearsal begins. Arriving late or leaving before a rehearsal is completed is considered $\frac{1}{2}$ absence. Tardies are cumulative.

After 3 absences, it is at the discretion of the conductor whether the student will be allowed to perform in the concert. If the student does not perform in the concert, the result is a failing grade. Students may not perform in the concert if they fail to attend the dress rehearsal. Unexcused absence from a performance will result in a failing grade.

Exceptions due to extenuating circumstances may be made at the discretion of the conductor.

Student Rehearsal Expectations:

- Arrive on time and demonstrate professional courtesy by not leaving the rehearsal room once the rehearsal is in progress. (example: Use the restroom BEFORE class begins.)
- Arrive with individual music prepared.
- Bring your music.
- Have and use a pencil.
- Observe proper rehearsal etiquette by limiting talking and maintaining focus.
- Stay on top of your absences – communicate!!

***Communication with director prior to absence is required to see if absence make-up is a possibility.**

1 absence = 97	A	93-100	C	73-76
2 absences = 93	A-	90-92	C-	70-72
3 absences = 90	B+	87-89	D+	67-69
4 absences = 80	B	83-86	D	63-66
5 absences = 70	B-	80-82	D-	60-62
6 absences = 60	C+	77-79	F	0-59
7 absences = 50				

Missed dress rehearsal = subtract additional letter grade

Missed performance = failure

Work does not constitute an excused absence.

Fall Schedule

Tuesday, August 22 – First Day of Class

Thursday, August 31 – No class: Home Football Game

Monday, September 25th – *Beethoven 9* Chorus/Piano Rehearsal on campus in VAB; 7-10

Thursday, September 28th – *Beethoven 9* Chorus/Piano Rehearsal from 7-10 in VAB

Friday, September 29th – *Beethoven 9* rehearsal with Orchestra at Bob Carr (6:00pm Call) from 7-10

Saturday, September 30th – *Beethoven 9* full rehearsal with orchestra (10:00 a.m. call) 11:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., Bob Carr, downtown

Saturday, September 30th – 8:00pm Performance of *Beethoven's 9th Symphony*; (7:00pm Call) with OPO at Bob Carr Arts Center Theatre

Sunday, October 1st – 2:00pm Performance of *Beethoven's 9th Symphony*; (1:00pm Call) with OPO at Bob Carr Arts Center Theatre

Thursday, November 30th – Dress Rehearsal (not in uniform) 1:00-5:00p; St. James Cathedral (downtown)

Friday, December 1st – 7:30 Concert (6:30p Call) at St. James Cathedral (downtown); free admittance but a ticket must be pre-ordered

Thursday, December 8 – Final Exam; 1:00p-3:50 (Women's Ensemble)

Required Texts, Music and Folders

Students enrolled in performing ensembles pay a nominal materials fee, which entitles them to use choral scores owned by the department. You are responsible for the folder and all music assigned to you on loan and assessed for any music that is lost or damaged.

Concert Dress for all Choirs

Students must purchase the following attire by the announced deadline, checks or money orders only, payable to the UCF Department of Music.

Chorus Dress: (purchase information available), close-toed black shoes. Sheer black knee-high nylons. No jewelry or hair ornamentation. Hair of natural color. Hair should be worn away from the face and appropriate performance makeup is expected.

Diversity

Part of the mission of a state university is to expose students to things they may not come in contact with in their own world of experience, among them thoughts, ideas, traditions, beliefs, and customs of other cultures. One of UCF's initiatives in developing the University's Five Goals, is becoming *more inclusive and diverse*. In music – and particularly vocal music – an obvious way we can contribute to diversity of experience is in incorporating the use of musics of other peoples, times, languages, cultures and traditions.

From time to time, we will explore repertoire of artistic and aesthetic merit that may not express a personally held belief of yours. It is, nonetheless, expected that you will study and perform this music with the same respect and intent as you would music from your own background and tradition. Experiencing different worlds, hearing new musics, thinking new thoughts, defining – or redefining – your own ideas and beliefs is what a university is all about and how we grow as educated people.

Email communication

Email is our official method of communication. Though announcements are given daily in class, they may be reaffirmed, supplemented or changed via email. Email memos will be considered official. Please check your knightsmail/webcourses regularly.

Facebook Page! Everything you want to know about the UCF Women’s Chorus! You can “like” us now on Facebook!

Accommodations for the differently-abled (alternate testing opportunities, support for signers, etc.)	<p>The University of Central Florida is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities. This syllabus is available in alternate formats upon request. Students with disabilities who need accommodations in this course must contact the professor at the beginning of the semester to discuss needed accommodations. No accommodations will be provided until the student has met with the professor to request accommodations. Students who need accommodations must be registered with Student Disability Services, Student Resource Center Room 132, phone (407) 823-2371, TTY/TDD only phone (407) 823-2116, before requesting accommodations from the professor.</p>
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Academic integrity	<p>UCF is committed to promoting a culture of academic integrity where faculty and students work together to meet our personal, professional, and social responsibilities. A degree from UCF is only valuable to the extent it reflects valid assessments of student learning. Misrepresenting your learning on tests, projects, reports, or papers invalidates your grades and tarnishes the credibility of UCF. While collaboration is encouraged in the learning and studying process, you should assume that all tests, quizzes, etc. require your individual effort unless explicitly directed otherwise. Unauthorized collaboration, whether voluntary or not, is cheating. Unauthorized use of materials during a text, quiz, or other assessment is cheating. Regarding papers and projects, one of the core fluencies that students need to demonstrate is the ability to discern information that is common to the public from the intellectual property of individuals. Use of protected ideas, processes, or language without attribution or proper citation is plagiarism. Cheating, dishonesty, or plagiarism is grounds for grade reduction or failure in this course. Please review the behavior standards at: http://www.goldenrule.sdes.ucf.edu/11_behavior.html</p>
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The UCF Creed

Integrity, scholarship, community, creativity, and excellence are the core values that guide our conduct, performance, and decisions.

Integrity	I will practice and defend academic and personal honesty.
Scholarship	I will cherish and honor learning as a fundamental purpose of my membership in the UCF community.
Community	I will promote an open and supportive campus environment by respecting the rights and contributions of every individual.
Creativity	I will use my talents to enrich the human experience.

Excellence I will strive toward the highest standards of performance in any endeavor I undertake.