



TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SAN ANTONIO

MUSI 3301.001 – UNIVERSITY VOICES FALL 2026 – MW 3:30-4:45 – CLASSROOM HALL 301

COURSE INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Martha Saywell

COURSE NUMBER: 12677

DEPARTMENT: Language, Literature, and Arts

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PHONE: 210-784-2563

OFFICE LOCATION: Classroom Hall 314H

OFFICE HOURS: Monday from 9:30-10:30, Wednesday from 9:30-11:30 or by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

A performance ensemble for choral works of various styles and historical periods with a focus on sound production and collaboration. May be repeated for variable credit.

COURSE GOALS:

- Develop proper choral tone, balance, intonation, articulation, and diction.
- Attain music literacy and ear training/listening skills.
- Develop an understanding of creative expression through collaboration.
- Identify aesthetic, cultural, and historical aspects of choral music.
- Develop both self and group discipline and pride.
- Develop ability to cooperate with others and to work as a member of a team.
- Create an environment of belonging, respect, and achievement.
- Have fun!

MATERIALS:

- A pencil is mandatory for all rehearsals.
- A black, 3-ring binder is mandatory for all dress rehearsals and performances.
- Music will be provided by the university and must be returned at the conclusion of the semester.
- Keyboards are on reserve in the University Library (located in BLH) to be checked out for three-hour increments.
- Any additional materials will be provided through Blackboard.

GRADING SCALE:

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

ASSESSMENT:

- Regular bi-weekly rehearsals = 35%
- Dress rehearsals and performances = 45%
- Part exams = 20%
- See also attendance policy and classroom/rehearsal etiquette policy below.

ATTENDANCE:

- Attendance at all rehearsals is assumed. Only three rehearsal absences are allowed without penalty. Each additional rehearsal absence beyond three will result in a grade reduction of one letter grade.
- Attendance at dress rehearsals is assumed. Any missed dress rehearsal automatically results in a grade reduction of one letter grade.
- Attendance at all performances is assumed. Any missed performance automatically results in a failing grade for the class.
- Otherwise, attendance records are kept for informational and statistical purposes in addition to compliance with financial aid regulations.

CLASSROOM/REHEARSAL ETIQUETTE:

- Be on time. "Early is on time, on time is late, and late is unacceptable."
- Be prepared. Always have your music and a pencil. Be mentally present.
- Water is encouraged in rehearsals. Please refrain from consuming other beverages and food during rehearsals.
- Please keep phones in silent mode and refrain from taking calls and/or texting.
- Be respectful of others at all times. Personal conduct should always be professional and ethical. All students are responsible for being familiar with The Student Code of Conduct.
- Violations of classroom/rehearsal etiquette will result in a lowered course grade.

PERFORMANCE ETIQUETTE:

- Be on time. "Early is on time, on time is late, and late is unacceptable."
- Be prepared. Always have your music in a black 3-ring binder. Be mentally present.
- Be rested and hydrated. No alcohol consumption within 48 hours prior to any performance.
- Personal conduct should always be professional and ethical.

- Performance attire is all black. No sleeveless tops, and bottoms must be long enough to cover the knees. No hats, flip flops, or sneakers/tennis shoes. In certain contexts, such as holiday concerts, festive attire may be permitted.
- Violations of performance etiquette will result in a lowered course grade.

PART EXAMS

Each student will record audio and video of themselves singing selected portions of the music from the course to demonstrate mastery of pitch and rhythm. A separate document with details and guidelines will be provided on Blackboard. See Course Schedule below for due dates.

COURSE SCHEDULE:

Important dates are noted below.

- Monday, August 24 - Welcome and Syllabus Review
- Monday, September 7 – Labor Day – no class
- Friday, September 25 – Part Exam 1 due
- Friday, October 30 – Part Exam 2 due
- Friday, November 13 – Fall Concert
- Wednesday, November 25 – no class – Happy Thanksgiving!
- Tuesday, December 1 – Lights of Esperanza

COMMUNICATIONS AND NOTIFICATIONS:

- Please use only Jaguar email or the messages feature on Blackboard when contacting your professor. Emails from personal accounts are not accepted and will receive a response of *Please use Jaguar email*. An additional document describing appropriate email/messaging etiquette (with samples) is located on Blackboard in the Syllabus module. Correspondence that does not adhere to these standards will receive an automatic reply of *Please see syllabus information on email/messaging etiquette*.
- Email and Blackboard is monitored Monday-Friday during standard business hours. Please allow up to two business days for message replies.
- Blackboard's Announcements feature will be used to communicate to the class as a whole. Therefore, it is advised to check Blackboard regularly.
- Difficulties with Jaguar email, Blackboard or other IT services should be addressed through the Office of Information Technology Services. A link to ITS support is located in the Additional University Resources module on Blackboard.

ADDITIONAL MUSIC OPPORTUNITIES:

- Interested in mariachi? **Mariachi Los Jaguares Del Sur** is dedicated to honoring and preserving the art of mariachi music. The group prides itself on a shared love of music, performance, and Mexican culture. If you are interested in joining, email director Gabriel Perez at Gabriel.Perez@tamusa.edu for more information.

- Interested in band? The **San Antonio Community Wind Ensemble** meets in the TAMUSA Auditorium on Sunday afternoons and gives several concerts throughout the year. Membership dues are waived for all TAMUSA students. If you are interested in joining, email director Albert Aguilar at sacwe@crossmen.org for more information.

INTERDISCIPLINARY MINOR IN CREATIVE ARTS AND PERFORMANCE STUDIES:

The interdisciplinary Creative Arts and Performance Studies (CAPS) program encompasses visual art, music, theatre, and creative writing. It prepares students to participate in arts fields, both as working artists, musicians, writers, and performers, and in nonprofit, public, and private sectors. Emphasis on public art and arts administration prepares students to work as arts educators, curators, content creators, and administrators. The CAPS program also provides opportunities for the community to attend arts events on campus including concerts, exhibits, and other performances, thus reinforcing the relationship between the university and the community. Firmly rooted in San Antonio's flourishing arts community, CAPS offers particular emphasis on Hispanic and Indigenous artistic traditions, and promoting diverse, multilingual approaches and performances. Broadly, this program increases access and exposure to a range of art forms.

ADDITIONAL UNIVERSITY RESOURCES:

Additional university resources and policies can be found on Blackboard in the Additional University Resources module. These include, but are not limited to, accommodations for persons with disabilities, counseling and mental health resources, the Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center, Military Affairs, and important dates. Links to helpful websites are also provided in the module.

DISCLAIMER:

This syllabus is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor. Students will be notified as soon as possible of any changes.