



TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY  
**SAN ANTONIO**

**MUSI 3301.001 – UNIVERSITY VOICES**  
**SPRING 2025 – MW 3:30-4:45 – CLASSROOM HALL 301**

**COURSE INSTRUCTOR:** Dr. Martha Saywell

**COURSE NUMBER:** 25016

**DEPARTMENT:** Language, Literature, and Arts

**EMAIL:** [martha.saywell@tamusa.edu](mailto:martha.saywell@tamusa.edu)

**PHONE:** 210-784-2563

**OFFICE LOCATION:** Classroom Hall 314H

**OFFICE HOURS:** By appointment, in-person Monday-Thursday or online Monday-Friday

**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 = 50%
- Dress rehearsals and performances = 50%
- See also attendance 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.

**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.

## COURSE SCHEDULE:

Important dates and cancellations are noted below.

- Wednesday, January 22 - Welcome and Syllabus Review
- Wednesday, March 5 – No rehearsal
- SPRING BREAK: MARCH 10-15
- Wednesday, April 9 – Dress rehearsal for Arts Expo
- Thursday, April 10 – Arts Expo, The Brick at Blue Star
- Friday, April 11 – Jaguars Remembered
- Wednesday, April 30 – Spring Sing Fling

## COMMUNICATIONS AND NOTIFICATIONS:

- All official communications from the University will be distributed through Jaguar email accounts. It is the responsibility of each student to obtain a Jaguar email account and check that address on a regular basis. Failure to keep up with Texas A&M University-San Antonio Jaguar email will not be an excuse for being unaware of announcements, deadlines, or other pertinent information to students.
- Please use only Jaguar email when contacting your professor. Emails from personal accounts are not accepted and will receive a response of *Please use Jaguar email*. Difficulties with Jaguar email, Blackboard, or other IT services should be addressed through the Office of Information Technology Services in Room 233 of the Central Academic Building. They can also be reached at [helpdesk@tamusa.edu](mailto:helpdesk@tamusa.edu) or 210-784-4357.
- Communication etiquette – When using Jaguar email, please employ professional writing skills. Correspondence should begin with an appropriate salutation including the professor's academic title with last name and end with an appropriate closing with the student's full name. (Once a thread has been established, it may not be necessary to use a salutation or your full name each time.) The body of the correspondence should always demonstrate good spelling, grammar, punctuation, and general courtesy. Correspondence that does not adhere to these standards will receive an automatic reply of *Please see syllabus information on communication etiquette*. Email samples are located on Blackboard in the Syllabus module. Email is monitored Monday-Friday during standard business hours. Please allow at least two business days for email replies.

## EXTRACURRICULAR 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, visit JagSync 2.0 to sign up and/or email advisor Amelia Guzman at [aguzman@tamusa.edu](mailto:aguzman@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](mailto:sacwe@crossmen.org) for more information.

- Interested in orchestra? The **Strings Club** is a place for students on campus who are interested in classical orchestral music and a place to play their instruments. While currently practicing as a small ensemble, the group strives to grow into an orchestra. If you are interested in joining, visit JagSync 2.0 to sign up and/or email student org president Leopoldo (Leo) Esquibel at [lesqu05@jaguar.tamu.edu](mailto:lesqu05@jaguar.tamu.edu) for more information.

**ADDITIONAL UNIVERSITY RESOURCES:**

- The Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA) of 2008 and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 are federal anti-discrimination statutes that provide comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Title II of the ADAAA and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act require that students with disabilities be guaranteed equal access to the learning environment through the provision of reasonable and appropriate accommodation of their disability. If you have a diagnosed disability that may require an accommodation, please contact **Disability Support Services** (DSS) for the coordination of services. The phone number for DSS is (210) 784-1335 and email is [dss@tamusa.edu](mailto:dss@tamusa.edu).
- As a college student, there may be times when personal stressors interfere with your academic performance and/or negatively impact your daily functioning. If you are experiencing emotional difficulties or mental health concerns, support is available to you through the **Student Counseling Center** (SCC). To schedule an appointment call 210-784-1331 or visit Modular C, Room 166 (rear entrance). All mental health services provided by the SCC are free and confidential (as the law allows). The Student Counseling Center provides brief individual and group therapy, crisis intervention, consultation, case management, and prevention services. **Crisis support is available 24/7 by calling the SCC at 210-784-1331 (after-hours select option '2')**. For more information and self-help resources, please visit [www.tamusa.edu/studentcounseling](http://www.tamusa.edu/studentcounseling).
- Additional university resources and policies can be found on Blackboard in the Syllabus 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.