

MILLERSVILLE UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA
Department of Music

CHORAL ENSEMBLE SYLLABUS, SPRING 2019

COMPLETE syllabus will be sent to you via email and is posted at <http://gemmell-posts.com>

MUSI 226, 227, 427: Applied Music in Choir

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Office Hours: MWF 11-12

Best by appointment

I. CHORAL ENSEMBLE DESCRIPTION: The ensembles of the MU Choral Program are dedicated to the study and performance of the finest music ever written for chorus. The groups consist of thoroughly auditioned singers from throughout the university community whose backgrounds have given them the tools necessary to function and flourish in a very select musical atmosphere. The groups represent, and are ambassadors of, the integrity and quality of Millersville University of Pennsylvania and its Department of Music. The choirs are standard bearers for the performance and promotion of the highest quality vocal music from all style periods.

II. OVERALL GOALS of the ensemble include:

- (1) To become better singer-musicians through constructive, productive and enjoyable rehearsals;
- (2) To give professional quality, emotionally fulfilling, successful performances;
- (3) To become better people through interaction with the choral art.

"The very essence of our art – what we are about – why music and people are so important – is the creation and recreation of that which is *beautiful*. Beauty in form – beauty in sound – and, hopefully, beauty in the wonderful transformation of the human spirit." Howard Swan (Choral Director, Occidental College in Los Angeles, CA, 1934-1971)

We will concentrate on **MAKING CONNECTIONS** as we link:

- Ourselves together personally as performing artists to create a bonded ensemble
- Our own bodies and minds to our voices to use our instruments thoughtfully, healthily and expressively
- Our voices and creative imaginations to the music we are singing as an ensemble, to attempt to create living, breathing art every time we make music together
- Our music (and the singing of it) to the chronological/historical, social, and cultural context from which it stems, so that our performance is stylistically appropriate, genuine, authentic, and effective.

We will also emphasize **COLLABORATION** ("Looping the Loop") to explore ensemble artistry and:

- Take ownership of our choral work together, *share responsibility*, and *accept accountability* to achieve artistic success
- Practice as necessary outside of class to learn our parts solidly so that our class time together is spent making music and learning (hearing) how other parts interact with our own
- Strengthen our ability to hear intervals, read notation, and accurately perform through the use of tuning forks, solfege, count-singing, etc. in order to build musicianship skills by relying less on the piano as a crutch
- Enjoy the privilege of being a member of a first-rate choral ensemble and doing our best to contribute to musical excellence in rehearsal and performance.

We will focus on **PROFESSIONALISM** to combine all of the above and be the finest ensemble possible, demonstrating this on a daily basis.

- We will depend upon each other to contribute our finest work to learning and performing the challenging repertoire chosen for our concerts
- Our performance dress code will reflect our seriousness of purpose and inspire our musical performance to even greater heights.
- Professionalism will be expected in all situations: rehearsals, performances, retreats, activities, tours, etc.

We will enjoy the satisfaction and reward of meeting these challenges together, while at the same time having fun and being proud the excellent work we will accomplish.

III. OFFICERS AND STUDENT LEADERSHIP: The following positions were elected in Spring 2018; office holders will be introduced during the first week of classes.

Elected Officials:	President
	Vice-President
	Secretary
Auditioned/Appointed Leaders:	Business Manager
	Section Leaders: Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass
	Assistant Conductor

Officers are chosen by the ensemble with a vote within the first two weeks of rehearsal in the Fall semester. The business manager, section leaders, assistant conductor and pianists are appointed.

IV. GRADING: Students participating in most Music Department large ensembles may receive up to .5 academic credit per semester. The semester grade is based upon:

- (1) Daily attendance
- (2) Quality of daily participation
- (3) Mastery of repertoire and development of vocal technique and musicianship to perform diverse vocal styles and a wide variety of choral literature.

Dr. Gemmell reserves the right to require part checks from any singer at any time throughout the semester. Announced (or unannounced part tests) can occur at any time. Students will be graded on their ability to sing the correct notes, rhythms and texts in a musical manner. If a part check reveals a deficiency, it is the student's responsibility to address the problem(s) in a timely manner. Continuing musical problems may result in being asked not to participate in a performance. Dress rehearsals and performances cannot be "made up." The performance is a unique, one-time opportunity for singers to demonstrate their mastery of the repertoire and is therefore required to pass the course.

V. REHEARSALS AND ATTENDANCE:

Sec. 01: University Choir	MWF	12-12:50	Biemesderfer (WVPAC 101)
Sec. 02: University Chorale	TTh	2:30-4:00	Biemesderfer (WVPAC 101)
Sec. 03: University Women's Choir	MW	5:30-7:00	Biemesderfer (WVPAC 101)

Strict attendance, including punctual arrival, is expected at all rehearsals and performances. Every singer should be seated, **with their music and a pencil**, ready to sing at the appointed time of rehearsal. **Music majors should always have their tuning forks available.** Please check your email and Dr. Gemmell's blog (gemmell-posts.com) regularly for choir announcements. If you are not registered for this course, please make sure Dr. Gemmell has your email address.

Chronic tardiness – *defined as arriving after warm-ups have begun* – is unprofessional and disruptive; it will lead to a grade reduction. Excessive absences, excused* or unexcused, will not be tolerated. Lateness of more than 15 minutes will be counted as an absence. Grades will be determined as follows:

- Each tardy after three have accumulated will automatically decrease your grade incrementally (A to A-, A- to B+, etc.);
- More than two unexcused or four excused* absences during the semester will result in a lower grade (by letter grade, A to B, for each additional absence) and will jeopardize continued membership in the ensemble.

Absences during the "Red Zone" (two weeks prior to concert) must be avoided, as this is when the most intense work for the concert will take place. **Unexcused absences are not allowed during this time.** Missing classes during this period may result in a request that you not participate in the concert.

Attendance during Production Week and at dress rehearsals immediately prior to concerts are required. **An unexcused absence during Production Week or a Dress Rehearsal will prohibit performance in the concert. Failure to perform in the concert with an unexcused absence will result in failure of the course.**

* **Note:** An excused absence is one that is **put into writing via email** on (or preferably prior to) the day of rehearsal. Section Leaders will help to monitor attendance and keep an accurate record of each singer's daily attendance.

- **Examples of acceptable reasons to miss a rehearsal:**

1. Institutional excuses given five or more days in advance (avoid during “red zone”).
2. Personal illness (must be documented by doctor’s note).
3. Death in the immediate family (*documentation required*).
4. Jury duty/required court appearance (*documentation required*).
5. Military duty (*documentation required*).
6. Religious holidays; please notify by second week of classes, not day of holiday.
7. Milestone, includes *immediate* family events such as weddings with 3 months notice.
8. Auditions/Interviews for graduate programs.

VI. ILLNESS: If you’re “slightly under the weather,” come to rehearsal and *mark* instead of singing full voice, add rehearsal notes/markings to your score and, if necessary, sit apart from the other singers. Attending rehearsal is beneficial even in a period of illness or vocal fatigue. Only cases that are physically debilitating or contagious should be considered grounds for missing rehearsals.

VII. REQUIRED MUSIC AND MATERIALS: For every rehearsal and performance, each student should bring:

- (1) a **pencil** (not pen) and use it
- (2) all **music**, which will be supplied, and a black folder (see below)
- (3) a **tuning fork** (Chorale only)

Music: The music we sing is expensive. It is expected that each copy of assigned music will be returned by the end of the semester. If the music is not returned in usable condition, a fine of up to \$50 may be imposed. The music should be housed in your black folder that we will use in each concert performance. A pencil should be kept in the folder at all times and used constantly to mark the music.

VIII. Concert Dress: All singers must obtain their own concert attire. Please see Dr. Gemmell within the first two weeks of class if this will be a problem. Failure to dress properly will affect your grade. Attire for concerts must be complete. You are also responsible for purchasing a **PLAIN BLACK folder or binder**, without a shiny cover or any writing, school seal, etc. Please avoid wearing strong fragrances in rehearsals and performances, yet please take care of your personal hygiene.

- **For ALL Women:**

-- Black dress to be purchased – ORDER EARLY

See: <https://www.formalfashionsinc.com/59-style-4752aa.html>

Style number: 4752AA with performance knit, plain black ribbon – *no jewel accent*; black nylons, black, polished, closed-toe, low-heeled dress shoes (no spikes); pearl earrings and necklaces; hair pulled/tied back, away from face without need for constant attention.

-- Please note that “concert dress” is required only for the actual concert event, not for the dress rehearsal(s). Remember, if a singer has long hair, it must be pinned back so that one’s face is fully exposed. If, during a pre-performance rehearsal, one’s concert dress is deemed inappropriate, the singer will not perform in the concert.

- **For Men of University Choir and Chorale:**

-- Single breast tuxedo; white, pleated, wing color tux shirt; black bow tie; black cummerbund; black shoes (polished), black socks (clean). Try: www.etuxedo.com or www.myowntuxedo.com.

IX. SPRING 2019 SCHEDULE OF CHORAL PERFORMANCES/EXTRA REHEARSALS

Mark your calendars NOW!!!

Saturday, March 2, 2019: Spring Concert #1, *A Colorful Collage of Modern Choral Art*

Biemesderfer

- Featuring ALL MU Choirs; 4pm Call, 7:30pm Concert

Saturday, May 4, 2019: Spring Concert #2: *Bach Up and Handel with Care*

Biemesderfer

- Featuring ALL MU Choirs; 4pm Call, 7:30pm Concert

X. LEARNING COMMUNITIES All members of the Millersville University's Music Department will create learning communities of inquiry and action, focus on students, and demonstrate exemplary professional practices.

Learning Communities of Inquiry and Action	We will engage in learning communities in which reflection, collaboration, lifelong learning, and habits of mind are developed and nurtured.
Focus on Students	We will balance knowledge and the principles and concepts delineated in professional and state standards with an appreciation of all students' individuality, diversity, and cultures.
Exemplary Professional Practices	We will demonstrate the knowledge, skills and dispositions of exemplary professionals. We will have strong competence in our content knowledge, pedagogical content knowledge and skills as delineated in professional, state, and institutional standards. We will demonstrate professional dispositions or standards of conduct, will be supportive of students, families, and the school and community and will serve as catalysts for positive and responsible change.
Dispositions Statement	Faculty in the Professional Education Unit evaluate professional dispositions for all undergraduate and graduate students. Students are expected to: (1) Communicate Professionally, (2) Demonstrate Professional Growth, (3) Demonstrate Professional Relationships, (4) Exhibit Attributes Suitable to the Profession, and (5) Display Responsible & Ethical Behavior. Students are referred to the evaluation criteria and the administrative policy on-line at: http://muweb.millersville.edu/~deaneduc/

Disposition Category	Examples and Expectations
Communicates Professionally	<u>Communicates clearly and appropriately with the instructor and students.</u> -Follows appropriate channels of communication -Displays an appropriate sense of humor -Writes and speaks clearly -Is professional during interactions -Is easily understood -Conveys an appropriate tone -Listens carefully and actively
Demonstrates Professional Growth	<u>Seeks out, reflects, and acts upon feedback from instructor.</u> <u>Demonstrates a commitment to ongoing professional development through use of growth opportunities.</u> -Exhibits curiosity about the subject -Seeks and accepts critical feedback -Self-regulates and modifies professional behavior based upon feedback
Demonstrates Professional Relationships	<u>Demonstrates a respect for all students (including students with disabilities/linguistic/cultural/social diversity).</u> -Exhibits an understanding and acceptance of diversity -Is respectful during interactions with instructor and students -Works collaboratively with others -Treats individuals fairly
Exhibits Attributes Suitable to a Profession	<u>Meets Professional expectations through appropriate dress, punctuality, language, and interpersonal skills.</u> <u>Demonstrates a belief in classroom learning communities in which collaborative decision-making, inquiry, and individual responsibility to the group are valued.</u> -Presents information in a positive manner -Demonstrates respect for the content of the discipline -Is flexible -Displays positive relationships with peers -Is responsible -Demonstrates dedication -Is personable -Maintains professional appearance

Displays Responsible and Ethical Behavior	<u>Knows and adheres to Pennsylvania Professional Code of Ethics, copyright, and privacy laws.</u> - Adheres to professional Codes of Ethics of Pennsylvania and Millersville University of Pennsylvania -Is honest -Demonstrates ethical behaviors
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Millersville University and its faculty are committed to assuring a safe and productive educational environment for all students. In order to meet this commitment, comply with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, 20 U.S.C. §1681, et seq., and act in accordance with guidance from the Office for Civil Rights, the University requires faculty members to report to the University's Title IX Coordinator incidents of sexual violence shared by students. The only exceptions to the faculty member's reporting obligation are when incidents of sexual violence are communicated by a student during a classroom discussion, in a writing assignment for a class, or as part of a University-approved research project. Faculty members are obligated to report to the person designated in the University Protection of Minors policy incidents of sexual violence or any other abuse of a student who was, or is, a child (a person under 18 years of age) when the abuse allegedly occurred.

Information regarding the reporting of sexual violence, and the resources that are available to victims of sexual violence, is available at <http://www.millersville.edu/socialeq/title-ix-sexual-misconduct/index.php>.

Dr. Jeffrey S. Gemmell

TEACHING SCHEDULE, SPRING 2019

MONDAY & WEDNESDAY

11:00 AM 12-12:50 PM 5:30-7 PM	OFFICE HOUR UNIVERSITY CHOIR WOMEN'S CHOIR	WVPAC 222 WVPAC 101 (Biemesderfer) WVPAC 101 (Biemesderfer)
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TUESDAY & THURSDAY

2:00 PM 2:30-4 PM	OFFICE HOUR CHORALE	Winter 222 WVPAC 101 (Biemesderfer)
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FRIDAY

11:00 AM 12-12:50 PM 4:30-6:30	OFFICE HOUR UNIVERSITY CHOIR ART OF CHORAL TECHNIQUES	Winter 222 WVPAC 101 (Biemesderfer) Ware Center
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