



C U Y A M A C A
· C O L L E G E ·

Cuyamaca College Choir
Juan Carlos Acosta, Director
Course Syllabus – Spring 2015

Cuyamaca College - Performing Arts Department

Course Title: Chorus	Course #: MUS 158-159-258-259
Semester Units: 1	Hours: 2.5 Lecture, 2.5 Laboratory
Building B, Room 120	Instructor: J. Acosta
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Course Description: Study and performance of standard and contemporary choral literature for choral ensemble. Open to all singers in the community and students of the college.

Length: 16 weeks

Suggested prerequisite: previous choral singing experience.

Prerequisites: Audition

Course Objectives

1. Perform interesting and challenging choral music from a broad range of styles and time periods.
2. Achieve a level of performance skill which, at a minimum, is in keeping with the expectations of a trained college freshman.
3. Promote healthy singing by equipping students with appropriate vocal and breathing techniques appropriate to the music.
4. Increase individual musicianship through specific rehearsal, sight-singing techniques, and additional music theory resources.
5. Represent Cuyamaca College and the Performing Arts Department well in off-campus performances and recruiting events

Suggested Resources

Structures and Movement of Breathing – Barbara Conable
Cuyamaca College Choir Facebook page

Important Dates

Rehearsals: on Tuesday nights 7-9:30pm unless otherwise noted.

Call Time: Two Hours before concert unless otherwise noted.

- Saturday, February 21st – Choir Retreat at First United Methodist Church, Chula Vista, 9 am – noon.
- Friday, March 13th at 7:30 pm – Faure *Requiem* concert in collaboration with the East County Youth Symphony
- Friday, March 22nd – SDSU Collegiate Choral Festival (Time TBA)
- Friday, April 3rd at 7:30 pm – Requiem performance #2 at FUMC, Chula Vista
- Friday, April 24th 2-7pm – SDSU workshop and open rehearsal
- Friday, May 22nd at 7:30 pm – *Spring Sing* with special guests

An additional day of off-campus educational/recruiting may be scheduled in coordination with the members of the choir and local area educators. This may include performances and/or rehearsals with local high schools or universities.

Required Materials

Requiem by Gabriel Faure, Edited by John Rutter, Published by Hinshaw

Black Folder: Choral performance folder available in the bookstore or online from Amazon, JW Pepper, Music Mart, or local music retailers.

Concert Attire: See below

Pencil: suitable for making erasable markings on the music

Sectional rehearsals

In order to help achieve the additional 35 hours outlined for this class in the course catalog there will be no less than 4 required sectionals for each voice part. If a student is unable to attend these sectionals due to work or class conflicts, the instructor must be notified in writing (email preferred) by the add/drop deadline. See the schedule below.

Sectional rehearsals will run 6:10-6:55 pm on Tuesdays

Feb 10: Tenors/Basses	Feb 17: Sopranos/Altos
Feb 27: Tenors/Basses	March 3: Sopranos/Altos
April 7: Tenors/Basses	April 14: Sopranos/Altos
April 21: Tenors/Basses	April 29: Sopranos/Altos

Concert Attire: Will be decided upon in class, no later than the third class meeting. There are three proposed attire options:

1. All black: Ladies in full length black dresses (skirts with matching top acceptable) with at least $\frac{3}{4}$ length sleeves. Gentlemen in black dress shirts, black slacks and ties (black dress coats may be requested).

2. Formal: Ladies in floor length black dresses with sleeves that cover the shoulder and a modest neckline. Gentlemen in black suits, white shirt, black-tie (must all have same attire).
3. Other option proposed by class.

Grading Policy

Grading percentage breakdowns

- 60% for performances
- 30% for class participation
- 5% for each writing assignment (2)

Final Grade

A	93-100%
A-	90-92%
B+	88-89%
B	83-87%
B-	80-82%
C+	78-79%
C	70-77%
D	60-69%
F	0-59%

Extra credit may be earned by attending any Cuyamaca-sponsored concert and submitting a written *concert reflection* along with a printed program within one week of the event. Each concert reflection will count the same as a writing assignment.

Assignments: Preparation of choral music is the primary focus of this course, therefore the student's primary concern should be keeping up with all musical preparations. Each student should spend approximately one hour a week, working on course materials individually or with classmates. Additionally there will be two written assignments required.

Concert Reflection (written assignment): Each student will be required to attend and give a one page written *concert reflection* of two choral performances each semester. The reflection should be an expression of the author's perceptions and observations, not a description of events. How did the music make you think or feel? What caught your attention? The instructor will provide the class with a list of approved events. Additional events may be approved by request.

Examination: Chorus is a performance laboratory and as such, performances will serve as midterm and final examinations. The two on campus performances will be worth 30% of your grade each.

Point breakdown

- 20 for promptness to call times
- 20 for appropriate attire
- 20 for stage deportment/conduct
- 20 for musical preparation
- 20 for musical/technical accuracy

Disability Accommodation: For accommodation due to a disability, please see your instructor within the first two course meetings.

Tour: If there is significant student interest, a series of off-campus events lasting no more than three days/two nights may be organized for the Spring Semester. There are additional travel/tour opportunities in community music groups. See instructor for more information.

Attendance Policy

The Cuyamaca College attendance policy states that the instructor may institute an “excessive absence drop” for students who miss the equivalent of twice the number of hours a course meets each week (two rehearsals). Though this is not the intention of the instructor, this right is reserved.

Choral organizations depend on excellence in attendance to achieve their goals. Attendance is expected at every event and is *curricular* and therefore taken under consideration for grading. Communication is the key for attendance management.

Unexcused absences: will result in the automatic lowering of the final grade by one letter grade for each occurrence.

Excused Absences:

- Active illness including fever, vomiting, diarrhea, etc. Singers in the recovery phase (no longer contagious) that are not able to participate should attend rehearsals.
- Death in the immediate family.
- Family emergency
- Appointments that cannot be rescheduled.
- Other commitments deemed necessary by the instructor.

Unplanned absences: due to illness or emergencies should be communicated to the instructor (email preferred) as early as possible and no later than the next rehearsal.

Planned absences: should be communicated as early as possible and no later than one week prior to a rehearsal. Failure to communicate a planned absence in a timely manner will result in an “unexcused absence.”

Tardiness: A student will be given an *unexcused absence* for three or more tardies (or leaving rehearsal). More than six tardies or leaving rehearsal early may result in an *excessive absence drop*.

Choral Concert Observation Form
Cuyamaca College Choir
MUS 158-159-258-259

Student Name:

Concert Date:

Performer(s):	
Venue:	
Conductor(s):	
Works performed: (include composers)	

Critical Reflection: In the space below, describe what the concert made you think, hear and feel. What did you notice or what struck you as interesting?

Student Performance Assessment Rubric
Cuyamaca College Choir

Student Name:

Score:

/100

Performance Date:

	Score	Comments
Promptness for call times:	/20	
Adherence to Dress Code:	/20	
Stage Deportment:	/20	
Musical Preparation:	/20	
Musical/Technical Execution:	/20	