**Instructor:** Dr. Stacie Rossow, Associate Director of Choral and Vocal Studies

srossow@fau.edu, 561-297-4230, AL 234

**Office Hours:** Monday- Thursday 9:30-9:50am, Friday 11:00-12:00, and by appointment

*Please do not disturb a lesson to speak with me.* Email me for a time.

**Course Description:** The basic techniques of choral conducting and an introduction to choral literature. *Prerequisites: MUG 3201, MUT 4311, MUH 4212, with grades of “C” or higher*

**Course Objectives:** At the conclusion of the course, the student will prepare choral scores for performance through in-depth analytical study, historical background and style, appropriate programming, rehearsal techniques, and the use of appropriate conducting gesture for performance.

**Required Materials:**

* Baton appropriate for choral conducting.
* Garretson, Robert L. ***Choral Music: History, Style, and Performance Practice*** (ISBN#0-13-137191-6)
* Active student membership to American Choral Directors Association (www.acda.org)- student

membership is $35 (proof of membership must be provided by the second week of classes)

* Print out or copies of scores

**Additional Suggested Reading:**

***These texts will be placed on reserve in the S.E. Wimberly Library as reference.***

Jeffers, Ron. Annotations and Translations of Latin Texts. - Earthsongs Jeffers, Ron.

Annotations and Translations of German Texts. - Earthsongs

**Course Requirements:**

* Addend class and actively participate in class discussions and practice sessions
* Be prepared for classes with required materials
* **Electronic Requirements**
  + Video recording device to each class
  + Access to a computer loaded with CROME and good speakers or headphones
  + Access to a reliable internet source (as there are free wi-fi sites readily available and wi-fi is available at all points on the campus, loss of internet will not be accepted as a reason for a missed submission or test)

**Course Communication Policy:**

* Announcements
  + You are responsible for reading all announcements posted by the instructor. Check the announcements each time you login to be sure you have read all of them since your last login session.
* Course-related Questions
  + First read the Discussion Board to see if someone has already asked the same question.
  + Post course-related questions to the Questions/Concerns discussion board. Asking course-related questions in this way allows other participants with the same question to benefit from the responses.
  + Also, make sure you review this forum prior to posting a question; it may have already been asked and answered in previous posts.
  + Except Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays, questions will be generally answered by instructors within 48 hours.
* Email & Message Policy
  + All electronic communication must originate from a valid FAU email address
  + Except for Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays, instructors will respond to messages generally within 24 hours.
  + Such messages should only be used to communicate personal or confidential matters; otherwise, please use the Questions/Concerns discussion board within the course.
* If this course does not appear in your Blackboard list, it is likely that you are not fully registered. If you do not have blackboard, you will not receive emails, announcements, or materials for class.

**Grading Methods and Policy:**

* *Attendance and punctuality-*This will form the foundation of the semester grade. From that base-line percentage the grade will be determined by all assignments and exams

**Attendance Chart**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Number of Absences** | **Maximum Start Value** |
| 0 | 100 % |
| 1-2 | 94 |
| 3-4 | 85 |
| 5 | 75 |
| 6 | 65 |
| 7 | 50 |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Written Exams (5) on eras and performance practice  (Taken on Blackboard) | 100 points each | 20% |
| Conducting Tests (5) | 100 points each | 40% |
| Score Annotations (10)- 2 for each conducting test | 20 points each | 8% |
| Video Self-evaluations (5) | 10 points each | 5% |
| Final Conducting Exam/ practicum | 100 points | 10% |
| Article Annotations (2) | 10 points each | 5% |
| Terms Quiz (cumulative) | 30 points | 2% |
| Term Paper and analytical analysis | 100 points | 10% |
| Review of two choral concerts – Required. Loss of a full letter grade if not completed | | |

* Any students whose principle ensemble is NOT chorus, must observe 10 hours of FAU choral ensemble

rehearsals- spaced evenly throughout the semester (half will be due at mid-term date). Failure to complete ALL required observations will lower the final grade by one full letter grade.

* *All students are required to video record all exams and work in class. Among the acceptable means of recording are cell phones with min 5 min capability, digital camera, laptop computer, or video recorder. Any student without the means to record MUST speak with the instructor during the first week of classes in order to make arrangements. Students will NOT be excused from the requirement.*

**Explanation of Assignments and Exams**

1. Exams on Eras and Performance Practice: Material from Garretson and class lecture and discussion will be covered. These tests will be given on Blackboard and must be completed by the time designated in the Course Schedule. These exams will be timed (up to 50 minutes), but you will have a 48-hour window in which to take the test. You will not be able to start and stop, once you begin the exam, you must finish. Students should make certain that they are in a location with a reliable internet connection for the exam and must have the ability to hear sound from the computer. Should a computer error occur, the instructor must be notified immediately. Notification of an issue after the time of completion of the test will not allow the student to re-take the exam.
2. Conducting Tests: One conducting exam from each era
3. Score Annotations: for each score used in tests. Sample annotation posted on Blackboard. Marked score should be included as part of this grade.
4. Video Self-evaluations: Must be submitted the class following a conducting test using the

template on Blackboard

1. Final Conducting Exam/ Practicum: Students will rehearse an FAU ensemble for 20

minutes on designated piece. This will be a piece which the ensemble has very little knowledge and the conductor is expected to introduce and work as if it were their rehearsal with the ensemble. They should also be prepared to vocalize and work both technically and vocally with the ensemble.

1. Article Annotations: Based upon articles written on most recent choral music research
2. *Terms Quiz*- This short quiz will demonstrate mastery of directions conductors often find in a score.
3. *Choral Concert Review*- Students will attend, and review, two choral concerts
4. Research/term paper: A research paper on a major work (to be decided with instructor by

the third week of classes) must cover the following:

* The Paper

o Historical developments  
o Musical developments, i.e., forms, compositional characteristics, etc.  
o The actual compositional characteristics of the period and performance practices

o Definition and development of the genre  
o Specific information about the score- including Score ANALYSIS and

Annotation. (This portion of the paper should include personal insight on the score based on what you have learned from your research and score analysis and should include a chart overview)

* Bibliography may not include more than one internet cite (New Grove’s Online is not considered a website in this way. It is a viable research tool)
* Paper will be checked for plagiarism and will be submitted via Blackboard
* Use of proper writing style (Turabian preferred, if you are using a different style, discuss

with instructor)

* Minimum of 10 pages, double-spaced. Margins set at default Word settings (1/2 inch

normally), New Times 12 font. This does not include the chart. (sample posted on blackboard)

**Attendance Policy:** Attendance to class is required and is part of the final grade of the class as notated in the attendance chart portion of the grading policy

**\* Note that more than 5 absences (or the correlating number of tardies) will make it impossible to pass this course as required for degree.**

* Students are responsible for arranging to make up work missed because of legitimate class absence, such as serious illness, family emergencies, military obligation, court-imposed legal obligations or participation in University-approved activities.
* Documentation for absences must be received within one (1) week of said absence.
* Examples of University-approved reasons for absences include participating on an athletic or scholastic team, musical and theatrical performances and debate activities.
* It is the student’s responsibility to give the instructor notice prior to any anticipated absence and within a reasonable amount of time after an unanticipated absence, ordinarily by the next scheduled class meeting. (or the day of in the case of an exam)
* Instructors must allow each student who is absent for a University-approved reason the opportunity to make up work missed without any reduction in the student’s final course grade as a direct result of such absence. (University Catalog <http://www.fau.edu/academic/registrar/FAUcatalog/academics.php>)

**Grading Scale:**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Percent** | **Final Grade** | **Percent** | **Final Grade** |
| 93-100% | A | 89-92% | A- |
| 87-89% | B+ | 83-86% | B |
| 79-82% | B- | 77-79% | C+ |
| 73-76% | C | 69-72% | C- |
| 67-69% | D+ | 63-66% | D |
| 60-62% | D- | 59% | F |

**COURSE SCHEDULE:**

• **Readings to be completed before the era notated is covered in class to facilitate discussion.**





\*If additional time is taken in preparation of one set of scores, later Practice in class” times may need to be eliminated in order to cover the required material.

**Make up/ Late Work:**

* All assignments and information will be posted through Blackboard.
* **10 points per day late** will be deducted for any assignment not turned in at the designated time. For assignments turned in during class, that begins as soon as class ends.
* Assignments will **NOT** be accepted more than four (4) days past the due date.
* **ONLINE Assignments CANNOT be completed after the deadline.**
* It is recommended that students missing a class check to see if anything was assigned.
* ***If an exam is missed the student must have documentation from a doctor explaining why the student could not possibly take the exam.***
* ***Make-ups will not be given without proper documentation.*** If a student is ill and not able to attend class for the exam, they must provide written documentation, on letterhead, from the hospital, clinic, or physician stating that they were not able to attend class.
* Missed exams must be made up by or on the next class day.
* **Professor** must be notified in writing within 4 hours of a missed test.
* *No make-ups will be given after one full week has expired and all work not turned in by the assigned date must be submitted within 36 hours with the proper documentation.*

**Plagiarism Detection:** Each student is expected to complete his/her assignments and tests on their own.

Any essays, including possible extra credit, that are submitted will be filtered through SafeAssign or TurnitIn. Papers with an originality report of more than 25% non-original material will be referred to the Dean’s office for review. Plagiarism may result in academic warning, or in extreme cases, expulsion. In addition, the paper will be considered failed and receive a grade of zero. In the case of a possible extra credit assignment, the amount that could have been added will be taken away from the final grade.

**Classroom etiquette:**

* NO COMPUTERS OR CELL PHONES WILL PERMITTED IN CLASS. (Exception: SDA office requests for specific reasons)
* STUDENTS MUST HAVE THEIR BOOK AND NECESSARY MATERIALS IN CLASS. Students without course materials may be asked to leave class.
* Should a student be found in violation of this etiquette, they will be asked to leave class and take the absence.
* Cell phones should be turned off.
* Additionally, students are asked to sit in the chairs in a proper manner and keep feet from residing on other furniture.
* Out of courtesy to other students and to the professor, students are asked to arrive in a timely manner. Please note that two tardies constitutes one absence.

**Students with Disabilities:** In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), students who require special accommodations due to a disability to properly execute coursework must register with the Office for Students with Disabilities s (OSD) located in Boca Raton - SU 133 (561-297-3880). Any student registered with the office of Student Disabilities should present verification and need of assistance during the first week of classes. All possible and reasonable accommodation will be offered to that student through the course of the semester. Information can be found at:  <http://osd.fau.edu/>

**Religious Accommodation:**

* In accordance with rules of the Florida Board of Education and Florida law, students have the right to reasonable accommodations from the University in order to observe religious practices and beliefs with regard to admissions, registration, class attendance and the scheduling of examinations and work assignments.
* Students who wish to be excused from coursework, class activities, or examinations must notify the instructor in writing ***two weeks in advance*** of their intention to participate in religious observation and request an excused absence. The instructor will provide a reasonable opportunity to make up material from excused absences.
* Any student who feels aggrieved regarding religious accommodations may present a grievance to the director of Equal Opportunity Programs. Any such grievances will follow Florida Atlantic University’s established grievance procedure regarding alleged discrimination. <http://www.fau.edu/provost/files/religious2011.pdf>

**Incomplete Policy**: A grade of Incomplete will be assigned only in the case of extreme emergency or illness. This grade will only be assigned when such a situation precludes the students’ ability to complete the Final Performance. If such a situation should occur, the student should contact the instructor prior to the start of the performance and should be in EXTREME cases only. Should this occur, the student will be required to complete the course the next time it is offered as no make up for a collaborative performance is possible or reasonable.

**Code of Academic Integrity**:  *Students at Florida Atlantic University are expected to maintain the highest ethical standards. Dishonesty is considered a serious breach of these ethical standards, because it interferes with the University mission to provide a high quality education in which no student enjoys an unfair advantage over any other. Dishonesty is also destructive of the University community, which is grounded in a system of mutual trust and places high value on personal integrity and individual responsibility. Harsh penalties are associated with academic dishonesty. For more information, see* <http://www.fau.edu/regulations/chapter4/4.001_Code_of_Academic_Integrity.pdf>