Course Information

Title: Westminster Women’s Choir- MUS 424(V) 01  
Instructor: Mrs. Ashley Graziani
Semester Credit Hours: 1  
Location: Wallace Memorial Chapel

Meeting Times: TR, 12:40-1:50PM  
Office: TBD  
Phone: TBD  
Email: graziaae@westminster.edu  
Office Hours: by appointment

Course Description

Women’s Chorus is a choral ensemble of women comprised of music and non-music majors. Repertoire will include a variety of repertoire, including but not limited to selections in Contemporary and Traditional Western Art Music, Multicultural Music, and Popular Music. The ensemble will participate in the College Vesper services, in the annual Christmas Vesper service, and in additional choral concerts throughout the year.

Course Outcomes

I. Students will understand and demonstrate ensemble skills and musical interpretations and gain a sense of musical flexibility in diverse musical situations.

II. Students will operate at an accelerated pace in rehearsals and concert preparation.

III. Students will display an understanding of fine details regarding various styles, historical performance practices, voicing and languages.

IV. Students will practice professional standards and technique that promotes individual responsibility for vocal health.

V. Students will sing with proper vocal and choral production techniques as stated and recognized by major vocal and choral pedagogues.

Materials

*Assigned musical scores will be provided, but are to be returned at the end of the semester. Students will be charged for music that is not returned.

*Students are required to purchase a black three-ring binder to be used as a choral folder. Or students may purchase a choral folio: a bulk order will be made at the beginning of the year.
*Students are responsible for the purchase of concert attire. Women all wear the same black concert dress, decided upon by the director. A bulk order will be placed at the beginning of the semester in order to cut costs and students will be made aware of the price (which fluctuates year to year) early in the semester.

*All students should bring several sharpened pencils to every rehearsal.

**Grading Scale**

A+ = 98-100  A =94-97  A- = 90-93

B+ = 87-89  B =83-86  B- = 80-82

C+ = 77-79  C =73-76  C- =70-72

D = 60-69  F =59 or below

**Performance Calendar**

Winter Concert: November 9, 2018 – 7:30pm  Call: TBA

Vespers: December 9, 2018 – 7:00pm  Call: TBA

**Class Policies**

**Attendance/Participation/Grading**

An ensemble cannot achieve its full potential without complete commitment by all members, and it is impossible for students to actively participate without being in rehearsal or at a designated performance. Daily records will be kept and a significant portion of the student's grade will depend upon rehearsal and performance participation. The grading policy is as follows:

**Participation (30%)**

Participation is required at ALL rehearsals and performances.

Students are expected to arrive on time and remain alert and engaged throughout the class period. Again, participation is required at ALL rehearsal and performances. In the instance that a rehearsal must be missed, the student should submit a written note, one full week in advance of the given date, outlining the reason for the absence. The instructor reserves the right to deny a student’s request for absence for reasons deemed inappropriate.

Unacceptable reasons for requesting absence from rehearsal and performances include (but are not limited to):

* Voice lessons
* Meetings with faculty members or other organizations
* Make-up classes or exams
* Registration appointments
* Doctor/dental appointments
* Any other personal obligations

Absences for the following reasons are considered **excused but the instructor must be contacted before the time of absence**:

* Institutional excuses given five days in advance
* Acute illness with doctor’s verification
* Death in the immediate family
* Religious holidays
* Immediate family emergencies

**Performances and dress rehearsals should not be missed under any circumstance other than emergency.** In the extremely rare instance that a student must miss a performance for reason other than an emergency, **the student should approach the instructor during the first week of classes to discuss any potential conflicts and submit, in writing, a description of the conflict**, so the issue may be resolved. The instructor reserves the right to deny an absence request for reasons deemed inappropriate. Such reasons include, but are not limited to, those listed in the previous section.

**Tardiness will not be tolerated.** Arriving later than ten minutes after the start of class will constitute an unexcused absence and will result in the loss of participation points for the day. Unexcused absences in excess of one missed class will result in the loss of 5% of the overall participation grade per absence.

Additional participation/grading guidelines:

* **FAILURE TO PARTICIPATE** in a dress rehearsal without the prior approval of the instructor will result in a loss of one full letter grade.

* **FAILURE TO PARTICIPATE** in performances without the prior approval of the instructor will result in a loss of two full letter grades.

* **FAILURE TO PARTICIPATE** in rehearsal during the week of a performance will result in a lowered letter grade.

**Professional Demeanor (10%)**
Criteria used to establish the **professional demeanor** grade include the following:

Work ethic (positive attitude and contribution):
* Student follows instructions and marks score when instructed.
* Student’s participation is conducive to the rehearsal process.
* Student responds well to constructive criticism.
* Student brings scores and a pencil to every rehearsal.
* If unable to sing, the student attends rehearsal and takes notes.
* Student does not use cell phone or other electronic devices during rehearsal, unless instructed to do so.

Food and Drink:
* No food or drinks are allowed in the rehearsal or performance facilities. Only closed capped water bottles will be permitted.

Preparation outside of class:
* Students will occasionally be given practice assignments and are expected to come prepared. Lack of preparation may result in the loss of daily participation points.

Part-testing:
* Occasional announced and unannounced recorded and/or live solo quartet, duet, or octet tests will be administered. Every student should be prepared to perform their part in this setting.

Sight-Singing:
* Students will give full effort to solfeg and rhythm exercises.
* Students will complete sight-singing exercises to the best of their ability.
* Students will make improvement in their own personal level of sight-singing and/or music reading skills.

Professionalism:
* Students should show respect for the conductor and their fellow students.
* Students should adhere to the above participation policy.

Concert Attire:
* Students are expected to participate in choral performances in a clean and professional manner with the proper concert attire (outlines in materials section).

Returning of Materials:
* Students are expected to return all musical scores at the end of the semester. Failure to return or pay for lost/damaged music by the announced deadline will result in the reduction of the demeanor grade.

**Vocal/Choral Production (30%)**
Individual and ensemble evaluation will be made using the given rubric.

**Final Exam (30%)**
The final two performances of the semester constitutes the Final Exam.
Westminster College Academic Integrity Statement:

“Academic dishonesty is a profound violation of the expected code of behavior. It can take several forms including, but not limited to, plagiarism, cheating, misrepresentation of facts or experimental results, unauthorized use of or intentional intrusion into another’s computer files and/or programs, intentional damage to a computer system, and unauthorized use of library materials and privileges. Academic dishonesty in any of these forms will not be tolerated. Students who engage in academic dishonesty face penalties such as failure in the course involved or expulsion from the College. All instances of academic dishonesty will be reported to the Dean of the College.”

Failure to follow this policy may lead to failure of the course or other disciplinary action.

Disability Statement

As stated on the Office of Disability Resources website, “Westminster College is committed to removing barriers to education that may be experienced by students with disabilities, by providing appropriate supports and academic accommodations. The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Section 504) and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) regulate the provision of services and accommodations for students with disabilities in higher education.” Students with disabilities are encouraged to reach out to the Office of Disability Resources in order to determine what services may be available to them. Once a determination has been made, the instructor will work, in collaboration with the administration, to make the necessary accommodations.