Choral Techniques – MUS 2830
Course Instructor: Prof. Jennifer Moir
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Office Hours: By appointment

Class Schedule
Mondays, 9:30 - 10:30am, MB254
Thursdays, 9:30am - 11:30am, MB 254

Course Description
This course is designed to support choral music educators as they deepen their understanding of conducting gesture, singing, personal expression and choral pedagogy. The format of the class shall consist of a balance of both interactive group conducting, individual podium time and lectures.

Course Objectives
This course will support beginning choral conductors as they develop skills in the areas of: Education, Communication, Artistry and Choir Management.

Note: “Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.”

Learning Outcomes:
By the end of this course students will have:
- An experiential and cognitive understanding of the human system and it's design to support their ability to learn, move, and sing with clarity, ease, freedom and power
- An accurate ‘body map’ of their major joints, the voice and the arm structure
- Increased their potential to move freely and efficiently when expressing music through conducting
- Expanded their range of dynamic expression through non-verbal communication ie. conducting stature, gesture, and patterns
- Demonstrated a working knowledge of vocal technique and the ability to respond to vocal challenges that unfold in rehearsals and performance.
- Demonstrated a working knowledge of constructive skills of self assessment, critical for learning and growth
- Demonstrated a working knowledge of constructive skills of peer assessment, and greater facility with a verbal language of empowerment
- Effectively articulated a personal vision for future work in the field of choral art

Required Materials:
You will require a Journal/Notebook for class to make notes for your Daily Tracker as well as a personal recording device, ie, cell phone or computer camera, to record your conducting assignments.

Resources:
• Folder of music to be signed out from the CBO Library each semester
• A series of articles, (to be assigned) relating to choral conducting

OWL:
The syllabus and other important course documents will be available for download on the OWL site by logging on to [https://owl.uwo.ca/portal](https://owl.uwo.ca/portal) and following the appropriate links to the MUS 2830 area. Any important announcements will also be posted on this site, so please check regularly for postings.

**Evaluation:**
Practical Performance (65%) *(please note which group you are assigned to for corresponding performance dates listed on your syllabus)*

**Term I:**
- Conducting Assignment 1 - Choral Speech – 5%
- Conducting Assignment 2 - Soundscape – 5%
- Conducting Assignment 3 - Selection from course pack – 10%

**Term II:**
- Conducting Assignment Part 1: Leading rehearsal of a new piece – 15%
- Conducting Assignment Part 2: Deepening interpretation in rehearsal – 15%
- Conducting Assignment Part 3: Conducting the music to express/co-create– 15%

**Assignments (35%)**

**Term I:**
- Assignment 1: Leadership In Action Report – 3.5%
- Assignment 2: Class tracker Term I (0.5% per class) – 12%

**Term II:**
- Assignment 3: Lesson plan for your term 2 repertoire selection – 4%
- Assignment 4: Choirs Change the World Report – 3.5%
- Assignment 5: Class tracker term II (0.5% per class) – 12%

**Evaluation process**
Students will be responsible for submitting personal evaluations of all written and practical assignments. Students are required to keep copies of these evaluations for themselves, as well as a record of marks they assign (marks summary chart provided on OWL) Each conducting assignment will be self-evaluated following review of your recording from class. Students shall complete an evaluation form provided by the instructor (found under the Resources Tab on OWL) and submit it electronically on or by the next class. Each written assignment will also be self-evaluated, using a “Written Evaluation Form” provided on OWL.

A mark for each term will be determined through collaborative evaluation consultation with the instructor at the close of each term. At the end of second term,
a final mark will be determined and submitted, following a final marks consultation with the instructor.
Please be aware: It is imperative that students attend scheduled consultation meetings outside of class. Failure to attend these consultations will result in a mark of zero being recorded for all assignments.

Attendance Policy
Because of the practical nature of this course, attendance is required for all classes. Your colleagues depend on your full participation as much as you depend on them for a rewarding conducting/learning experience.
Written or verbal explanation of an absence must be received before the class begins, and conducting assignments missed for unacceptable reasons will result in a grade of "zero" for that assignment. Your Daily Tracker Assignment requires your attendance in class every Monday and Thursday. Failure to attend class on any given day will automatically result in a mark of zero for that Daily Tracker Assignment.

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION:
Student Support Services
The following websites may be useful to you in obtaining support during your studies:

Office of the Registrar: This site provides you with information on things like course enrollment, student finances, and student records, as well as the latest updates from Student Central. http://www.registrar.uwo.ca/

The Student development centre: The Student Development Centre is home to a variety of services specially designed to meet the needs of undergraduate and graduate students on campus student.uwo.ca

Student Services: Within this portal you will find services, application, personal information, along with connections to other services offered to help you during your time here at Western. student.uwo.ca

Illness:
The University policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness states that “in order to ensure fairness and consistency for all students, academic accommodation for work representing 10% or more of the student’s overall grade in the course shall be granted only in those cases where there is documentation indicating that the student was seriously affected by illness and could not reasonably be expected to meet his/her academic responsibilities. Documentation shall be submitted, as soon as possible, to the appropriate Dean’s office...” Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness found at: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf

Accommodation for illness:
If illness affects the ability of a student to complete any written assignments on time, extensions may be granted. If illness affects the ability of the student to complete a
performance, a make-up performance time will be offered, when possible. If an alternate performance date is not possible, written work will be assigned for the equivalent mark weighting. (Note: The above accommodations are for medical illness of work worth less than 10% of the total course grade. In all cases, medical documentation is required).

**Mental Health**

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Western’s Health and Wellness webpages. Go to http://www.uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/self/student.html for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

**Scholastic Offences:**

“Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, as found at http://www.csd.uwo.ca/current_students/undergraduate_students/scholastic_offences.html.”