

Music 482 Syllabus

Music 482, Choral Arranging (2 credits)
W, 5 pm, E-371 HFAC

Professor: Dr. Neil Thornock

Office hours: MW 11:00-11:50; knock or by appointment, E-579A HFAC (inside E-579)

Contact: 422-1482; neilthornock@gmail.com

Course Description and Objectives

In this course, we will together explore the art and craft of writing effectively for choir. This will include arranging existing music to fit unusual ensembles, writing a new arrangement based on a tune, and original composition. We will explore a variety of textures, harmonic approaches, and structural issues.

Prerequisites

You must have passed Music 294, 296, and 298 with a C- or higher to enroll for this course.

Materials

Paper/pencils/etc.

Ample staff paper

Grading

Assignments: 45%

Participation: 25%

Final project: 30%

Assignments

You will have a composition/arranging assignment due each week.

Participation

You earn the participation grade in the following ways:

1. Attendance. Be on time. Stay for the whole class.
2. Contributing to a distraction-free environment:
 - Cell phones turned completely off for the entire class.
 - No food or drink.
 - Conversation kept on-topic.
3. Active participation in classroom work. Learning is best accomplished as a community. I expect each person to contribute whatever you have to offer.
4. Respect and kindness toward everyone.

At the end of the semester, you will assign yourself a 1-10 grade for participation with a brief (two- or three-sentence) explanation. The participation grade is due by email by the end of the last week of class.

Exams

No exams. Sorry. Not even a final (we'll perform the projects instead).

Course Schedule

| Date | Content | Due on this day |
|-------|--|-----------------------------|
| Jan 4 | Basic considerations 2-part arranging | |
| 11 | 2-part arranging continued | 2-part Project 1: Homophony |
| 18 | 3-part arranging | 2-part Project 2: Polyphony |
| 25 | 3-part arranging continued | 3-part Project 1 |
| Feb 1 | 4-part arranging | 3-part Project 2 |
| 8 | 4-part arranging continued | 4-part Project 1 |
| 15 | Using the keyboard | 4-part Project 2 |
| 22 | Beginnings and endings | Keyboard Project |
| 29 | Approaches to texture | Beginning of an Arrangement |
| Mar 7 | Approaches to harmony | Texture Project |
| 14 | Approaches to modulation | Harmony Project |
| 21 | Writing a climax | Start final projects |
| 28 | Projects | |
| Apr 4 | Projects | |
| 11 | Projects | |