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

CLASS SCHEDULE
Thursdays, 9:30am - 11:30am, MB 254
Fridays, 2:30pm - 3:30pm, TC 101

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course is designed to empower 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 classes, individual podium time and lectures.

COURSE OBJECTIVES
This course will:
- Provide students with the opportunity to develop leadership skills in the areas of:
  - Verbal and non-verbal communication
  - Active listening, and
  - Assessment practices which foster learning and growth.
- Provide experiences for students to nurture their capacity to perceive, interpret and express/respond to music with freedom, clarity and confidence in rehearsal and performance situations.
- Offer inspiring group discussion and interactions with choral professionals experienced in the areas of school, church and community choral art.

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
Through this course students will:
- Demonstrate knowledge of the fundamentals of leadership, learning and personal expression
- Demonstrate knowledge of issues of interferences for self-expression and learning
- Demonstrate knowledge of constructive skills of self assessment, critical for learning and growth
- Demonstrate knowledge of constructive skills of peer assessment, and develop facility with a verbal language of empowerment
- Expand their range of dynamic expression through non-verbal communication ie. conducting stature, gesture, and patterns
- Increase their potential to move freely and efficiently when expressing music through conducting
- Develop confidence in listening skills and overall musicianship
- Effectively articulate a personal vision for future work in the field of choral art
• Effectively synthesize theoretical and practical knowledge in reflective written assignments addressing leadership and choral art.

REQUIRED MATERIALS
   Journal/Notebook
   A personal recording device, ie, cell phone or computer camera, to record conducting assignments

RESOURCES:
   • Folder of music to be signed out from the CBO Library

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 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 (20%)
All assignments are due at the beginning of the class on their respective due dates. Marks are awarded for content, proper grammar and spelling.
   **Term I:**
   Assignment 1: Leadership In Action Report – 5%
   Assignment 2: Class tracker summarizing experiences from term I – 2.5%
   **Term II:**
   Assignment 3: Lesson plan for your term 2 repertoire selection – 5%
   Assignment 4: Choirs Change the World Report – 5%
   Assignment 5: Class tracker summarizing experiences from term II – 2.5%

ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION (15%)
Attendance Policy
Because of the practical nature of this course, attendance is required for all classes, and 15% of your final grade will be awarded for attendance and participation in the activities of the class. **Two marks will be deducted for each absence.** 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 colleagues depend on your full participation as much as you depend on them for a rewarding conducting/learning experience.

**EVALUATION FOR CONDUCTING ASSIGNMENTS AND WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS:**
Each conducting assignment will be self-evaluated following review of your recording. Students shall complete the evaluation form provided by the instructor (found under Resources on OWL) and submit it electronically by the class that follows their time on the podium in class. Each written assignment will also be self-evaluation, using a “Written Evaluation Form” provided on OWL.

**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) 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 in the same manner for submission. 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.

**OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION:**

**Student Support Service**
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/](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](http://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](http://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:](#)
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.htm l.”