



# University Chorus Syllabus

## Spring 2015

**MUEN 307/507: 1 credit**

<b>Conductors</b>	Serena Eichhorn Shou Ping Liu Daniel Gee	(216) 544-7544	seichhor@usc.edu shoupinl@usc.edu dgee@usc.edu
<b>Choral TA Office Office Hours</b>	MUS 209 By Appointment		
<b>DCSM Office</b>	MUS 416 Litta Cecchi, administrative coordinator (213) 821-5756		
<b>Class Schedule</b>	Wednesday 7:00- 8:50pm Ramo Recital Hall (Booth 100).		
<b>Bulletin Description</b>	Rehearsal and performance of choral literature from all periods of music history; open to all students, faculty and community members		
<b>Objectives</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Facilitate comprehension and communication of texts of music studied</li><li>2. Facilitate improved vocal production</li><li>3. Foster understanding of musical styles and performance practice of works studied</li><li>4. Facilitate increased sight-reading ability</li><li>5. Foster sense of individual responsibility toward the group effort for successful performance</li><li>6. Foster sense of collaborative efforts of composers and lyricists in the creation of choral music</li><li>7. Participate in public performances of music studied</li></ol>		
<b>Required Materials</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Music scores of assigned repertoire</li><li>2. A sharpened pencil and eraser</li><li>3. Black "choral" performance folder (see below for purchasing information)</li><li>4. Concert Attire (see below for description)</li><li>5. CLOSED water bottles only allowed in rehearsal and performance spaces.</li></ol>		
<b>Music</b>	Students check out music through the Department of Choral and Sacred Music Librarian. Once scores are received, students are responsible to keep scores in good condition. <b>Students must return scores by the time of the final exam.</b> Failure to return scores in good condition will affect the participation grade and may result in fees equivalent to the cost of purchasing replacements. Scores must be returned promptly to avoid charges, should students drop this class before the end of the semester.		

# University Chorus Calendar

## Spring Semester

Friday, April 10	6:30-9:30 p.m. Spring Concert Dress Rehearsal Newman Recital Hall
Sunday, April 12	5:30 p.m. Spring Concert Sound Check Newman Recital Hall
<b>Sunday, April 12</b>	<b>7:30 p.m.</b> <b>Spring Concert</b> <b>Newman Recital Hall</b>

## Grading and Attendance Policy

In keeping with the professional objectives of the program, the Department of Choral and Sacred Music at the University of Southern California enforces a strict policy on a participation and punctuality. Choral faculty and section leaders keep daily records. A significant portion of the student's grade will depend upon rehearsal and performance participation. The ensemble does not function at its peak without the presence of all of its members. Participation is required at ALL rehearsals and performances. You will receive a grade for Participation (75% of final grade) and Demeanor (20% of final grade) and Final Exam (The final performance of the semester constitutes the Final Exam: 5% of the final grade). Participation: It is impossible for students to participate without being in rehearsal and performance.

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

**FAILURE TO PARTICIPATE** in performances or recording sessions without the prior approval of the instructor will result in a loss of three full letter grades (failing grade).

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

**FAILURE TO PARTICIPATE** in rehearsals without prior written approval of the instructor will result in loss of one letter grade according to the following:

- 1 unexcused absences** results in an **A grade**
- 2 unexcused absences** results in an **B grade**
- 3 unexcused absences** results in an **C grade**
- 4 unexcused absences** results in an **D grade (Failing grade)**

Failure to be ready to rehearse at the beginning of the rehearsal will result in a tardy and will affect the participation portion of the grade as follows:

- 2 tardies** results in **1 unexcused absence**.

**A letter grade of C or higher constitutes Credit for those taking ensemble as Credit/Non-Credit. Consequently, a letter grade lower than C will result in a failing grade.**

**Grading and  
Attendance Policy  
Continued**

Conflicts with the attached **Calendar of Choral Events** must be presented in writing to the director of the ensemble during the first week of classes. All performances are listed on the attached schedule.

**Do not** schedule lessons, meetings with faculty members or other organizations, make-up classes or exams, USC registration, doctor/dental appointments, job interviews, or any personal obligations during rehearsal times.

Unavoidable emergencies will be handled on an individual basis. If an emergency occurs, (including acute, but brief, illness) the student must contact the director in a timely manner, followed with written notification within three days. The instructor will determine whether the emergency is acceptable for excuse. If the instructor does not recognize the reason as acceptable, the student may appeal to the chair.

Absences for the following reasons are considered **EXCUSED**:

- \* Institutional excuses given five days in advance.
- \* Extended illness with doctor's verification.
- \* Death in the immediate family.
- \* Religious holidays.

The University of Southern California, has always sought to acknowledge and accommodate those students who wish to observe religious holy days. It seeks to reflect its awareness and sensitivity to religious holidays whenever possible when scheduling University activities. Each student shall, upon notifying his/her instructor in writing during the first week of classes, be excused from class to observe a religious holy day of his/her faith.

**Uniform**

Singers are responsible for their own performance attire. Both men and women are required to wear *all black*. **Men:** Black long sleeved shirt, black dress pants, black shoes (no sneakers), black socks. **Women:** Long black dress, dress pants, or black top and skirt (plain black tights), black dress shoes (no flip flops).

**Folders**

Singers are responsible for purchasing a black "choral" folder prior to performance. Choral folders may be purchased for \$27 through Litta Cecchi in the Department of Choral and Sacred Music (MUS 416).

**Recording Participation  
Release Form**

All students participating in University Chorus are required to sign a Recording Participation Release form authorizing USC to use any recordings they make. Copies of the release will be supplied upon request.

**Disruptive Behavior**

Behavior that persistently or grossly interferes with classroom activities is considered disruptive behavior and may be subject to disciplinary action. Such behavior inhibits other students' ability to learn and an instructor's ability to teach. Cell phone usage (texting, web surfing, calls, etc.) will not occur during rehearsals or classes. In the case of disruptive usage, consequences will be decided by the instructor on an individual case basis and may be reflected in the student's participation grade. A student responsible for disruptive behavior may be required to leave class pending discussion and resolution of the problem and may be reported to the Office of Student Judicial Affairs for disciplinary action.

**Honor Code**

**Specific guidelines governing academic integrity are described in SCampus. Additional information can also be found on the Student Judicial Affairs and Community Standards Web site at [www.usc.edu/student-affairs/SJACS](http://www.usc.edu/student-affairs/SJACS).**

**Religious Observation  
Policy**

Students with Religious Observances that conflict with course meetings and events are excused. Students should provide notice in advance of their absence in writing. For more information about the university's policy, please see: <http://orl.usc.edu/religiouslife/holydays/absences.html>

**Policy on  
Accommodations  
For Students with  
Disabilities**

The University of Southern California is committed to full compliance with the Rehabilitation Act (Section 504) and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). As part of the implementation of this law, the university will continue to provide reasonable accommodation for academically qualified students with disabilities so that they can participate fully in the university's educational programs and activities. Although USC is not required by law to change the "fundamental nature or essential curricular components of its programs in order to accommodate the needs of disabled students," the university will provide reasonable academic accommodation. It is the specific responsibility of the university administration and all faculty serving in a teaching capacity to ensure the university's compliance with this policy.

The general definition of a student with a disability is any person who has "a physical or mental impairment which substantially limits one or more of such person's activities," and any person who has "a history of, or is regarded as having, such an impairment.

Reasonable academic and physical accommodations include but are not limited to: extended time on examinations; substitution of similar or related work for a non-fundamental program requirement; time extensions on papers or projects; special testing procedures; advance notice regarding booklists for visually impaired and some learning disabled students; use of academic aids in the classroom such as note-takers and sign language interpreters; accessibility for students who use wheelchairs and those with mobility impairments; and need for special classroom furniture or special equipment in the classroom.

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