Grand Rapids Community College Shades of Blue (MUS 192)

Syllabus

TTH 3:30-5, Room 304, Music Building

Dr. Barton, sbarton@grcc.edu, 616-234-2294

Grading policy

Grades for the GRCC Shades of Blue will be based on daily attendance to all rehearsals and attendance at all scheduled concerts. Grades will also be based on weekly musical examinations held during class time on Wednesdays.

Attendance:

Students must attend all rehearsals. While it is understood that an occasional absence from rehearsal is necessary, students will understand that missing a rehearsal for any reason constitutes lost instruction time and creates a situation where a student has a diminished ability to contribute to the musical well-being of the ensemble. With this in mind, the choir will not recognize excused or unexcused absences. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class and students will be noted as absent or present. The following criterion will be used to determine a student’s grade based on this policy.

1-2 absences A
3 absences B
4 absences C
5 absences D
6 or more absences Student will fail the course

If a student receives a grade of C or worse in any given semester, they will be asked to take a leave of absence from the Madrigal Singers. Students will be eligible to reaudition for the group at the beginning of the next academic year.
Tardies

Students are expected to be on time to each class. 3 tardies will constitute one absence. The final total of absences and tardies will determine the student’s final grade.

Bringing all choir music to class

It is assumed that students will arrive to class with all of the music assigned. Failure to bring your music to class will constitute a tardy for each time the music is not with you. It is vitally important to your ability to perform at a high level in class that you have all of your music for each class and not have to share with another singer. Having to share music impedes your ability and that of the person with whom you are sharing to rehearse and perform at the highest level.

Conduct in class

Students will be expected to give their best effort at all times and to have a good attitude during rehearsals. If the director feels that attitude and effort are not consistently good from a singer and are in some way a musical detriment to the ensemble, the director will speak privately with the student specifically communicating the problem(s). If problems persist, the director reserves the right to ask a student to take a leave of absence for the ensemble.

Class tests

Every Friday, each student will be required to sing their part as assigned each week in a quartet or other appropriately sized chamber ensemble for a grade. This grade will be based on whether each student has learned their musical part and language thoroughly. These weekly grades will be calculated into a final test grade for the semester.

Final grades

50% Attendance

50% Class Tests

Below is listed the GRCC grading percentage/grade policy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>100-94</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>93-90</td>
<td>A-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>89-87</td>
<td>B+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>86-84</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>83-80</td>
<td>B-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Performances

A list of performances and the choir repertory for the entire year is included among the materials you will be receiving for this class. Please note that ALL PERFORMANCES ARE ABSOLUTELY AND WITHOUT EXCEPTION REQUIRED. If a performance is missed, the student’s grade will be dropped to a C and you will be asked to take a leave of absence form the ensemble in the following semester. This C could see further grade reduction due to absences and tardies. In such a case, it would be fairly easy to fail the class. Please don’t put yourself in such a position.

Any concerns about this policy or personal issues surrounding concert attendance will need to be addressed with Dr. Barton privately.

Student learning outcomes

1. Students will apply appropriate technique towards achieving a high level of performance and effective musical expression.

2. Students will demonstrate a mastery of pulse, intonation and tone quality in relation to balance/blend/technique within the ensemble

3. Students will identify and interpret structural elements with the ensemble repertory.

4. Students will perform in a stylistically appropriate manner for the diverse, social, historical, cultural and geographical backgrounds from which their repertory is drawn, in order to achieve a stylistically informed performance.

5. Students will recognize, respond to and model conducting gestures.

6. Students will regularly attend, be punctual and actively participate, and prepare for a successful ensemble experience.
Performance/Dress Rehearsal Calendar
GRCC Shades of Blue Winter 2015

Saturday, March 14, Fundraiser for Francescan Life Center, Downtown Market, 1-3pm
Tuesday, March 24, Winter Jazz Night at the Raider Grille, 7:30pm, arrive 6:30pm
Thursday, April 16, Dress rehearsal for Musical Moods, 7-10pm, Fountain Street Church
Friday, April 17, Musical Moods, 7:30pm, Fountain Street Church, arrive 6:30pm

Repertory

I’ll Be Around		Wilder arr. Rutherford
Baby, It’s Cold Outside	Loesser arr. O’Connell
I Wish	Wonder arr. Emerson
At the End of the Day	Eckert arr. Weir

College Policies:
The academic policies and procedures of GRCC are outlined in the College Catalog. College-wide policies and procedures, to include (but not limited to) grading, Federal Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), Student Right to Know, Privacy, Affirmative Action, Equal Employment Opportunity, Americans with Disability Act (ADA), concealed weapons, smoking, campus crime, copyright, academic grievances and discipline grievances, are at http://www.grcc.edu/catalog.

Additional policies, to include (but not limited to) academic integrity, disability support services, posting/distributing literature, selling merchandise, fundraising, classroom disruption, conduct and substance abuse, can be found in the GRCC Student Handbook at http://www.grcc.edu/handbook. If you come to campus for this or other classes, research, or meetings, remember that GRCC is a tobacco-free campus. Go to http://www.grcc.edu/tobaccofree for complete details on this GRCC policy or for resources about quitting.

College Policies

GRCC Email and Course Communications
Students are responsible for all communications sent via Blackboard and to their GRCC email account. GRCC student email can be accessed through Student Email (http://email.grcc.edu) and Blackboard at Blackboard (http://bb.grcc.edu).
**Disability Support Services**
Students with disabilities who wish to request accommodations must be registered with the Disability Support Services Office (DSS) in Room 368 of the Student Center. You may contact DSS at (616) 234-4140 for more information. Once you are registered with the DSS Office, you will receive an Accommodations Agreement to present to me to verify your registration. Please see me as soon as possible so we may have a private conversation to discuss accommodations.

**Student Code of Conduct**
All GRCC students are held accountable to the Student Code of Conduct, which outlines expectations pertaining to academic honesty (including cheating and plagiarism), classroom conduct, and general conduct. The Code can be found in full at Student Code of Conduct.

*Add course/instructor specific implications of code violations*

**Changes to the Syllabus**
The instructor reserves the right to change the contents of this syllabus due to unforeseen circumstances. Students will be given notice of relevant changes in class, through a Blackboard Announcement, or through GRCC e-mail.