I. Introduction

A. This Class is designed to bring students together to produce vocal music in an ensemble situation.

B. Participation in one of the Central Texas College Vocal Ensembles is required in the music curriculum for music students majoring in Voice. This course is also offered as an elective for non-music major students. The class may be repeated for credit in succeeding semesters.

C. Choral singing allows the student to participate in music that would be impossible for the solo singer and allows students to improve their vocal performance skills, choral rehearsal methods, and technique.

D. Prerequisite: none.

E. Alphanumeric coding used throughout the syllabus denotes the integration of SCANS occupational competencies (C) and Foundation skills (F).

II. Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, Vocal Ensemble, the student will be able to:

A. Participate in public performances.

B. Demonstrate experience in part singing.

C. Demonstrate poise.

D. Improve intonation in a group.

F. Exhibit proper singing posture.

G. Demonstrate improved vocal tone quality.
H. Demonstrate experience in sight singing.

I. C5, C9, C14, F5, F11, F14, F15

III. INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

A. The instructional materials identified for this course are viewable through www.ctcd.edu/books

B. All music will be provided by the music library. There is no textbook required for this course. Students may borrow a folder of music for the semester with a $15 deposit that is refundable upon return of the music and folder.

C. A variety of choral music styles will be studied including sacred, secular, popular, and musical theater.

D. Choir uniforms are provided and distributed prior to each performance. Students will be required to pay up to $100 for damaged or lost uniforms. All grades will be withheld until all uniform items are returned in good condition.

IV. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

A. To attend choir rehearsals regularly.

B. To participate in rehearsals.

C. To self-control and discipline during class.

D. To participate in all choir concerts.

V. EXAMINATIONS

A. No written examinations will be given.

B. Students will be expected to know their music at least two weeks prior to concerts. In lieu of written examinations, students will be auditioned individually at intervals throughout the semester.

VI. SEMESTER GRADE COMPUTATIONS

A. A student who has two or more unexcused absences from rehearsal will not be allowed to perform in the final concert and will fail the course.

B. A student must notify the music office prior to missing a rehearsal in order to obtain an excused absence.

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C. Any un-excused absence from a performance or concert will result in a failure for the course. Absence from concerts because of illness must be confirmed by a doctor's written excuse.

D. The final grade will be determined on the basis of attendance, diligence in learning, the required repertoire, and class participation.

**VII. NOTES AND ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTIONS FROM COURSE INSTRUCTOR**

A. **Withdrawal from Course:** It is the student's responsibility to officially drop a class if circumstances prevent attendance. Any student who desires to, or must, officially withdraw from a course after the first scheduled class meeting must file an Application for Withdrawal or an Application for Refund. The withdrawal form must be signed by the student.

Application for Withdrawal will be accepted at any time prior to Friday of the 12th week of classes during the 16-week fall and spring semesters. The deadline for sessions of other lengths is as follows:

- **11-week session:** Friday of the 8th week
- **8-week session:** Friday of the 6th week
- **52-week session:** Friday of the 4th week

The equivalent date (75% of the semester) will be used for sessions of other lengths. The specific last day to withdraw is published each semester in the Schedule Bulletin.

Students who officially withdraw will be awarded the grade of "W", provided the student's attendance and academic performance are satisfactory at the time of official withdrawal. Students must file a withdrawal application with the college before they may be considered for withdrawal.

A student may not withdraw from a class for which the instructor has previously issued the student a grade of "F" or "FN" for nonattendance.

B. **An Administrative Withdrawal:** An administrative withdrawal may be initiated when the student fails to meet College attendance requirements. The instructor will assign the appropriate grade on the Administrative Withdrawal Form for submission to the registrar.

C. **An Incomplete Grade:** The College catalog states, "An incomplete grade may be given in those cases where the student has completed the majority of the course work but, because of personal illness, death in the immediate family, or military orders, the student is unable to complete the requirements for a course..." Prior approval from the instructor is required before the grade of "I" is recorded. A student who merely fails to show for the final examination will receive a zero for the final and an "F" for the course.
D. **Cellular Phones and Beepers:** Cellular phones and beepers will be turned off while the student is in the classroom or laboratory.

E. **American’s With Disabilities Act (ADA):** Disability Support Services provides services to students who have appropriate documentation of a disability. Students requiring accommodations for class are responsible for contacting the Office of Disability Support Services (DSS) located on the central campus. This service is available to all students, regardless of location. Explore the website at [www.ctcd.edu/disability-support](http://www.ctcd.edu/disability-support) for further information. Reasonable accommodations will be given in accordance with the federal and state laws through the DSS office.

F. **Instructor Discretion:** The instructor reserves the right of final decision in course requirements.

G. **Civility:** Individuals are expected to be cognizant of what a constructive educational experience is and respectful of those participating in a learning environment. Failure to do so can result in disciplinary action up to and including expulsion.

H. **Guests in Classroom:** Adult guests may visit a class with the prior permission of the instructor. Children are not to be brought to any class or the studio areas.

**VIII. COURSE OUTLINE**

A. **Lesson One:**

1. **Learning Outcomes:** Upon successful completion of this lesson the student will be able to:

   1. Exhibit proper singing posture
   2. Demonstrate experience in part singing
   3. Improve intonation in group singing
   4. Participate in public performances

2. **Learning Activities:**

   1. Group breathing exercises, posture exercises, relaxation techniques and vocalization
   2. Sight singing
   3. Rehearsal of chosen repertoire
   4. Public performances

   (C5, C6, C7, F5, F6, F7, F10, F11, F12)
3. **Equipment and Materials:**
   1. Piano
   2. Music for chosen repertoire
   3. CD player
   4. Instructor prepared handouts

4. **Audio Visual Aids:**
   1. CDs, records, tapes and videos as appropriate

5. **Lesson Outline:**
   1. Discussion of individual students’ goals and motivation for class
   2. Lecture/demonstration of vocal anatomy, posture and breathing
   3. Group vocalization
   4. Sight singing
   5. Rehearse repertoire

**B. Lesson Two:**

1. **Learning Outcomes:** Upon successful completion of this lesson the student will be able to:
   1. Demonstrate experience in sight singing
   2. Demonstrate improved vocal tone quality
   3. Demonstrate poise
   4. Interpret choral music from several different style periods
   5. Participate in public performances

2. **Learning Activities:**
   1. Group breathing exercises, posture exercises, relaxation techniques and vocalization
   2. Sight singing
   3. Rehearsal of chosen repertoire
   4. Public performances

   (C5, C9, C14, F5, F11, F14, F15)

3. **Equipment and Materials:**
   As appropriate
4. **Audio Visual Aids:**

   1. Videos - Baroque and Classical
   2. Recordings - Baroque and Classical

5. **Lesson Outline:**

   1. Lecture/demonstration of vocal resonance, diction, registration, style periods, interpretation, and stage presentation
   2. Group vocalization
   3. Sight singing
   4. Rehearse repertoire