Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi
Department of Music

Course Number: MUEN 1140
Section: 002      Spring 2012
Location and Time: TBA
Name of Instructor: Dr. Carrie Pierce
Office Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 9-11
Office: CA 129
Email: carrie.pierce@tamucc.edu

Course Name: String Ensemble

Course Description:

This course provides the student with the necessary instruction to acquire the skill to play in a string quartet. It will also provide general knowledge about the culture of bowed string instruments. This may include discussions on the history of the different members of the family and important performers of string instruments in general.

*** This is a working syllabus that can be revised during the course of the semester by the instructor. If there is a revision, an updated syllabus will be handed out both in class and via email.

Learning Outcomes:

After finishing this course students will be able to:

1. develop a sense of what it means to play in small string groups such as a string quartet.

2. be proficient in string quartet playing, including maintaining a sense of leadership within their own individual part while blending and cooperating with others.

3. learn how to perform chamber music in public.

4. develop a keen sense of rhythm, intonation, and quality of sound through the practice of chamber music.

Because this is strictly a performing course, the instructor will measure students’ outcomes by evaluating each class session and the main performance. The main performance is the most important project of the class.

Course Materials:

1. The student should have a good instrument and keep it well maintained and adjusted. If I determine that your instrument needs repairs, you must repair it or find a replacement as soon as possible. Failure to do this may affect your final grade.

2. I will provide the repertoire that will be used throughout the semester. Make sure to bring your
music to assigned coachings, rehearsals, and performances. Failure to do so will affect your grade in a negative manner.

3. Students should have proper concert attire for performances. In less formal occasions the instructor and students can come to an agreement about a different concert wear. Grading

The instructor will grade each lesson individually and as a group. Ensemble preparation will get 25% of the grade and individual preparation will get the other 25% of the grade. Each lesson will have a grade from 1-100 for each item. They will be averaged at the end of the semester and this will become the lesson grade. The main concert will be worth 50% of the grade. The lesson grade will be averaged with the grade of the main concert and they will become the final grade.

Ensemble Policies:

Students need to maintain an atmosphere of respect with each other and learn how to work as a team. If a difficult situation arises between people in an ensemble outside of class, the issue should be discussed with me immediately. We will find a solution that will allow the accomplishment of the class objectives.

Course Outline:

Because the nature of this class, a specific outline by class session is impractical. Each class session is a coaching on how to perform and rehearse to prepare a musical program in a string quartet. The objectives to be cover during each week will depend on the different problems that arise during the preparation process.

Attendance Policies:

Attendance to lessons is imperative if you are to succeed in this course. If you anticipate an attendance problem one particular week, talk to me about it at least twenty-four hours in advance. Excused absences are granted under the following circumstances: illness, uncontrollable incident or accident, and family emergencies. A mild headache, a “hang over,” difficulty finding a place to park, oversleeping, or a little cold is not an excused absence. I will not make up your lesson and your grade will be affected. I will make up a lesson if I cancel it.

Disabilities Accommodations:

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please call or visit Disability Services at (361) 825-5816 in Driftwood 101.

If you are a returning veteran and are experiencing cognitive and/or physical access issues in the classroom or on campus, please contact the Disability Services office for assistance at (361) 825-5816.

Academic Advising:
The College of Liberal Arts requires that students meet with an Academic Advisor as soon as they are ready to declare a major. The Academic Advisor will set up a degree plan, which must be signed by the student, a faculty mentor, and the department chair. The College's Academic Advising Center is located in Driftwood 203E, and can be reached at 825-3466.

Grade Appeal Process:

As stated in University Rule 13.02.99.C2, Student Grade Appeals, a student who believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. The burden of proof is upon the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, see University Rule 13.02.99.C2, Student Grade Appeals, and University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures. These documents are accessible through the University Rules Web site at http://www.tamucc.edu/provost/university_rules/index.html. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Office of Student Affairs.