

Course Description
This course provides the student with the necessary instruction to acquire the skill to play in a large ensemble that includes woodwinds, brass, percussion, and strings. The core members of this class will be the string players. Instruments from other families will be included when needed depending on the repertoire. Discussions on the history of the works being performed will be part of the class content.

Course Objectives

1. To develop a sense of what it means to play in an orchestra
2. To gain knowledge of large ensemble (chamber orchestra) string literature as well as symphonic works. Pieces of music from the standard repertoire will be chosen at the beginning of the semester at the discretion of the instructor.
3. To perform two public concerts during the semester
4. To develop a keen sense of rhythm, intonation, and quality of sound through the weekly practice.
5. Students will acquire the ability to follow a conductor and interpret conducting gestures into musical performance.
6. Students will learn to perform without conductor in a chamber orchestra setting

Course Materials

1. Students 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 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. For all performances we used what is called Concert Black. This means the following:
Men: Black tuxedo, white shirt, bow tie, polished black shoes, black socks, (No White Socks!).
Women: Black dress at or below the knees or a black top with black pants & black shoes.

**Ensemble Policies**

Students have to be respectful with each other and learn how to work as a team. If a difficult situation arises between students that will have an effect in the final musical result, discuss it with me immediately. We will find a solution that will allow the accomplishment of the class objectives.

**Grading**

Attendance is mandatory. Rehearsals will be monitored by the instructor. You have to come to class individually prepared. Although we are working in a large ensemble, my expertise in the field of ensemble playing allows me to know if you are doing the work or not.

Ensemble preparation will get a grade and individual preparation will have a separate grade. I will have a series of performance quizzes during the semester that will serve as seating auditions and will be counted as 50% of your grade. Attendance will be the other 50%. Students that do not attend a performance will be given failing grade for the course.

**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 Corpus Christi Hall, Room 116.

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.