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 the student’s outcome 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.

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.

*Notice to Students with Disabilities:

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act in making reasonable accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. If you suspect that you may have a disability (physical impairment, learning disability, psychiatric disability, etc.), please contact the Services for Students with Disabilities Office, located in Driftwood 101, at 825-5816. If you need disability accommodations in this class, please see me as soon as possible.

**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:

Students who feel that they have not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in this class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details on the process of submitting a formal grade appeal, please visit the College of Liberal Arts website, cla.tamucc.edu/students/studentinfo.html. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Associate Dean.