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.

**Academic Integrity/Plagiarism.**

University students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the highest standards of academic honesty. Academic misconduct for which a student is subject to penalty includes all forms of cheating, such as illicit possession of examinations or examination materials, falsification, forgery, complicity or plagiarism. (Plagiarism is the presentation of the work of another as one’s own work.) In this class, academic misconduct or complicity in an act of academic misconduct on an assignment or test will result in ( ).

**Dropping a Class**

I hope that you never find it necessary to drop this or any other class. However, events can sometimes occur that make dropping a course necessary or wise. Please consult with me before you decide to drop to be sure it is the best thing to do. Should dropping the course be the best course of action, you must initiate the process to drop the course by going to the Student Services Center and filling out a course drop form. Just stopping attendance and participation WILL NOT automatically result in your being dropped from the class. ( ) is the last day to drop a class with an automatic grade of “W” this term.

**Classroom/professional behavior**
Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, as an academic community, requires that each individual respect the needs of others to study and learn in a peaceful atmosphere. Under Article III of the Student Code of Conduct, classroom behavior that interferes with either (a) the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or (b) the ability of other students to profit from the instructional program may be considered a breach of the peace and is subject to disciplinary sanction outlined in article VII of the Student Code of Conduct. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior may be instructed to leave the classroom. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including classrooms, electronic classrooms, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc.

Statement of Civility (can be in place of classroom/professional behavior)

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi has a diverse student population that represents the population of the state. Our goal is to provide you with a high quality educational experience that is free from repression. You are responsible for following the rules of the University, city, state and federal government. We expect that you will behave in a manner that is dignified, respectful and courteous to all people, regardless of sex, ethnic/racial origin, religious background, sexual orientation or disability. Behaviors that infringe on the rights of another individual will not be tolerated.

Grade Appeals*

As stated in University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures, 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 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 Dean’s office in the college in which the course is taught or the Office of the Provost.

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 Corpus Christi Hall 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.

Statement of Academic Continuity
In the event of an unforeseen adverse event, such as a major hurricane and classes could not be held on the campus of Texas A&M University–Corpus Christi; this course would continue through the use of Blackboard and/or email. In addition, the syllabus and class activities may be modified to allow continuation of the course. Ideally, University facilities (i.e., emails, web sites, and Blackboard) will be operational within two days of the closing of the physical campus. However, students need to make certain that the course instructor has a primary and a secondary means of contacting each student.

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.

**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.