Course Number: MUEN 1140 & 3140
Section: 001 Spring 2020 / MW 4:20pm – 6:20 pm
Name of Instructor: Dr. Carrie Pierce
Office Hours: TBA
Office: CA 226
Email: carrie.pierce@tamucc.edu
Office Phone: 825-2371
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.

5. if part of the Lichtenstein Quartet, learn how to teach beginner and intermediate string students in a one-on-one and group setting

Because this is strictly a performing course, the instructor will measure the student’s outcome by evaluating each class session and the main performance (including teaching)
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.

Grading:

You will receive a numerical grade based on your preparation for rehearsals and your performance. Each component of your lesson will be scored in the following manner:

SCORE
95-100 - Assignment was thoroughly mastered: no mistakes or other problems evident
90-95 - Assignment was nearly mastered: a few minor mistakes encountered
85-80 - Assignment fairly successful: a few passages/concepts require more attention
80-85 - Assignment needs improvement: several passages/concepts that required more attention -
may be reassigned
75-80 - Assignment shows minimal success: several concepts simply not mastered - will be
reassigned
70-75 - Assignment not adequately prepared: several concepts not performable AND apparently
no attempts made to “figure it out” - will be reassigned
65 - No practice or improvement evident: will be reassigned

Arriving late for a rehearsal or failing to bring all required material will automatically lower your
grade for that rehearsal by 10 points.

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.

Grade Appeals
As stated in University Procedure 13.02.99.C0.03, 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.C0.03, Student Grade Appeal Procedures. 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. These documents are
accessible through the University Rules Web site at:
http://academicaffairs.tamucc.edu/rules_procedures/assets/13.02.99.c0.03_student_grade_appeals.pdf.

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. Degree plans are prepared in the CLA Academic Advising
Center. The University uses an online Degree Audit system. Any amendment must be approved
by the Department Chair and the Office of the Dean. All courses and requirements specified in
the final degree plan audit must be completed before a degree will be granted. The CLA
Academic Advising Office is located in Driftwood #203. For more information please call 361-825-3466.

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 your academic advisor, the Financial Aid Office, and me, before you decide to drop this course. 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. April 10th will be the last date to drop your class and receive a “W”.