Conductor: Dr. Ross C. Bernhardt
Office: Center for the Arts Rm. 137
Office Phone: 361.825.2572
Home Phone: 361.443.2060
Office Hours: As posted on office door or by appointment
E-mail: ross.bernhardt@tamucc.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION
A select advanced mixed ensemble performing advanced choral literature appropriate for chamber ensemble. On-campus concerts and special engagements. Three hours rehearsal per week. One credit each semester. Audition and instructor’s permission required.

COURSE INFORMATION
Rehearsals: MWF 12:00-12:50 p.m., Center for the Arts Room 136
Text: Music studied in choral ensembles varies from semester to semester. This music is owned by the Music Department Choral Library and will be issued in a numbered folder. All music must be returned at the end of the term. You will need to purchase a black three-ring binder to use for concerts.
Attire: You will need to purchase your own appropriate concert attire (formal black tuxedos and dresses) as determined by the ensemble.
Membership Requirement: You must agree to follow the TAMUCC University Choirs Professional Standards by signing the back sheet of this syllabus and returning it to the conductor.

LEARNING OUTCOMES
As a result of completing this course, the successful student will:
1. Learn vocal technique (including proper breathing; rich, controlled tone production; clarity and uniformity of diction; ensemble blend; and balance) at a level sufficient to produce a level of performance appropriate for an advanced collegiate chamber ensemble.
2. Perform choral literature for chamber choir, from a variety of eras and styles, with interpretation, artistry, and vocal technique appropriate to the particular type of music being performed.
3. Learn and exhibit rehearsal and performance habits appropriate for a professional-level choral performer.

PERFORMANCES
Performance dates are listed on the calendar in Blackboard.

EVALUATION
Personal and group evaluation in a choral ensemble is immediate and constant throughout the rehearsal process. Your grade is based on your successful application and completion of the TAMUCC University Choirs Professional Standards, which are attached. Evaluation is divided equally between:
1. Daily work in rehearsals - 33.33% (one-third)
2. Preparation of music as exhibited by examinations conducted in quartets and in the rehearsal process - 33.33% (one-third); and
3. Quality of performances - 33.33% (one-third)

Students enrolled in the 3000 level of this ensemble will be assessed with more rigor at a level consistent with expected upperclassman skill levels. They are also expected to take on leadership roles as section leaders when called upon.

**GRADING SCALE**

- A = 94-100
- B = 87-93
- C = 79-86
- D = 71-78
- F = 70 or below

**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.

**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”.

**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.
TAMUCC CHORAL ENSEMBLES
PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS

“Individual and Collective Responsibility for Excellence”

Since this ensemble is one of the most visible representations of academic life at TAMUCC and is required to meet high musical standards, professionalism in rehearsal and performance is a responsibility of all singers. Failure to adhere to any of them will be grounds for permanent dismissal from the choral program.

PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS OF PREPARATION

All choir members are expected to spend some time outside of rehearsal working on choir music. By one week before the performance of a piece, you should be proficient enough on the music to be able to accurately sing words, pitches, rhythms, loud/soft dynamics, phrase shapes, and other musical details correctly, using proper vocal production, and with memorization on pieces specified by the conductor. This may involve “spot checks” in quartets, double quartets, or by yourself.

PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS OF REHEARSAL

1. Personal health is your responsibility. You should come to rehearsal capable of performing for the duration of the rehearsal. Rehearsals will include long periods of standing and may include some movement in warmups. Proper posture is expected at all times when you are singing.

2. You are expected to apply proper vocal production, balance, and blend of your voice as specified by the conductor.

3. Attendance at all rehearsals is MANDATORY. Absences will be excused solely at the discretion of the conductor and will not be automatic for any reason. All absences must be cleared BEFORE rehearsal unless you are incapacitated. Your grade will be lowered one letter grade for each unexcused absence. An unexcused absence from a performance will result in an F for the semester and dismissal from the choral program.

4. Don’t be late! You are expected to be in your place by the starting time for each rehearsal, and to be on time at call time before performance. Failure to do so will result in you being counted absent.

5. Positive attitude, respect and courtesy for leaders (including the conductor, accompanist, and section leaders) and your fellow singers is expected at all times. This includes avoidance of fragrances (perfumes, colognes, etc.) in the rehearsal environment. Deodorant, of course, is highly encouraged.☺

6. You are expected to bring your music and a pencil to each rehearsal. For each piece of music we are performing this semester, you will be required to place these markings in your own music as instructed by the director. Musical instructions given out by the conductor are expected to be written in the music (with pencil!) and recalled at all future rehearsals and performances of a given piece.

7. You will implement the conductor’s instructions to the best of your ability, including warmups, rehearsal of music, and stage demeanor.

8. Focus and concentration on improving the ensemble is expected. Any behavior which is not focused on rehearsing the music, and/or which distracts the conductor or singers from the music, is prohibited. THIS INCLUDES ANY USE OF CELL PHONES FOR ANY PURPOSE DURING REHEARSAL.

9. Questions or comments that do not pertain to the music being rehearsed, or are of a negative nature, are to be addressed to the conductor outside of rehearsal.

10. You should not audibly or visibly keep time or hum starting pitches during rehearsal or performance.

11. There will be no talking during rehearsal while leaders are giving directions.
12. Cell phone usage is PROHIBITED in this classroom unless specifically instructed by the conductor. You are expected to turn your phone off or set to silent/vibrate. If the director sees your phone out after class has begun, he will confiscate it.

PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS OF PERFORMANCE

1. You are expected to be on time for call time before performance. Any unexcused absence from a performance will result in an F grade for the semester and permanent dismissal from the choral program.

2. You are expected to professionally represent TAMUCC in all aspects of your contact with the audience and staff of our performances.

3. There will be no talking on stage during a performance, including entrance and exit from the stage area.

4. Consideration in every sense for fellow performers is essential. For example, scented hair sprays, perfumes, and colognes must be avoided at all times during performance.

5. A pleasant demeanor is expected on stage. You will pause to acknowledge applause in whatever way the conductor deems appropriate.

6. You are expected to display the good singing habits learned in rehearsal, such as posture, blend and balance.

7. You are expected to perform with the same level of focus, concentration, and musical “polish” expected of you in rehearsal.

8. Most importantly, you are expected to apply the professional standards of preparation so that the ensemble performs its best at every concert.