

Iowa State University
Iowa Statesmen -- MUS 151B
Syllabus 2014-15

Any male university student is invited to audition to become a member of the Iowa Statesmen.

Course Objectives

1. To form unified ensembles dedicated to the choral art.
2. To rehearse and learn music of high quality in a variety of styles.
3. To enhance the vocal development of each individual singer.
4. To reflect credit on the University, the Music Department, and the ensemble itself by demonstration of high standards of preparation, performance, appearance, and pride.

Rehearsal Procedure, Concerts

Rehearsals are held Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, 1:10-2:00 p.m. in the Music Hall.

If accepted as a member of the Statesmen, you will be expected to participate in all of the performances and activities. Please study the calendar of events that accompanies this syllabus. These dates should be cleared on your calendar so that conflicts do not arise. Class schedules should be arranged so that you can arrive at rehearsals on time.

Evaluation

Attendance regulations do not allow for any unexcused absences or tardiness. Any absence due to illness or other uncontrollable conflict is to be cleared IN ADVANCE with Dr. Rodde. Grades will be based on rehearsal participation, evidence of preparation outside of rehearsal time on special assignments, and each member's general conduct, attitude, and contribution to the enrichment of the group effort. A great performing ensemble centers its desire around working together for a common goal, and so, your contribution to the aesthetic and psychological spirit of the Statesmen is required at all times. With the exception of student teachers, each member is expected to participate in the group for the full academic year. Please arrange your schedule accordingly.

Attendance Policy

Daily class attendance is expected from every member of the Statesmen. Illness, family emergencies, and certain University-related events off campus will be considered excused. All other conflicts will be excused/unexcused at Dr. Rodde's discretion. Should you have to miss a rehearsal, it is expected that you contact Dr. Rodde IN ADVANCE. A key to a successful attendance record is to COMMUNICATE.

Letter grades will be assigned through a point system, which is explained below. Should a student be on track for a failing grade at any time during the semester, the student may, at the discretion of the conductor, be dismissed from the choir at that time. At mid term, students with a grade of B- or below should expect a mid-term notice.

Officers

The student officers help with the long-range planning, policy, and general well being of the group. They meet occasionally with the director and need input from choir members to do an effective job.

Music and Folder

Each member of the choir will be assigned a number and will receive music marked with that number. This music represents the class text. If music is lost or misplaced, the assigned member will be responsible for its replacement cost and will be billed. All singers will be expected to own their own scores for the Masterworks Concert on April 25. Scores will be available for purchase at a location to be announced (\$). This expectation is also true for the Holiday Concert, December 7.

Concert Attire

Statesmen will receive a tuxedo outfit (slacks, jacket, and tie) and garment bag if necessary from the University for use during the academic year. Members are responsible for providing an appropriate white shirt, black dress shoes, and black socks for each performance.

Each choir member will be required to sign for concert attire. This signature will hold each singer responsible for the care of his/her attire. Please *carefully* adhere to the guidelines for care of your attire to avoid unnecessary billing. Each singer's concert outfit is to be returned to the Music Department at the announced time. A minimum grace period (announced) will be allowed for late returns. A non-refundable fine of \$25 will be assessed following the grace period for late returns. Students who do not return their concert attire within one month of the initial return date will be billed a final non-refundable amount of \$200 for replacement costs.

Concert and Rehearsal Department

All visible head jewelry is to be removed for performance (warm-up and concert). Hair is to be styled in such a way that bangs do not touch eyebrows and that there is no flipping of hair during performance. Caps and hats should not be worn in rehearsal unless there are extenuating circumstances, cleared by the conductor.

Fees

Fees to participate in the ensemble are \$15 per semester. Students will be billed through the University.

Disabilities

If you have a documented disability and anticipate needing accommodations in this course, please make arrangements to meet with me soon. Please request that a Student Disability Resource staff send a SAAR form verifying your disability and specifying the accommodation you will need.

Learning Outcomes

The student will demonstrate the ability to perform a variety of music with attention to several musical factors, including style, tone production, dynamics, balance, intonation, rhythm, and phrasing. The student will demonstrate the ability to successfully contribute in a cooperative learning environment.

Grades

Each singer will receive a final grade based on the following point system:

Rehearsal = 5 points per hour

on time

all materials

musically prepared

fully engaged in rehearsal, including marking music, displaying good poise and behavior, and maintaining a positive attitude

Performance/Recording Session = 25 points per event

on time

all materials

appropriate attire

perform to maximum of personal ability, displaying good poise and behavior, and maintaining a positive attitude

Dress rehearsal = 15 points per event

All three areas are averaged for the final grade:

96%=A

93%=B

89%=C

86%=D

Less=F

An unexcused absence from a performance or recording session, or certain behaviors determined to be detrimental to the choral program may result, at the discretion of the conductor, in a failing grade.

Here are some "possible" numbers for an ensemble meeting 3 days per week:

(Maximum rehearsals in a semester: approximately $43 \times 5 = 215$ points)

Probable rehearsals in a semester: $37 \times 5 = 185$

Dress rehearsal: $1 \times 15 = 15$

Performances: $3 \times 25 = 75$

Probable TOTAL points possible: 275

Assuming that 5 points are achieved per rehearsal:

2 unexcused rehearsals: 96.2%.....A

3 unexcused rehearsals: 94.4%.....B

4 unexcused rehearsals: 92.6%.....C

5 unexcused rehearsals: 90.7%.....C

1 unexcused concert: 90.7%.....C

1 unexcused concert and 1 unexcused rehearsal: 88.9%.....D

1 unexcused concert and 3 unexcused rehearsals: 85.2%.....F

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