General Goals

**MUSICALLY**
The same as a professional orchestra
- to perform all facets of the symphonic repertoire, achieving superior performances
- to possess the artistic integrity to present a variety of well-structured, entertaining, enlightening, and provocative programs while striving to educate and develop new audiences for symphonic music
- to contribute to the development and performance of a contemporary American repertoire, placing it in a musical context which is related to the remainder of the symphonic repertoire
- orchestra activities will include performances and educational programs

**EDUCATIONALLY**
Learning “how” to play in an orchestra (e.g., rehearsal and concert behaviors)
- advanced preparation of individual parts
- orchestral discipline (e.g., watching the conductor; complete rehearsal attendance, promptness, and participation; no talking; marking parts; focus and concentration; watching and listening to orchestral colleagues; physical leading)
- bowings; articulation
- tuning
- blend and balance
- leadership roles (concertmaster, principal players, etc.)
- art of accompanying (student, faculty, and guest soloists)
- peak performance
- deliberate practice
- mindfulness

About the music
- music history; including, the historical development of the orchestra
- comprehensive musicianship
- cultural relationships
- style; performance practice
Varied repertoire
- five-six year rotation concept
- various genres (overtures, concertos, symphonies, tone poems, etc.)
- symphony, chamber, “pops,” opera, ballet, with chorus
- special concerts (e.g. collaborations with Ballet, “Pops,” educational programs, run-outs)
- all style periods
- contemporary music (including music of ISU faculty and students)

Rehearsal schedule/formats
- full orchestra
- split rehearsals (i.e., strings, winds)
- small sectionals

Miscellaneous possible extras
- lectures
- mock auditions and interviews; career preparations
- Pop Quizzes (Drop the Needle, Terminology, Composer Info)
- work with future arts administrators
- work to develop future audiences

**On-going objectives**

- outstanding rehearsal process and concerts
- training of student conductors
- systematic orchestra/concert production
- audience development

**Procedures**

**Rehearsals**

ISU Symphony: Tuesday, Thursday 4:10-6:00 pm
ISU Chamber: Monday, 7:00-9:00 pm

Other additional rehearsals as scheduled (including dress rehearsals); see bulletin board postings and ISU online postings.

All orchestra members have an obligation to attend all rehearsals for which their presence is required.

Orchestra members are to be in their seats prepared to play by the designated starting time. If due to serious illness or emergency, a Symphony Orchestra member must be absent from rehearsal, it is his/her responsibility to speak with Dr. Harrison directly.
Orchestra members who know, in advance, that they will need to be late and/or absent from a rehearsal must request permission from Dr. Harrison in person and by email prior to said event.

It is the orchestra member’s responsibility to ensure that his/her music is at rehearsal.

Unexcused absences, or excessive “excused” absences, may jeopardize an individual’s membership in the orchestra as well as the grade and credit to be received for participation in the ensemble.

Hats are not permitted in rehearsals. Leaving rehearsals for the purpose of putting money into a parking meter is unacceptable.

Pass-offs and required outside sectionals: All members of the string sections of the ISU Symphony and Chamber Orchestras are required to go through an individual pass-off procedure for each concert in order to be allowed to perform on the concert. The woodwinds, brass and percussion sections are required to go through a sectional pass-off procedure for each concert in order to be allowed to perform on the concert.

**Concert Call**

Orchestra members should be at the concert hall at least a half-hour before scheduled concert times, and in their seats ready to play at least ten minutes prior to the start of the performance.

**Concert Dress**

Uniform concert dress is required. The purpose of the dress code is to show unity in our performance. Elements that draw attention to the wearer (i.e. extra colors, excessive jewelry, perfume/cologne) are not allowed.

Option 1 – long black dress/skirt (must be well past the knee when sitting), or black slacks and black blouse, with at least ¾ length sleeves, no extra colors (e.g., white or silver), black stockings, black shoes

Option 2 – black tuxedos, white shirts, black bow ties, black socks and black shoes (no substitute colors or long ties)

**Grading Policy**

Grades will be based upon the level of preparation of auditions and rehearsals, as well as the level of performance during concerts. Some quizzes, tests and papers may be required. Students who consistently demonstrate a willingness to put forth a superior effort and do their best in all of the aforementioned areas, who arrive on time for all rehearsals and concerts, complete the necessary tests and papers, and who have no unexcused absences will receive a final grade of “A”. Less than full effort and/or participation in any area will result in a lower grade.

Absence from daily rehearsals not approved in advance will be recorded as unexcused. Unexcused absences will result in the final grade being lowered one letter for each occurrence. **Chronic absence (even if “excused”) can be cause for the lowering of the grade, dismissal, and/or a final grade of “F”**.
Absences from dress rehearsals or concerts are not allowed under any circumstances except for the most severe emergency. An unexcused absence from a dress rehearsal or a concert can result in dismissal and/or a final grade of “F”.

Unexcused tardiness will result in the final grade being lowered ½ letter for each occurrence.

The decision of whether absence or tardy is excused, is at the discretion of the Director of Orchestral Activities.

**Cellphones**

Cellphone use during rehearsal is not allowed. Your attention and presence is needed in order to make vibrant music. Using your cellphone during rehearsal shows disrespect to your fellow orchestra members. Leave your phones in your lockers, cases, bags, etc. If you are found to be using your phone during rehearsal, you will be dismissed from the rehearsal. Repeated usage can result in dismissal from the ensemble.

**Library/Music**

Orchestra members are responsible for all music and folders distributed for their use. Markings should be made in soft lead pencil only. After a concert performance, all music must be left where designated by the Librarian. Any additional copies should be left inside the practice folders. All music should be returned to the Librarian within 24 hours after the concert. All concerns regarding music should be addressed to the Librarian.

**Seating**

The ISU Symphony Orchestra utilizes several variations of rotation seating. All decisions regarding seating and part assignments are made ultimately by the Orchestra Conductor. Certain principal players may remain constant throughout the year. String players, on the whole, will rotate from concert to concert. In general the String sections are based on the fall auditions (held in conjunction with the string faculty). Wind players may rotate within concerts, from piece to piece.

**Image/Audio Release**

As a member of a ISU Symphony Orchestra in the Department of Music & Theatre, we assume that you waive the right for your image and related audio for use in advertising/marketing for Iowa State University. If this is not acceptable, you must notify your course instructor, and the department chair of Music & Theatre, in writing, by the 10th day of the semester.

**Special Accommodations**
To request academic accommodations due to a disability, please contact the ISU Disability Resource Center. This is a very important step as accommodations cannot be made retroactively. If you have a letter from their office indicating that you have a disability which requires academic accommodations, please present the letter to me no later than the end of the first week of the semester so we can discuss the accommodations that you might need in this class.

All necessary and appropriate sanctions will be issued to all parties involved with plagiarizing any and all course work. Plagiarism and any other form of academic dishonesty that is in violation with the Student Code of Conduct will not be tolerated.

**LEARNING OUTCOMES**

The student will:
Demonstrate the ability to perform a variety of music with attention to several musical factors, including style, articulation, dynamics, blend and balance, intonation, rhythm, and phrasing. Acquire knowledge of the repertoire to be performed, including a historical and cultural context. Demonstrate the ability to successfully contribute in a cooperative learning environment.