

Iowa State University  
**Iowa Statesmen -- MUS 151B**  
Syllabus 2023-24

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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 designated areas. If accepted as a member of the Statesmen, you will be expected to participate in all the scheduled activities. 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. Except for student teachers, we hope all members will participate in the group for the full academic year. Please arrange your schedule accordingly. Use of a cell phone at any time during a rehearsal or performance is considered inappropriate behavior and will result in the loss of attendance credit for that event.

#### **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. Remember to sign in at each rehearsal so that your attendance is recorded.

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.

Should you miss the Holiday or Masterworks dress rehearsals, for any reason, you may still be permitted to sing the concert, but expect to lose your assigned spot in the standing chart. You will be asked to stand at the far left or right of the stage, off the risers, and asked to sing cautiously.

#### **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 a class textbook. 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 fall Holiday Concert and spring Masterworks Concert. Scores will be purchased using a portion of the class fee.

#### **Concert Attire**

Statesmen will receive a tuxedo outfit (slacks, jacket, and tie) from the University for use during the academic year. Members are responsible for providing black dress shoes appropriate for a tuxedo, a white collared shirt, and black socks. 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 \$150 for replacement costs.

#### **Concert and Rehearsal Department**

All visible head jewelry is to be removed for performance (warm-up and concert). Hair should be styled in such a way where bangs do not touch eyebrows and 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. Regarding your personal hygiene, showering/bathing and using deodorant on a regular basis is expected.

#### **Fees**

Fees to participate in the ensemble, roughly \$25-30, will be billed on the member's U-bill each semester. Iowa Statesmen is also a registered student organization, and as such, members may be requested to contribute \$5 per year to support activities of the organization.

#### **Accessibility Statement**

Iowa State University is committed to assuring that all educational activities are free from discrimination and harassment based on disability status. Students requesting accommodations for a documented disability are required to work directly with staff in Student Accessibility Services (SAS) to establish eligibility and learn about related processes before accommodations will be identified. After eligibility is established, SAS staff will create and issue a Notification Letter for each course listing approved reasonable accommodations. This document will be made available to the student and instructor either electronically or in hard-copy every semester. Students and instructors are encouraged to review contents of the Notification Letters as early in the semester as possible to identify a specific, timely plan to deliver/receive the indicated accommodations. Reasonable accommodations are not retroactive in nature and are not intended to be an

unfair advantage. Additional information or assistance is available online at [www.sas.dso.iastate.edu](http://www.sas.dso.iastate.edu), by contacting SAS staff by email at [accessibility@iastate.edu](mailto:accessibility@iastate.edu), or by calling 515-294-7220. Student Accessibility Services is a unit in the Dean of Students Office located at 1076 Student Services Building.

### 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.

### Marketing

As a member of a Department of Music & Theatre musical ensemble, 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 10<sup>th</sup> day of the semester.

### Grades

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

Rehearsal = 5 points per hour

- 1) on time ... 2) all materials ... 3) musically prepared ... 4) fully engaged in rehearsal, including marking music, displaying good poise and behavior, and maintaining a positive attitude.

Performance/Recording Session = 25 points per event

- 1) on time ... 2) all materials ... 3) appropriate attire ... 4) 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 x 5 = 215 points)

Probable rehearsals in a semester: 37 x 5 = 185

Dress rehearsal: 1 x 15 = 15

Performances: 3 x 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

### Free Expression

Iowa State University supports and upholds the First Amendment protection of [freedom of speech](#) and the principle of [academic freedom](#) in order to foster a learning environment where open inquiry and the vigorous debate of a diversity of ideas are encouraged. Students will not be penalized for the content or viewpoints of their speech as long as student expression in a class context is germane to the subject matter of the class and conveyed in an appropriate manner.

### Public Health

If you are not feeling well, you should stay home and focus on your health. Should you miss class due to illness, it is your responsibility to work with your instructor to arrange for accommodations and to make up coursework, as consistent with the instructor's attendance policy.

You may choose to wear a face mask and/or receive the Covid-19 vaccine and boosters, as well as other vaccines such as influenza, but those options are not required. For further assistance with any Covid-19 concerns, visit the Thielen Student Health Center. Other wellbeing resources for students are available at: <https://www.cyclonehealth.iastate.edu/wellbeing-resources/>

Public health information for the campus community continues to be available on Iowa State's [public health website](#). All public health questions should be directed to [publichealthteam@iastate.edu](mailto:publichealthteam@iastate.edu).

### Mental Health Resources

Contacts: Iowa State [Cyclone Support](#) and [Therapy Assistance Online](#)

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Email:                 jrodde@iastate.edu