

Concert Choir Syllabus

Congratulations on making the decision to join choir! I am so excited that you are here and I truly believe this will be an excellent year! What this choir will be come is up to us. With hard work and persistence, there won't be piece that we can't tackle. We have some great returning talent in the group as well as some new talent. I am sure that we will all be proud at the final cut-off of each concert. This class will take place in the Band Room every day. All main concerts will take place in the Auditorium. This year we are proud to produce Mingus' fifth musical review entitled "Passport to Broadway". This show is will combine a review of Broadway shows set across the world. It is going to be an awesome year to be in choir! Occasionally we have some other concerts and obligations, but I will be sure to announce those as far in advance as I know about them. Please feel free to contact me via e-mail with any questions that you have at jball@muhs.com. I am also available during lunch and after school as well, but be sure to let me know ahead of time so I can make sure to be there. My phone number is 928-634-7531 x1142.

What do we do?

In Choir class...WE SING! We will also spend time learning how to read music. Additionally, it is my goal to spend time teaching music theory so you can not only learn how to sing, but also how to read and appreciate music. It might seem tedious at times, but the better you can understand theory, the faster it is for you to learn a piece and perfect it. By the end of the course a student should be able to do the following:

- Name key signatures
- Name notes in treble and bass clefs
- Sing Grade 4 music in 4 part harmony
- Understand the basics of breathing
- Learning correct vowel sounds and when to modify those sounds
- Support their sound
- Self Confidence
- Sight read in at least 2 parts using correct solfeggio
- Know the basic terms found within a piece of music.

Participation/Attendance

You will start of the year with 10 points in every week and a 100% in participation. Each day you receive two points. If you are participating or doing your work on a particular day, you will lose your points. If you are absent you will obviously not be participating, so you will lose your point as well. If you are tardy then I am just annoyed and you will still lose your points. A couple of times will not matter, but over time it can easily affect your grade. You will only retain your full points if you turn in a participation log at the end of each week. Failure to turn in a log will result in

a 0 for the week. You may turn it in on Monday afterwards for **full credit**, but **75% credit** will be received if returned up to a week late. After that, all logs will not be accepted for that week. You may be reminded, but YOU must stay on top of it!

Grades

Credit for this class will be earned through performances, both within the class and outside as well. You will also be graded on your writing assignments, tests, and participation. There will be 4 categories of grades for the semester:

- Performances – 40% of your grade
- Theory Assignments – 30% of your grade
- Participation Logs – 20% of your grade
- Tests – 10% of your grade

Late Work Policy

Work must be turned in on time, every time! If you are absent, please turn in your work the following day. Late work will be accepted up to one week late for 75% credit. After a week, there will be a loss of credit for the assignment.

Academic Overtime

If you find yourself with a D or and F in this class, you will be assigned academic overtime during the power hour lunch. Please come into the class during the first part of lunch (A), as this will be my designated time for academic overtime. You will be assigned academic overtime until you have turned in all assignments. Please sign in on the clipboard when you enter. Should you fail to attend academic overtime, consequences will follow as outlined in the Mingus Union Student handbook.

Performances

Being in the choir means that there will be a variety of performances throughout the schools year. All performances are mandatory and with over a month notice, work is not a reason to miss a performance. Should you miss a performance you may automatically FAIL my class. This is the easiest and quickest way to fail and many students have failed in previous semesters. If you are not in the musical, or helping backstage, you will be required to attend at least one performance. The dates for the performances are included, so ask off of work now. If you need a ride, let me know – I can always arrange transportation. If there is a death in the family, that is excused, but short of that – no other exceptions or excuses will be allowed.

Rules

1. No GUM! I don't like it and it inhibits your speech and singing.
2. No Food or Drink but Water.
3. Bring a Pencil and your music every day.
4. Be on time. A tardy means the loss of your daily points!
5. Don't make excuses and if you do, make it an adventurous one.
6. Respect each other, the Auditorium, myself, and the classroom

Concert Dress

Women – Black pants, black hoes or socks, black close toed dress shoes, Black long sleeve blouse, black blouse with short sleeves.

Men – Black pants, black socks, black shoes, black belt, black long sleeve dress shirt.

Both - No tennis shoes, converse, or street shoes. Must be a black dress shoe!

Good Will has plenty of things that might work. If you don't have it you should buy it, it will come in use many times in your life. Failure to have one or all of these items will result in a lower concert grade.

Additional Concerts

~ Saturday, November 24th – Tree lighting in Jerome, 3:00-7:00

~ Tuesday, December 18th at 7pm – Winter Concert

~ Thursday, March 7th at 7pm – Jazz and Pops concert with the bands

~ Thursday, May 16th at 7pm – Final Concert

Tests

There will be a couple of tests throughout the semester. These will vary between theory tests and singing tests. There will be times where you will have to record yourself singing your part and send it to me. If you do not have a phone to record you may borrow a friend's phone or if you prefer, you may come in and do it in person during lunch.

Musical Performances

One of the best ways to learn about singing is to watch and critique other singers. There will be two musicals this year at Mingus; one in September/October and the other in April. Each student is required to see ONE performance and provide a verbal critique afterwards. Please sing out on the rosters located at the Attendance office at the END of each performance. If you leave early, you may not receive full credit.

I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change!

Saturday, September 29th at 7pm

Sunday, September 30th at 3pm

Friday, October 5th at 7pm

Saturday, October 6th at 7pm

Sunday, October 7th at 3pm

Disney's Newsies

Saturday, April 6th 7pm

Sunday, April 7th 3pm

Friday, April 12th 7pm

Saturday, April 13th 7pm

Sunday, April 14th 3pm

Extra-Credit

Extra-credit will be awarded throughout the semester and announced well in advance. The theatre department puts on a number of shows that if you may attend and write a review, you may receive extra-credit. Additionally, there are band concerts and orchestra concerts both here and around the Verde Valley that if you attend and write a critique, you may receive extra credit. In general, if you are seeing a show or a concert that is classical in nature and has choir-like singing involved, ONLY if you get pre-approval, you may write a review and receive some extra-credit as well. As stated before, one of the best ways to improve your singing is to hear and learn from other performers.

Web Sites

www.mingusperformingarts.weebly.com

I have created a website for the theatre and choir program to help both students and parents. Here you will find rehearsal schedules and performance dates. Additionally, students will be able to find rehearsal tracks and other resources to help them practice. Please visit it for answers to a lot of your questions.

Also, I maintain a teacher website at <http://James.Ball.MyTeacherSite.com> that has daily updates of what we did in class. If you ever want to check what we did in class or if you lose this syllabus, check there for daily updates!

Grade Book

I strive to maintain an update gradebook. If ever you go on-line and have a question, don't hesitate to e-mail me or ask me during lunch or after school.