Casper College Course Syllabus

MUSC 1440-01: Chamber Orchestra

Fall, 2006

MUSC 1440-01: Chamber Orchestra

Lecture/Lab hours: 2 hours  Credits: 1

Class Day & Time:  T & Th 3:30-3:50 p.m.  Room: Aley Fine Arts Durham Hall

Instructor: Jennifer Cowell

Office: FA 207  Phone: 268-2531  E-mail: jcowell@caspercollege.edu

Office Hours: posted on my office, FA 207

Other Contact Information: Please e-mail or call me at my office in the event you cannot make class. In case of dire emergencies, please contact me at home: 237-0885

Course Description:
The study (rehearsal) and the performance of music repertoire composed for chamber orchestra. The majority of these works will be representing composers from 1600-1800. Some Romantic and Twentieth-Century works may be explored.

Statement of Prerequisites: Permission of the instructor.

General Objectives: To foster knowledge of ensemble skills. The learn how to use these skills to become a proficient small ensemble player.

Specific Objectives: …to work on intonation, dynamics, tone, blend, timbre, articulation, bowings, steady tempi, and listening. Technical accuracy of the assigned part is also an objective of the course. All of these objectives combine to create a quality product for an audience.

Methodology:
• Two rehearsals each week are scheduled. Attendance at these rehearsals is mandatory.
• Students are expected to practice outside of class time. This individual practice is necessary for the ensemble’s success. Each student is expected to keep a practice log. This log will be turned in at midterm and during finals week. A minimum of four hours of practice weekly is expected. The student can log only one hour each day, spreading the four hours amongst at least four days each week. Scales, etudes and other technical exercises as well as chamber music repertoire are the ONLY acceptable entries for the practice log. If the student has questions regarding the practice log, please consult the instructor.
• Four performance exams will be given (see calendar for course content). Poor performance exam grades will affect the final grade. If the student needs extra help with learning their music, the instructor is available for private coachings. Extra credit may be earned for scheduling private coachings with the instructor as well as extra hours in the practice log.
• Concert attendance is mandatory and cannot be made-up. An unexcused absence at a concert or other chamber orchestra event will result in a failing grade. Students who miss
a concert due to illness or other extenuating circumstances can negotiate their situation with the instructor.

**Evaluation Criteria:** Student preparation of material, contribution in class, practice logs, playing tests, and concert attendance will all be taken into account for the final grade. You are also required to attend at least one Wyoming Symphony Orchestra concert during the semester. A one page typed concert report along with a WSO program is due no later than one week after the concert in order to get proper credit for attending the WSO concert. The concert report can include details about the works performed as well as observations regarding ensemble, pitch, rhythm, and communication between the conductor and the players.

Attendance is crucial to the success of any ensemble. Tardiness is also detrimental to a successful rehearsal. The students are expected to be in their seats with their instruments ready to tune at 3:30 sharp. Lateness to rehearsal will be monitored and will affect the final grade.

Concert dress also affects your final grade. Please adhere to the following dress codes for our concert:

- **Men:** Long, black dress pants; long white shirt; black shoes and socks
- **Women:** Long, black dress pants or mid-calf length or longer black skirts; long white shirt; black shoes and pantyhose

Please see the grade breakdown as follows:

- **Attendance:** 30 points (1 point for each rehearsal. 1/2 point if tardy)
- **Practice Log:** 10 points (due at midterm and final)
- **Playing Tests:** 40 points (see course calendar for dates)
- **Wyoming Symphony Orchestra Attendance and Concert Report:** 10 points
- **Concert Attendance and Dress:** 10 points

Points break down as follows:

- 90-100 = A
- 80-90 = B
- 70-80 = C
- 60-70 = D
- 59 or lower = F

**Required Texts, Readings, and Materials:** The instructor will xerox music at the beginning of the term. The student is responsible for his/her music throughout the term. Students must bring their own copies of the music to each rehearsal. Failure to do so may result in a lower final grade. The music, both originals and Xeroxes are to be returned at the end of the term. Failure to return music will result in the instructor holding the final grade until all materials are returned.

A 3 ring binder is required for the practice log.

Casper College does have a limited number of rental instruments. Please have a QUALITY instrument, case and bow with real horsehair and rosin.

A metronome is also required for this course. Please purchase one at a local music store by the third week of classes.
Last date to change to withdraw with a W grade: see College catalog.

Student Rights and Responsibilities: Please refer to the Casper College Student Judicial Code for information concerning your rights and responsibilities as a Casper College Student.

Chain of Command: If you have any problems with this class, you should first contact the instructor in order to solve the problem. If you are not satisfied with the solution offered by the instructor, you should then take your problem through the appropriate chain of command starting with the department head (Dr. Eric Unruh), then the division chair (Mr. Lynn Munns), and lastly the vice president for academic affairs (Dr. Carmen Simone).

Academic Dishonesty - Cheating & Plagiarism: Casper College demands intellectual honesty. Proven plagiarism or any form of dishonesty associated with the academic process can result in the offender failing the course in which the offense was committed or expulsion from school. See the Casper College Student Code of Conduct.

ADA Accommodations Policy: It is the policy of Casper College to provide appropriate accommodations to any student with a documented disability. If you have a need for accommodation in this course, please make an appointment to see me at your earliest convenience.

Calendar or schedule indicating course content:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 17, 2006</td>
<td>Classes Begin</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 7, 2006</td>
<td>Kinser Jazz Festival: Attend Performances instead of Class</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 11, 2006</td>
<td>WSO Concert: Cowell playing Bach double with Mothersbaugh</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 16, 2006</td>
<td>Playing Test #1: Quintet mvt. 1 and 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 2, 2006</td>
<td>Playing Test #2: Mozart Vespers parts</td>
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<td>March 4, 2006</td>
<td>Dress Rehearsal for Mozart Vespers: 1-3PM St. Anthony’s</td>
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<td>March 5, 2006</td>
<td>Mozart Vespers Performance: 2:00 PM St. Anthony’s</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 9, 2006</td>
<td>PRACTICE LOGS DUE</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 13-17</td>
<td>NO CLASS: Spring Break</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 18, 2006</td>
<td>WSO concert: 7:30 pm NCHS</td>
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<td>March 19, 2006</td>
<td>CCMS Society: Equinox Trio  4:00 PM</td>
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<td>April 6, 2006</td>
<td>Playing Test #3</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 22, 2006</td>
<td>WSO Concert: 7:30 p.m. NCHS</td>
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<td>April 30, 2006</td>
<td>Small Ensemble concert: 3:00 PM</td>
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<td>May 1-12, 2006</td>
<td>Various Run-Out Concerts: TBA with at least 2 weeks notice</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 11, 2006</td>
<td>PRACTICE LOGS DUE</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 15-18</td>
<td>FINAL EXAM WEEK: Playing Test #4 on Final Day</td>
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