Casper College Course Syllabus

MUSC 1480-01: String Ensemble

Fall, 2006
MUSC 1480-01: String Ensemble
Lecture/Lab hours: 2 hours  Credits: 1
Class Day & Time:  Tues & Thur  2:00-2:50 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 door, 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 various string ensembles. Mixed ensembles consisting of violins, violas, celli and piano will be matched by ability level and schedule.

Statement of Prerequisites: Permission of the instructor.

General Objectives: To foster knowledge of small ensemble skills. To learn how to use these skills to become a proficient ensemble and chamber music 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. One of these rehearsals is a coaching and one is a group rehearsal. BOTH of these rehearsals are required. Coachings with the instructor will be scheduled at a consistent, weekly time.
• 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. The instructor will check this log weekly. A minimum of two hours of individual practice is expected weekly on your assigned chamber music part. If the student has questions regarding the practice log, please consult the instructor.
• Concert attendance and performance is mandatory and cannot be made-up. An unexcused absence at a concert 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, concert report, and concert performance will all be taken into account for the final grade. You are
all required to attend AT LEAST one chamber music performance this semester. A two paged, typed paper is due on or before the last day of class (May, 6, 2005). Chamber music performances must be arranged with the instructor. There are numerous possibilities for performances including convocation, individual recitals and mixed ensemble concerts. The performances must be arranged 3 weeks ahead of schedule. Please see the grade breakdown as follows:

Attendance: 30 points (1 point for each rehearsal. 1/2 point if tardy)
Practice Log: 30 points (2 points weekly)
Concert Report: 20 points (see course calendar for dates)
Performance: 20 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 notebook 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:** To be determined based on student organization and readiness for performances.