



Walters State Community College Course Syllabus

Course Information

Course Number and Name: MUS 1730 Choral Studies

Section ID: 81380.202380

Semester and Year: Fall 2023

Credit Hours: 1

Start Date: August 21, 2023

End Date: December 08, 2023

Course Format: CON - Conventional Methodology

Catalog Course Description: Participation and public performances of a variety of popular and commercial music. Open by audition only. **F, S**

Meeting Details: MW; 12:10PM - 01:05PM; CAPE 142

Course Drop Deadline: October 27, 2023

Instructor Information

Name: Laura Weathersby

Role: Instructor/ Choir Director

Office Location: CAPE 145-Sevier County Campus

Office Hours: M/W 9 am-11 am; By Appointment

Office Phone: 865-774-5810

Email: Laura.Weathersby@ws.edu

Supervisor Name: Elissa Keck Hodge

Supervisor Phone: 423-585-6951

Required Textbook(s) and Materials

Students are required to have a black three-ring binder and pencil at every class meeting. Music and binder will be provided by the college.

Student Learning Outcomes/Objectives

- Students will have an increased understanding and knowledge of repertoire and performance techniques from a variety of cultures. They will develop skills required to listen to each other in order to blend pitches and tone.
- Students will understand and demonstrate good singing technique (body alignment, breath management, vowel formation, vibrant tone, clear diction, and accurate intonation) as it relates to choral music.
- Students will improve tone quality and diction through the use of various vocal exercises and repertoire.
Students gain the understanding of the college performance level expectations and standards.
- Students will have an increased knowledge of choral literature and performance techniques. Students will perform a variety of choral styles dependent upon specific concerts planned for the semester.
- Students will rehearse and perform a variety of SAB and SATB choral repertoire.

Instructional Approach and Methods

- Rehearsal of Music.
- Choral repertoire and voice-building "warm-ups".
- Historical lectures or instructor demonstrations.

Assessment, Evaluation and Testing Procedures

- Attendance
- Bringing all supplies to class, including music and pencils
- Evidence of learning musical parts

- Participation in musical performances

Students are graded daily on attendance, participation, and effort in class as well as in performances. Class participation includes, but is not limited to, showing up on time with all required materials, being engaged while both singing and listening, and following the instructors' directions.

Daily assignments are given in class. Assignments with choral tracks will be done outside of class.

Concerts are considered exams, and attendance is required.

End-of or mid-semester concerts will be announced with ample notice at the beginning of the semester.

Grading Scale

This is an auditioned, advanced choir, and progress is based on attendance and participation. The following grading scale will be used for attendance and participation grades.

A	0-2 excused absences and full participation in class
B	3 excused absences and full participation in class
C	4 excused absences and full participation in class
D	5 excused absences and full participation in class
F	6 or more absences

Assignments

- In class rehearsal
- Homework: weekly parts assignments.
- Performances

Grade Scale:

Attendance/Participation: 90%

Outside assignments:10%

Class Participation

Class participation is mandatory. Students are expected to actively participate in class.

Musical parts are learned mostly in the classroom, therefore, attendance and singing participation is the core of this class.

Course and Class Policies/Procedures

ATTENDANCE:

Punctual attendance is **vital** in this class.

All absences should be reported to the instructor in advance when possible. Only absences for illness or death in immediate family will be excused. **After two absences for illness, a Dr. note will be required for it to be excused.**

2 Unexcused absences will result in a reduction in final grade.

Scheduling a vacation or having to work at a job during class is NOT considered an excused absence.

Please note: 3 tardies will count as one unexcused absence.

See above for grade impact per absence.

Materials need to be brought to each class:

- Pencil
- Assigned binder
- Assigned music

ATTIRE:

Before the end-of-semester concert, you will be fitted for concert attire.

- Tuxedos and Dresses will be provided, and are the student's responsibility to hem just above the shoe. Black shoes are the student's responsibility to provide.
- The attire will be signed out upon receiving and signed back in after the final concert. Failure to return any attire or music will result in an incomplete for the semester for your final grade.

COMMUNICATION:

We will use the Remind App for group communication. Instructions to join will be available during class.

Music Recordings will be available through the **Dropbox APP**, and a song list will be on YouTube. The links will be provided to you in eLearn and through Remind. Students are expected to use the parts recordings for personal practice time.

Irresponsible, negative, or inappropriate behavior on the part of the student will result in the student not being allowed to participate in Walters State choirs in future semesters.

Additional Course Requirements/Details/Information

ATTENDANCE POLICY REMINDER: The choir's success is entirely dependent on its members' commitment to rehearsal, performances, and the music. When one of us misses a rehearsal or performance, we all suffer. It is expected that members will choose to be at ALL rehearsals and ALL performances. If you are too ill to sing but aren't contagious, come to rehearsal and sit in the room. You will still be able to participate and learn as you follow along in your music and make markings as needed. If you are too ill to attend rehearsal, notify the instructor. **The instructor must be notified before the beginning of the class period for the absence to be considered excused.**

Work is never an excused absence.

GRADING SCALE: Your grade for the term will be based upon attendance and active participation at rehearsals and at the concert(s), as well as preparation for rehearsal. Students must adjust their

personal and work schedules in order to attend any outside rehearsals and all performances. Since our performances are group efforts, grading is based on this service to the group. There is no way to “make up” a missed performance. Each member of the concert choir is expected to contribute to the success of the ensemble to the best of his/her ability. This commitment is demonstrated by regular attendance in rehearsals as well as performances. Members of the ensemble will demonstrate consistently satisfactory progress in the areas of vocal production, musicianship, and musicality through the study of the music and its text outside of class time. Regular attendance is the most tangible statistic affecting grades. Missing a performance constitutes grounds for a grade of “F” or “INC.” depending on the circumstances of the absence. The only excuse for a missed performance is illness or any emergency. (Proper documentation, i.e. doctor’s note, is required.) In these cases, a grade of “INC.” will be entered. **Performance absences are only excused if they are a serious illness, and the instructor is notified beforehand. Performances are not limited to traditional concerts.**

The following is for unexcused absences:

0-2 absences from rehearsal A

3 absences from rehearsal B

4 absences from rehearsal C

5 absences from rehearsal D

More than 5 absences F

Three tardies = 1 absence.

Remember to plan ahead! Work or vacation is never an excused absence.

Academic Honesty

Faculty expect all students to refrain from acts of academic misconduct including but not limited to:

1. Plagiarism - refers to using another person’s ideas or writing without giving proper credit to the original source. Indulging in this type of conduct will subject the student to disciplinary sanctions, which may be imposed through the regular institutional procedures of Walters State

Community College as outlined in the Student Handbook. Plagiarism will result in a grade of "0" for the paper/exam/presentation. Student Conduct and Disciplinary Sanctions contained in the college Catalog/Student Handbook apply (see policy 04:18:02 Disciplinary Sanctions).

Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to the following:

- a. Using cut/paste tool from original document with no references given.
 - b. Copying another student's work and submitting it as one's own.
 - c. Forging or otherwise altering signatures.
 - d. Giving or falsifying academic documents or materials.
2. Cheating - construed as attempting to deceive or mislead which includes, but is not limited to the following:
 - a. Utilizing old tests, projects, notes or written papers.
 - b. Providing unauthorized information to a fellow student about exam content.
 - c. Receiving unauthorized aid from any source with quizzes, examinations, or other assignments.
 - d. Seeking information in an unacceptable manner during/preceding an exam or other assigned work (cheat sheet, verbal exchange, looking at another person's paper or electronic device, utilizing headphones, using textbook when the test/quiz is not an open book test/quiz, using textbook test bank etc.).
 - e. Consulting with a classmate or others when taking a computerized test.
 - f. Disregarding other specific policies and procedures outlined for a particular class.
 - g. Utilizing unapproved technology/electronic equipment during testing (i.e.: mobile devices such as cell phones, smart devices, or tablets, etc.).
 - h. Using the same Internet Protocol network address (IP address) as another student for testing without approval from the course faculty.
3. The use of any generative artificial intelligence (AI) tool, such as OpenAI's ChatGPT, Google's Bard, or any other pre-trained language model (commonly referred to as "chatbot"), must be cited for any assignment where it has been used and may not be used unless specifically allowed by your instructor. Please see your instructor or the course policies within the syllabus if you have questions.

Student Resources

TUTORING SERVICES

Students in need of tutoring assistance are encouraged to contact the Office of Student Tutoring located as follows:

- Morristown Campus - Student Services Building Room L107 - (423) 585-6920
- Niswonger Campus - GRNV 226 - (423) 798-7982
- Sevierville Campus - MMH Room 210 - (865) 286-2787
- Claiborne Campus - Room 123A - (423) 851-4761

Specific tutoring assistance in mathematics and writing is available in-person and online as follows:

- Morristown Campus - English Learning Lab - HUM 120 - (423) 585-6970

[Walters State English Learning Lab \(opens in new window\)](https://www.waltersstate.edu/academics/humanities/writing-lab)
[ws.edu/academics/humanities/writing-lab](https://www.waltersstate.edu/academics/humanities/writing-lab)

- Morristown Campus - Mathematics Lab - MBSS 222 - (423) 585-6872

[Walters State Mathematics Learning Lab \(opens in new window\)](https://www.waltersstate.edu/academics/mathematics/learning-lab)
[ws.edu/academics/mathematics/learning-lab](https://www.waltersstate.edu/academics/mathematics/learning-lab)

TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT

Students who need assistance with computing and technology issues should contact the IET Helpdesk by phone at Morristown: (423) 318-2742; Niswonger: (423) 798-8186; or Sevierville: (865) 286-2789 or on-line access.

[Walters State Helpdesk \(opens in new window\)](https://www.waltersstate.edu/helpdesk)
[helpdesk.ws.edu](https://www.waltersstate.edu/helpdesk)

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES SUPPORT SERVICES

Students with disabilities must register with Student Support Services each semester in the Student Services Building, Room U134 (phone (423) 585-6892) if they need any special facilities, services, or consideration.

[Walters State Student Support Services \(opens in new window\)](https://www.waltersstate.edu/student-services/disability/)
[ws.edu/student-services/disability/](https://www.waltersstate.edu/student-services/disability/)

SUICIDE PREVENTION STATEMENT

Walters State is committed to and cares about all students. Support services are available for any person at Walters State who is experiencing feelings of being overwhelmed, hopelessness, depression, thinking about dying by suicide, or is otherwise in need of assistance. For immediate help, contact the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline by calling or texting 9-8-8 or the Trevor Lifeline at 1-866-488-7386. Veterans may also contact the Veterans Crisis Line at 1-800-273-8255 (press 1) or Text 838255.

Walters State has a relationship in place with the following community agencies to provide services (may include crisis referral services, prevention screenings, etc.):

- Cherokee Health Systems 423-586-5032
- Frontier Health 423-467-3600

College Policies

STUDENTS HANDBOOK AS OFFICIAL GOVERNING DOCUMENT

This class is governed by the policies and procedures stated in the current Walters State Community College Student Handbook. All students attending Walters State Community College, regardless of the time, location, or format of the class, must abide by the rules and regulations outlined in the current Walters State Catalog/Student Handbook and the current Walters State Timetable of Classes.

[Walters State Catalog \(opens in new window\)](http://catalog.ws.edu/)
catalog.ws.edu/

[Walters State Timetable of Classes \(opens in new window\)](http://ws.edu/admissions/registration/)
ws.edu/admissions/registration/

PURPOSE, LIMITATIONS AND MODIFICATION OF SYLLABUS

This syllabus sets forth the expectations for the course content, work, and grading as well as expectations for student performance and conduct. The syllabus does not constitute a contract between the student and the instructor or the College. The information contained here is subject to change at any time. The instructor reserves the right to modify this syllabus at any time with written notification to the students. Though changes are possible, it is expected that the course will be conducted as described in this syllabus for the semester/year specified in the Course Information section of the syllabus. This syllabus is only valid for the semester/year specified and course requirements are not guaranteed for future semesters.

COURSE GROUND RULES

- Students must attend the first day of on-ground class or contact the instructor prior to the first class. Failure to do this may result in being dropped from the class. Excessive absences may substantially lower the course grade.
- Regular class attendance is a student's obligation for any course regardless of format. (See the Walters State Catalog/Student Handbook). If a student misses class, it is his or her responsibility to contact the instructor regarding missed assignments and/or activities and to be prepared for the next class assignment.

- Students enrolled in web courses must follow the course attendance policy defined for online attendance during the first week of class and throughout the term. Failure to do this may result in being dropped from the class during week one OR may result in the accrual of absences which may negatively impact the student's grade in the course.
- Students who have not paid fees on time and/or are not correctly registered for this class and whose names do not appear on official class rolls generated by the Walters State student information system (MyWS) will not be allowed to remain in class or receive credit for this course.
- Electronic devices must not disrupt the instructional process or college-sponsored academic activity. Use of electronic devices is prohibited unless use of the device is relevant to the activity and use is sanctioned by the faculty member in charge. Electronic devices that are not relevant to the activity or sanctioned by the faculty member in charge should be set so that they will not produce an audible sound during classroom instruction or other college-sponsored academic activity.

FINANCIAL AID

Students receiving any type of financial aid or scholarship should contact the Financial Aid Office before making any changes to their schedule. Schedule changes without prior approval may result in loss of award for the current term and future terms.

All forms of student Financial Aid may be jeopardized or lost due to the lack of Satisfactory Academic Progress in one or multiple courses. Lack of Satisfactory Academic Progress may negatively impact a student's degree/certificate completion pace and further jeopardize Financial Aid eligibility.

CANCELLATION OF CLASSES AND ACADEMIC CONTINUITY

For information related to the cancellation of classes due to inclement weather or other events, please check the Senators Emergency Text system or the college's Web site at:

[Walters State Homepage \(opens in new window\)](#)

ws.edu/home/

[Walters State Facebook page \(opens in new window\)](#)

<https://www.facebook.com/WaltersState/>

[Walters State Twitter page \(opens in new window\)](#)

<https://twitter.com/waltersstate>

or call the college's student information line, 1-800-225-4770, option 1; the Sevier County Campus, (865) 774-5800, option 7; the Niswonger Campus (423) 798-7940, option 7; or the Claiborne County

Campus, 423-636-6200, option 7. Also, please monitor local TV and radio stations for further announcements.

When an event or disaster interrupts the scheduled operations of the college and the ability to proceed with the academic course activities as planned, the college and your instructor may alter the course plan outlined in the syllabus. Should an event occur, students should refer to their course e-Learn pages and/or class materials previously delivered to receive guidance from their instructor. Students should continue to monitor the official college channels of communication listed in the above paragraph. If you would like to sign up for the Senators Emergency Text system, please go to the following Web site:

[Senator Emergency Text System \(opens in new window\)](https://ws.edu/set/)
ws.edu/set/

Dual Enrollment students attending on a high school campus should refer to the high school inclement weather cancellations.

LEARNING MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Brightspace (commonly known as eLearn or D2L) is the college's Learning Management System (LMS).

Brightspace is committed to accessibility by "deliver[ing] a learning experience that meets the needs of all people, regardless of age or ability." [Brightspace Accessibility Standard \(opens in new window\)](#)

Brightspace is also committed to guarding student data and privacy. [Brightspace Privacy Policy \(opens in new window\)](#)