



Syllabus for University Chorus - Fall 2025

MUS 1112 - 001 & MUS 3112 - 001

Credits: 1

Place: FAB 200 (choir room)

Time: M @ 6:00 PM - 8:50 PM

Instructor:

Dr. Andrew Alegría

Office: FAB 200A

Phone: (432) 837-8216

Email: andrew.alegria@sulross.edu

Accompanist

Beth Kerzee

Office: FAB 206C

Email: bethzee@gmail.com

Office Hours:

M/W/F 9:00 AM — 10:00 AM

or by appointment

Course Description: This group prepares and presents sacred and secular music of all styles, as well as folk and popular song arrangements. Enrollment is open to all students with permission of the instructor.

Materials: Most choral scores will be provided. Some scores may be purchased by students. Students purchase performance attire as decided by the conductor and a concert black choral folder (\$30).

Course Learning Objectives:

1. Students will receive an introduction to all styles and periods of choral music
2. Students will sing in a manner consistent with healthy use of the voice
3. Students will understand the repertory and arrangements available for teaching and performing choral music
4. Students will listen and sing cooperatively
5. Students will evaluate their singing experience
6. Students will understand aspects of choral music history and music reading
7. Students will participate in a cross-campus experience for majors and non-majors interested in choral music

Student Learning Outcomes:

- * SLO 1: All students will demonstrate the ability to integrate appropriate musical expression into performance.
- * SLO 2: All students will demonstrate the ability to research and prepare appropriate program notes for recitals and performance pieces.
- * SLO 3: All students will demonstrate the ability to evaluate and critique a musical performance.

Marketable Skills:

The music student graduating with a BM in music (instrumental or vocal performance; instrumental or vocal education; or music business) should have the following Marketable Skills:

1. Ability to collaborate and network with others to achieve a shared goal, utilizing problem solving, flexibility and improvisation, and consideration of others' thoughts and creative processes.*
2. Proficiency in public speaking and writing about music, especially in teaching basic musical concepts to all ages and incorporating technology for presentation and production.
3. Ability to prepare and perform a program of age-appropriate, relevant, and diverse repertoire, as an individual or part of an ensemble, to an audience, advocating for the arts through engaging with and serving the community.*
4. Experience using problem solving skills and abstract thinking to analyze compositions and examine their aesthetic through musical and extra-musical concepts, such as historical context and text setting.
5. Ability to create and disseminate basic marketing and public relations materials, as well as resumes, websites, and digital portfolios.

Marketable Skills specifically addressed by this course indicated with *

Evaluation:

Grades will be assigned based on three general areas: attendance, performances, and vocal quizzes (pop or memoization)

Attendance: Each person is significant due to the nature of the group. There are two types of absences: unexcused and excused. Regardless of absence type, singers will be responsible for preparing music outside rehearsal. Be on time with your music **and a pencil**, as our time is limited in rehearsal. **DO NOT** schedule doctor's appointments, trips, etc., which conflict with class time. **DO NOT** take off early or return late from scheduled college vacations.

The tardy policy involves when a singer arrives during or after the stretches and breathing exercises. A tardy is equivalent to 1/3 an absence. Even if you know you will be more than 30 minutes late, still arrive. There is so much information to learn/hear.

Excused absences include university activities and sickness. For both categories, an email must be sent to Dr. Alegría by either an SRSU professor, the SRSU university system, or a letter from your physician. Remember, a severe illness is one that needs hospitalization or follow-up visits with a physician. Unless you are contagious, have a fever, or have projectile bodily fluids, make plans to come to rehearsal and sit in the back without singing.

Unexcused absences will be decided by the conductor on a person-by-person basis. Known conflicts should be submitted by email as soon as possible. This includes but is not limited to mental health day, mental health week, forgetting about choir rehearsal, hanging out with friends and/or family, car problems, house problems, pet problems, personal illness in which the singer does not plan to see the doctor (e. g. headaches, tummy-aches, toothaches, bowel movement problems, etc...).

Each singer will receive three unexcused absences for the whole semester. (A)

Upon the 4th unexcused absence, you will be dropped one letter grade. (B)

Upon the 5th unexcused absence, you will be dropped another letter grade. (C)

Upon the 6th unexcused absence, you will be dropped another letter grade. (D)

Upon the 7th unexcused absence, you will be dropped another letter grade. (F)

2. **Performances:** Concert participation includes being present on time for an announced call with appropriate music in concert dress. Participation in each dress rehearsal and concert is required. Missing a dress rehearsal and/or concert will result in an **automatic zero**. If you become ill on the day of the dress rehearsal and/or concert, you will have until a week after the performance to provide a note from your physician of your illness. There will be no make-up on a dress rehearsal and/or performance.

3. **Singing/pop quizzes:** There will be periodic singing quizzes throughout the semester. This could be a solo in my office (FAB 200A), an ensemble in class, or a video recording. Singing quizzes will be announced at least one week before the quiz.

Pop quizzes will consist of writing the specific markings given out in your music and having each bar numbered. Everyone should expect two pop quizzes within the semester.

Concert Attire

Concert Attire will consist of All Black. Professional performance dress shall include BLACK shirts and trousers (not jeans), dark socks, dress shoes for men, and BLACK blouses, black skirts or slacks (not jeans), and closed dark dress shoes for women. The skirt length should be professional, below the knee, and not short. All jewelry should be conservative without causing a distraction to the audience or the conductor. Also, since we are close to each other while singing, please refrain from using perfumes/ colognes or body sprays. However, please use deodorant. There will be no exceptions to this rule.

Lost or Replace Music

You are using Sul Ross State University Property. **Music that is lost or needs to be replaced will be charged to your student account.** The amount will include the replacement plus shipping and handling. It is your responsibility that you pick up the number that is associated with your music. There will be no exceptions to this rule.

Food and Drinks in FAB 200

Aside from a scheduled social event in FAB 200, **DO NOT** bring food into the choir room. Closed bottled water will be allowed during rehearsal. If a spill happens, please clean up the liquid immediately. NOTE: Allow time to eat dinner before or after long rehearsals (e.g., Dress Rehearsals).

Grade Weighting

Grading Categories	Weighting
Performance	50%
Dress Rehearsal	30%
Quizes	20%
Rehearsal/Attendance	Please see Attendance Evaluation

Professional Communication Policy

- * All communication with me should be done either in person, by office phone, or through email.
- * You are expected to check your SRSU email on a regular basis.

Americans with Disabilities Act:

SRSU Accessibility Services. Sul Ross State University (SRSU) is committed to equal access in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1973. It is SRSU policy to provide reasonable accommodations to students with documented disabilities. It is the student's responsibility to initiate a request each semester for each class. Students seeking accessibility/accommodations services must contact Mrs. Mary Schwartz Grisham, LPC, SRSU's Accessibility Services Director at 432-837-8203 or email mschwartz@sulross.edu. Our office is located on the first floor of Ferguson Hall, room 112, and our mailing address is P.O. Box C122, Sul Ross State University, Alpine, Texas, 79832.

University Chorus Calendar Fall 2025

August

25, Mon. - First Day of Classes
28, Thurs. - Last Day to Add Classes
29, Fri. - Music Major/Minor Meeting
FAB 200 (choir room) - 4:00 PM

September

01, Mon. - Labor Day Holiday - **Rehearsal will take place!**

October

20, Mon. - Midterms

November

26, Wed. - Thanksgiving Holiday
28, Fri. - Thanksgiving Holiday

December

04, Thurs. - Dead Day

04, Thurs. - University Chorus Dress Rehearsal with BBCC

First United Methodist Church - 6:30 PM - 9:30 PM

05, Fri. - University Chorus Performance with BBCC (During Final Exam Time)

First United Methodist Church - 6:30 PM Call / 7:30 PM Performance

07, Sun. - University Chorus Performance with BBCC

First Presbyterian Church in Marfa, TX - 2:00 PM Call / 3:00 PM Performance

Disclaimer

Due to weather or an egregious situation, scheduled dates for dress rehearsals and/or concerts may change.