

Las Positas College
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Course Outline for MUS 45

CHAMBER CHOIR

Effective: Fall 2015

I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

MUS 45 — CHAMBER CHOIR — 1.00 units

Development of vocal and musical ability to interpret and perform the highest caliber of choral literature. Designed for singers with advanced choral ensemble experience.

1.00 Units Lab

Strongly Recommended

MUS 44 - Concert Choir
with a minimum grade of C

Grading Methods:

Letter or P/NP

Discipline:

Family: Music Choir

	MIN
Lab Hours:	54.00
Total Hours:	54.00

II. NUMBER OF TIMES COURSE MAY BE TAKEN FOR CREDIT: 4

III. PREREQUISITE AND/OR ADVISORY SKILLS:

Before entering this course, it is strongly recommended that the student should be able to:

A. MUS44

IV. MEASURABLE OBJECTIVES:

Upon completion of this course, the student should be able to:

1. sing in an ensemble and adhere to director's instructions;
2. demonstrate further improvement in performance ability in both solo and ensemble settings;
3. hear and sing more advanced choral harmonies, correct pitches and accurate intonation;
4. perform with articulation, dynamics, expression, phrasing and rhythmic accuracy;
5. further compare, contrast and perform styles such as Renaissance, Baroque, Classic, Romantic and Contemporary literature, both sacred and secular;
6. perform solos or improvised solos as necessary;
7. display a refined ability to independently carry one's part and sing within an ensemble;
8. memorize performance material when necessary;
9. Demonstrate refined ability in a professional standard of conduct including attendance, participation, attitude and presentation.

V. CONTENT:

A. Historical Styles

1. Renaissance
2. Baroque
3. Classic
4. Romantic
5. Contemporary

B. Cultural Styles

1. African
2. Latin
3. Asian
4. Western European
5. Native American

C. Performance Practices

1. Stage presence
2. Attire

3. Interaction between ensemble participants
4. Movement
5. Solo performance
6. Ensemble performance
7. Follow conductor's directions and gestures
- D. Choral Literature Performance
 1. Gospel
 2. Madrigals
 3. Anthems
 4. Chorales
 5. Fugues
 6. Oratorios
 7. Masses
 8. Folk songs
- E. Vocal Technique and Musicianship
 1. Tone quality
 2. Intonation
 3. Blend and ensemble
 4. Balance
 5. Articulation
 6. Nuance
 7. Breath Support
 8. Phrasing
 9. Dynamics
 10. Rhythmic Precision

VI. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:

- A. **Demonstration** - Ability to sing with skill using blend, expression and other nuances.
- B. **Demonstration** - Public performances with ensembles at concerts, festivals and competitions.
- C. **Classroom Activity** - Rehearsal in ensemble or as individual under the direction of the conductor.

VII. TYPICAL ASSIGNMENTS:

- A. Memorize the bass part to "Give Me Jesus" by Jester Hairston.
- B. Learn the German pronunciation for the first three songs of Brahms "Marianlieder".
- C. Accurately perform the complex rhythm of "Deck the Halls in 7/8" by James McKelvy.
- D. Rehearse "Hiru Eguberri" by Javier Busto with your section.

VIII. EVALUATION:

A. **Methods**

1. Exams/Tests
2. Class Participation
3. Class Performance
4. Final Performance

B. **Frequency**

1. Frequency
 - a. Auditions at beginning of semester, challenges throughout semester
 - b. Weekly review of assigned musical selections
 - c. Weekly progress testing of assigned technical studies
 - d. Participation in on-campus and off-campus performances and festivals as opportunities arise
 - e. End of semester concert performance

IX. TYPICAL TEXTS:

1. Dayme, Meribeth, and Cynthia Vaughan. *The Singing Book*. . 3rd ed., W.W. Norton & Co., 2013.
2. Davids, Julia, and Stephen La Tour. *Vocal Technique: A Guide for Conductors, Teachers, Singers*. First ed., Waveland Press, 2012.

X. OTHER MATERIALS REQUIRED OF STUDENTS: