

Las Positas College
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Course Outline for MUS 44

VOCAL ENSEMBLE LAB

Effective: Spring 2019

I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

MUS 44 — VOCAL ENSEMBLE LAB — 1.00 units

This course offers an opportunity for students to study, interpret, and perform vocal ensemble music in a variety of styles. Emphasis is placed on building ensemble singing experience and techniques towards a successful audition into higher-level ensembles. Designed for students of all backgrounds and experience levels. No audition is required. Concurrent enrollment in MUS 6 (Basic Music Skills) is highly recommended.

1.00 Units Lab

Grading Methods:

Letter or P/NP

Discipline:

- Music

Family: Music Choir

	<u>MIN</u>
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:

IV. MEASURABLE OBJECTIVES:

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

- A. Develop basic music skills pertaining to ensemble singing, including intonation, sight-reading, tonal memory, accuracy in rhythms, and greater listening.
- B. Develop appropriate vocal technique.
- C. Listen to, understand, and successfully sing in harmony with fellow ensemble members.
- D. Show an ability to learn and independently carry one's harmonic part.
- E. Compare, contrast and perform styles of several musical genres, including classical, jazz, pop/rock, contemporary, and folk.
- F. Demonstrate appropriate stage presence and performance.
- G. Demonstrate overall improvement in performance ability.

V. CONTENT:

- A. Musical Styles
 1. Classical
 2. Jazz
 3. Pop/Rock
 4. Folk
 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 participants
 4. Movement
 5. Solo performance
 6. Ensemble performance
- D. Literature performance
 1. Classical/Choral
 2. Vocal Jazz
 3. Contemporary Acappella
 4. Folk Songs

E. Vocal Technique and Musicianship

1. Tone quality
2. Intonation
3. Blend
4. Balance
5. Articulation
6. Nuance
7. Support
8. Phrasing
9. Dynamics
10. Rhythmic precision

VI. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:

- A. **Observation and Demonstration** -
B. Public performances 1. Festivals 2. Concerts 3. Competitions
C. Rehearsals of the ensemble 1. Group 2. Individual 3. Section
D. **Critique** -

VII. TYPICAL ASSIGNMENTS:

- A. Memorize the bass part to "Give Me Jesus" by Jester Hairston.
B. Learn the Latin pronunciation for "Ne Timeas Maria" by Victoria.
C. Accurately perform the complex rhythms of "Fum, Fum, Fum" by Conrad Susa.
D. Rehearse "The Last Words of David" by Randall Thompson with your section.

VIII. EVALUATION:

Methods/Frequency

- A. Research Projects
Study of existing vocal ensembles through listening and analysis, presentation of findings.
B. Field Trips
Performance at vocal festivals.
C. Class Participation
Weekly rehearsals.
D. Class Performance
Both In-class and public performances each semester.

IX. TYPICAL TEXTS:

1. Love, Roger, and Donna Frazier. *Set Your Voice Free: How to Get the Singing or Speaking Voice You Want*. Revised ed. edit ed., Little, Brown and Company, 2016.
2. Rainwater, Reid. *Singing Health Handbook: Keep Your Voice Healthy. Forever.*. Kindle ed., Amazon Digital Services LLC, 2017.
3. Porter, Marcia. *Singing in Brazilian Portuguese*. 1st ed., Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2017.

X. OTHER MATERIALS REQUIRED OF STUDENTS: