

SYLLABUS
School of Music
University of Florida

Teaching Choral Music

MUE 4421 (3)

Fall 2024

M Period 7

W Period 7-8

Professor: Dr. Megan Sheridan

Office: 356 Music Building

Office Hours: M & W 12:50-1:40pm

Telephone: (352) 273-3192

Email: mmsheridan@ufl.edu

Course Description

This course is designed to familiarize students with the techniques and skills necessary to build and sustain a successful and comprehensive choral program in a secondary school setting. Students will synthesize previous knowledge regarding vocal physiology and pedagogy, lesson and curriculum planning, sight-singing and musicianship, and other topics and will apply this knowledge to create products that will support their future teaching efforts. Additional topics will include a philosophical rationale for vocal music education, choral program design and management, recruitment, advanced vocal pedagogy including working with adolescent voices, audition procedures, classroom management, repertoire selection, rehearsal and performance planning, sight-singing and music literacy, incorporating technology in the choral program, assessment, and national, state, and professional standards. This course includes a clinical component, and students will spend a substantial amount of time working with local choral teachers and students to apply the skills gained in this course.

Course Goals

1. Students will develop techniques and skills necessary to build and sustain a successful and comprehensive choral program in a K-12 school setting.
2. Students will build confidence in the application of their pedagogical and content knowledge by creating materials including sample concert programs, choral program handbooks, and proposed curriculum outlines.
3. Students will gain experience applying their skills and knowledge in naturalistic classroom settings.

Required Text

Phillips, K. H. (2015). *Directing the choral music program* (2nd ed.). New York, NY: Oxford University Press.

Additional readings will be provided via Course Reserves.

Attendance

Class attendance is expected and reflective of professional interest and commitment. **Any unexcused absence will result in a 5% penalty applied to the final course grade.** Absences may be excused when accompanied by a doctor's note, in the event of a documented emergency or death in the family, or for other events when arranged in advance with the instructor. **You must notify the instructor of your absence prior to the start of class.** *Extenuating circumstances will be considered on an individual basis.*

Students are expected to be prompt and ready to begin at the designated start time. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of class and those arriving after the start of class will be marked late. **Three late arrivals will equal one unexcused absence.**

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/>

Students Requiring Accommodations

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the Disability Resource Center. [Click here to get started with the Disability Resource Center.](#) It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.

Course Evaluation

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

Digital Device Policy

You are highly encouraged to bring your laptop or tablet to every class. Cell phones must be silenced and put away in a pocket or bag. Students found to be using electronics for purposes not related to the class (e.g. checking Instagram or texting) will no longer be permitted to use it during class time.

Class Demeanor

This class involves continuous active participation. Please stay actively engaged in listening and responding to others during class discussions and refrain from checking your phone or participating in activities unrelated to our class. As professionals, we will be open to and respectful of diverse opinions expressed by students and instructors.

University Honesty Policy

Students are expected to do their own work, use their own words, and provide proper citations when using outside sources. Use of AI is not permitted unless discussed with the professor ahead of time. Failure to uphold the standards of academic honesty will result in the appropriate disciplinary action.

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code.”

On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.”

[The Honor Code](#) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the professor of this class.

Additional Resources

If you are in need of help, contact the following:

Counseling and Wellness Center: <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu>

Phone: 392-1575

University Police Department: 392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies.

Class Participation

Because active and articulate oral interchange increases verbal skills and promotes a stimulating classroom atmosphere, the instructor will evaluate the quality, quantity, and appropriateness of each student's oral contributions to the class. Although no attempt will be made to translate this evaluation into an objective number of points, the instructor will use his subjective judgment of this behavior in the determination of borderline final grades. The dynamics of this class and its ultimate value to you require you to come to class prepared, bringing questions and comments to stimulate discussions.

Email

Your UFL email account is the official email address used by the University, where official correspondence is sent. Important communication regarding this course may also take place via email, and your UFL email address is what will be used. All students need to regularly check their email, at least one time per day. Make checking it part of your daily routine. Likewise, unless there are extenuating circumstances, when you send me an email during the week (M-F) you can expect a reply within 24 hours. I will reply on weekends as I am able.

Florida Teacher Certification Exams

As a part of your progress through the music education program, you are expected to pass the tests required for teacher certification in the state of Florida. In order to receive a grade for this course, you must present proof that you have registered for a testing session for the FTCE Subject Area (Music) examination or have previously passed the exam. Students who do not present proof of registration or completion will receive a grade of Incomplete until this requirement is completed. The Subject Area exam must be passed prior to the beginning of your student teaching semester, or you will not be permitted to student teach.

Grading

Assignment Type Weights:

Assignments—60%

Observation Reflections/Micro-Teaching Assignments—30%

Final Project—10%

Grading Scale

A...93-100

A-...90-92

B+...88-89

B...83-87

B-...80-82

C+...78-79

C...73-77

C-...70-72

D+...68-69

D...63-67

D-...60-62

E...59 and below

The formula for assigning grade points at the University of Florida can be found at <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>.

Tentative Course Calendar

(Subject to change)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>
Week 1 (8/26-28)	Course Introduction; Lesson Planning
Week 2 (9/2-6)	Assessment/Warmups
Week 3 (9/9-9/13)	Conducting
Week 4 (9/16-20)	Rehearsal Structure
Week 5 (9/23-27)	Sequencing/Repertoire
Week 6 (9/30-10/4)	Adolescent Voices
Week 7 (10/7-11)	Error Detection/Fixing
Week 8 (10/14-18)	Music Literacy
Week 9 (10/21-10/25)	Curriculum Planning
Week 10 (10/28-11/1)	Concert Programming
Week 11 (11/4-8)	Culturally Responsive Teaching
Week 12 (11/11-15)	Program Administration
Week 13 (11/18-22)	Recruiting/Auditions
Week 14 (11/25-29)	Establishing Routines/Difficult Conversations
Week 15 (12/2-4)	Building a Program

This syllabus is a guide. It may be varied as needed.