

# MUEN-3155 (2025-SPRING) 001

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## Welcome to the Choirs of UT Tyler

UT Tyler has a rich tradition of choral excellence of which you are now a part. Whatever your singing background has been, I am confident that your membership in our ensembles will be highly memorable, full of learning and personally fulfilling.

Because choral singing is a collaborative performing experience, a unique set of formal policies is needed beyond that of a traditional classroom. Please read the important syllabus modules below.

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## Additional Course Information

**Patriot Singers**  
 MUEN 1155/3155/5155  
 2:30-3:25 MWF  
 Choral Rehearsal Hall

**Dr. Cameron Rose - Balderas**  
 Professor | Director of Choral Activities  
[crose@uttyler.edu](mailto:crose@uttyler.edu)  
 903-566-7304  
 FAC 1213

**Office Hours:** MWF 1:30-2:15 pm, or by appointment, or by knocking if available.

**Census Date:** January 27, 2025

*Questions, suggestions or just need a comfortable chair to rest in? I welcome your visits!*

## Course Summary:

Date	Details	Due
Mon Jan 20, 2025	<a href="#">MLK Day</a>	12am
Mon Mar 10, 2025	<a href="#">Rehearsal in Recital Hall</a>	2:30pm to 3:30pm
Wed Mar 12, 2025	<a href="#">Rehearsal in Recital Hall</a>	2:30pm to 3:30pm
Fri Mar 14, 2025	<a href="#">Rehearsal in Recital Hall</a>	2:30pm to 3:30pm
Mon Mar 17, 2025	<a href="#">Spring Break</a>	12am
Wed Mar 19, 2025	<a href="#">Spring Break</a>	12am

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### To Do

- [MLK Day](#) ×  
 MUEN-3155 (2025-SPRING) 001  
 Jan 20 at 12am
- [Rehearsal in Recital Hall](#) ×  
 MUEN-3155 (2025-SPRING) 001  
 Mar 10 at 2:30pm
- [Rehearsal in Recital Hall](#) ×  
 MUEN-3155 (2025-SPRING) 001  
 Mar 12 at 2:30pm
- [Rehearsal in Recital Hall](#) ×  
 MUEN-3155 (2025-SPRING) 001  
 Mar 14 at 2:30pm
- [Spring Break](#) ×  
 MUEN-3155 (2025-SPRING) 001  
 Mar 17 at 12am
- [Spring Break](#) ×  
 MUEN-3155 (2025-SPRING) 001  
 Mar 19 at 12am
- [Spring Break](#) ×  
 MUEN-3155 (2025-SPRING) 001  
 Mar 21 at 12am

January 2025							
29	30	31	1	2	3	4	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	
26	27	28	29	30	31	1	
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	

Assignments are weighted by group:

Group	Weight
Assignments	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>0%</b>

Fri Mar 21, 2025	 <a href="#">Spring Break</a>	12am
Mon Mar 24, 2025	 <a href="#">Rehearsal in Recital Hall</a>	2:30pm to 3:30pm
Wed Mar 26, 2025	 <a href="#">Rehearsal in Recital Hall</a>	2:30pm to 3:30pm
Fri Mar 28, 2025	 <a href="#">Rehearsal in Recital Hall</a>	2:30pm to 3:30pm
Mon Mar 31, 2025	 <a href="#">Rehearsal in Recital Hall</a>	2:30pm to 3:30pm
Wed Apr 2, 2025	 <a href="#">Rehearsal in Recital Hall</a>	2:30pm to 3:30pm
Thu Apr 3, 2025	 <a href="#">Spring Choral Concert</a>	7:30pm to 9pm
Fri Apr 4, 2025	 <a href="#">Spring Choral Concert</a>	7:30pm to 9pm
Tue Apr 15, 2025	 <a href="#">Department Collage Concert (TBD)</a>	7:30pm to 9:30pm

 You are currently logged into Student View

*Resetting the test student will clear all history for this student, allowing you to view the course as a brand new student.*

Reset Student

Leave Student View

## About the Choirs

Each member of the choir is vital to the success of the entire ensemble. A positive attitude, teachability, punctuality and dependability are essential as we prepare together in our rehearsals for highly attended, artistic public performances. As a member of our ensembles you will be a visible, public representative of the university, and as such it is expected that you will maintain the highest standards of musicianship, scholarship and personal excellence.

The **UT Tyler Concert Chorale** was organized in 1975 as the first music ensemble of the university (then Texas Eastern University), and includes all singers in the choral program. Concert Chorale is generally open to all university students after consultation with the director. Concert Chorale generally performs in two large concerts each semester, drawing upon a rich heritage of music from a variety of classical, folk and spiritual traditions, including large choral-orchestral masterworks.



The **UT Tyler Patriot Singers** was organized in 2004 as an ambassadorial, development and recruiting arm of the Music Department and for the university at large. Membership in the Patriot Singers is audition-based and is selected from and in addition to singing in Concert Chorale. The Patriot Singers perform a substantial repertoire from the Renaissance through contemporary vocal jazz. A full-year (two-semester) commitment is required for Patriot Singers.



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# Ensemble Objectives

In our choral ensembles, you will discover and experience the finest in choral singing through the study, rehearsal and performance of choral literature from a wide variety of historical periods, genres, styles and cultures. Through active participation in UT Tyler choral ensembles, you will have the opportunity to:

1. Develop and strengthen a knowledge of **musical written language**, including symbols and vocabulary, and learn to **express that language** through singing.
2. Develop and strengthen healthy **vocal technique**, including posture, breathing, tone and diction through singing cooperatively in a group setting.
3. Develop and strengthen an appreciation for music within its **historic and cultural context**, and learn to convey music using historically and culturally-informed **performance practices** and **foreign language skills**.
4. Educate and enrich the **greater community** through performances in concerts, workshops, and other public events.
5. Develop and strengthen the skill of **constructive evaluation** about self-performance as well as the performances of others.
6. Experience **inspiring growth** from meaningful, artistic experiences, and to foster a life-long appreciation for the choral arts.



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# Attendance

Membership in a UT Tyler choral ensemble is a privilege, and full participation in all activities, rehearsals, and performances is required. Please record the schedule of events in your personal calendar. Check your email and Canvas daily.

## Rehearsals

- Arriving** early is proper professional behavior. Tardiness reflects poorly on you and is disrespectful to your fellow musicians (teammates, co-workers, etc.). Class starts promptly and all students are required to be in their seats or on stage with music and pencils ready. A tardy is defined as arriving in your assigned place after warm-ups have begun. If you have other university classes holding you past time prior to choir, or other personal logistical issues you need to work out, please see me individually.
- Rehearsal Readiness.** While in rehearsal always have your music present and a pencil. Take notes. Use good posture. Listen to instructions, even when given to another section for they will also likely apply to you. You may bring water but food into the rehearsal hall.
- Leaving** rehearsal early is considered disrespectful to the conductor and to your fellow musicians. Rehearsals are less than one-hour long, and all restroom needs should be addressed prior to the start of rehearsal. If you are coughing in rehearsal or have some other emergency you may leave temporarily as necessary. If you have an on-going medical condition that makes it necessary for you to leave class from time to time, please let me know at the beginning of the semester. If you are well, but not able to sing, please be seated after conferring with the director. Follow-along in rehearsal and mark your music as appropriate.
- Cell phones** and other electronic devices are not to be used during rehearsal. Please leave them in your backpack or purse. If I have to ask you to put away your device there will be a reduction in your grade as I will have to stop the rehearsal to address the issue.
- Citizenship.** Membership in all UT Tyler choral ensembles is conditional. Rude or offensive behavior towards other students or faculty is never acceptable. This may include, but is not limited to that which is physical or verbal in nature, or other displays of disrespectful attitude during or outside of choir activities. Such behavior may result in being dropped from the ensemble. In such instances, final grading and scholarship eligibility will be determined on a case-by-case basis.

## Sickness

Promoting good personal health and avoiding the spread of sickness within the choral ensembles is always a high priority. If you are experiencing symptoms of contagious illness such as fever, sore throat, severe coughing or nausea, do not come to class. Email me that you are sick and see your personal doctor or the University Health Clinic as soon as possible. Your student fees make it possible for you to be seen at the [University Health Clinic](#). You do not need insurance to go there, and it exists specifically for your use. **A doctor's note is required for all sick days missed.** Unexcused absences will be recorded in the grade book until a doctor's note is provided.

*Please note-- The world has long existed with an extensive variety of illness, some serious, some not. You are the best person suited to know how your body responds to its environment. Given that our choral ensembles depend on each and every singer, missing class for simple, everyday aches and pains or tiredness is not an excused absence.*

## Family Activities and Work Conflicts

Please advise your family members not to schedule trips with you during the semester that take you out of classes. Missing rehearsals or performances for trips or events other than those listed below are unexcused. Missing rehearsals or performances for work is also unexcused. Please plan your work schedule accordingly.

## University-Sanctioned Absences

University-sanctioned absences include required UT Tyler course field trips and religious observances. Prior written notification for university-sanctioned absences or religious observances is necessary by the end of the first week of the semester. For religious observances, a copy of the service bulletin, or other similar document is required. Due to the collegial team setting of our choral ensembles, I will evaluate the number and frequency of these conflicts at the start of the semester to determine whether they will adversely affect your participation in the ensemble.

## Unexcused Absences

Any absence not covered by a doctor's note, a university note, or a documented religious observance, must be made-up with **30-minutes of individual practice time** for each hour of rehearsal missed. Contact your section leader for a list of materials rehearsed on the day of absence. **Make an audio recording of your individual practice time**, post the recording to YouTube (unlisted) and **email me the link** within seven days of the absence. **Unexcused absences without a recording will result in the lowering of one full letter grade.**

## Non-Participation

Extended absences, excessive tardiness, or repeatedly not singing in rehearsal, regardless of the reason, may cause the singer to be dropped from the ensemble. In such instances, final grading and scholarship eligibility will be determined on a case-by-case basis. In the event of extended non-participation due to health reasons, a **Medical Withdrawal** from classes should be requested through [Student Services](#).



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# Performances

## Concert Week

1. **Performance Readiness.** For all performances your music should be confidently prepared, including memorized when required. Performers' faces should be expressive, visibly engaging, with eyes on the conductor and not wandering around the room.
2. **Dress rehearsals and performances are the equivalents of an exam.** In any other university course you would not arrive late or schedule work or other activities at the same time as an exam, nor should you for any choir performance or dress rehearsal. Please clear your schedule at the beginning of the semester for all choir events. The day of a performance or dress rehearsal, please arrange your travel with sufficient time so that you will not be rushed, or such that a moderate time change to the event (if necessary) will not impact you.
3. **Absence from dress rehearsal or performance** will result in a failing grade regardless of prior grade status, unless you have had a death in the family or are in the hospital.
4. **Public Conduct.** Your conduct should always be professional before, during, and after performances, including at any post-concert activities in which you participate. You represent the university and our choral ensembles, and any inappropriate public behavior has a negative impact on our entire program.

## Additional Performances

**Additional performances may be added to the schedule** following publication of this syllabus due to requests from university administration, public events invitations, acceptances at conferences, and possible school recruiting visits. Please understand that **additional performances are not optional**, but are a standard part of being in a choral ensemble. Just as one of our UT Tyler sports teams may have additional games added to their schedule, an official letter of absence will be provided to you for your other professors if additional choral performances arise. Outside performance events are official university-excused absences, and function in every way as do athletic events and team competitions for the university. *It is your responsibility to communicate your schedule, and updates to your professors the moment you receive them.*



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# Grooming & Concert Attire

## Clothing

Each singer is responsible for his or her own concert clothing expenses. Non-payment of choir attire will result in an Incomplete "I" at the end of the semester. Concert attire should always be clean and pressed for all performances.

- Ladies dresses will cost approximately \$90 and will be purchased through the music department. Please make checks payable to: UT Tyler Music Department, and deliver them to Dr. Rose by the first performance. The dress comes it will still need to be hemmed and you will need to arrange that on your own. This dress is yours to keep. Shoes should be black, closed-toe, and medium to low heel.
- Men should obtain a standard black tuxedo (not a suit, and no tails), with a standard white wing-tip tuxedo shirt, white vest and white bow tie. Mark's Formals (1325 S. Beckham) has a package that includes all of that if you tell them you are from UT Tyler. The cost is approximately \$225. (Since it costs around \$100 to rent a tux once, I would strongly recommend purchasing.) If you already own a tuxedo, you will need to purchase a white vest and bow tie, which Mark's can also supply. As these transactions will occur outside of the university, please take care of it as early in the semester as possible. Black dress socks (not ankle socks) and black dress shoes are required. Shoes should be polishable (not suede, athletic, or with a white sole).

## Jewelry

Facial piercings of any kind, including tongue piercings, should not be worn for performances by men or ladies. Ladies with pierced ears may wear one set of simple pearl studs. Men must remove all piercings for performances. Ladies need to obtain and wear a 1-strand pearl necklace (may be imitation). This should be loose fitting (18-20"), and not choker style. No additional necklaces. Nothing should be worn on the wrists. Large bulky rings, or rows of rings on each hand should not be worn.

## Grooming

You should always arrive at performances in full concert attire, clean, neat and unwrinkled. Ladies dresses should be hemmed ahead of time and not taped or pinned.

Hair for both men and women should be clean and tidy. Hair styles should not be attention-getting such as shockingly colored, spiked, mohawk, etc., as such styles will attract attention to the individual and away from the ensemble as a whole, and the messages you are communicating through song.

Men's hair length should be well kept, not extending below the collar as this is proper in the business world. Beards and mustaches are discouraged, but if worn, they should be neatly trimmed close to the face (not bushy or long), and either fully grown-in or completely shaved prior to any type of performance (no 'five o'clock shadows, please). See me individually if you are a cast member of a staged production with other needs.

Fingernails should always be clean. Men's nails should *always* be cut short. Ladies should not wear bright or attention-getting nail polish colors for concerts or photos.

## Cologne

As you rehearse and perform in close physical proximity to your fellow musicians, please do not wear perfumes and colognes as these can often interfere with the breathing of other singers. Take your personal hygiene seriously, it will make or break you professionally. Bathe, scrub, brush your teeth and always wear deodorant.

*Please note, these are all normal business dress and grooming standards. You are invited to compare them with the widely accepted standards in use by the [hospitality industry](#).*



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# Historical, Cultural and Religious Context

As a member of a university choral ensemble you will be learning about, preparing and performing music from a variety of historical, cultural and faith traditions which may be different than your own. You may also be performing in cultural, religious, or other public or private settings with which you may not be personally affiliated.

Choral music is deeply rooted in many centuries of historic and cultural context. All ensemble rehearsals and performances are academic and diverse in nature, and should be viewed as an important part of your college educational experience. As the university does not currently have a performance venue built for acoustic choral performances, our performances may take place in other community venues and churches.

The University of Texas at Tyler is a public, nonsectarian academic institution. Repertoire choices and performing venues are not indicative of any type of religious or cultural preference by the university, the conductor, or any other university faculty or staff.



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# Music & Folders

Each singer will be issued music throughout the semester, and in some cases, a black performance folder for extended works. Fees will be assessed for any missing or damaged materials. If music or folders are not returned or the materials fees paid to replace them, the student will receive an Incomplete grade until the bill is paid or the materials returned.

**Do not punch holes** in your music and put in a binder. **Never write in pen** in your music. Only use standard graphite pencil (not colored).

Students should purchase their own accordion-style organizer in which to keep their music alphabetized and easy to find for each rehearsal.



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## Vocal Health

Your vocal cords are muscles that need training and exercise and, as a result, they can easily become fatigued. It is incumbent upon you to use wisdom in the way you care for your *personal instrument*—your voice. It is always inappropriate to abuse your voice by not getting enough food, water, or rest, talking or yelling inappropriately, and over-singing. It also need not be said that smoking will destroy not only your voice, but also your health. Take good care of yourself, drink plenty of water, eat healthily so that you may have a long enjoyable life ahead.

If you are vocally strained (not sick), I support your decision to sit but not sing as long as you inform me before rehearsal begins. However repeated occurrences of not singing during rehearsals may indicate a larger issue exists, in which case your status in the class will be reviewed and final grade may be affected. Please also do not use choir as an excuse for substandard singing in your voice studio or other courses.

If you are experiencing symptoms of contagious illness such as fever, sore throat, severe coughing or nausea, do not come to class. Email me that you are sick and see your personal doctor or the University Health Clinic as soon as possible. Your student fees make it possible for you to be seen at the [University Health Clinic](#). You do not need insurance to go there, and it exists specifically for your use. **A doctor's note is required for all sick days missed.**

*The world has long existed with an extensive variety of illness, some serious, some not. You are the best person suited to know how your body responds to its environment. Given that our choral ensembles depend on each and every singer, missing class for simple, aches and pains is not an excused absence.*



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# Class Communications

I will not personally text, tweet, poke, tag, DM, Instagram, Snapchat, Pinterest, LinkedIn, MySpace or Pony Express my current students. If official course communications need to be made outside of rehearsal, I will email directly through university email or through Canvas. This is standard operating procedure for a university. You are responsible for properly setting up your Canvas and university email accounts to receive class messages. "I don't use my account," "I don't check my email that often," or "I don't know how to set up email on my phone," will not be recognized as excuses for not receiving class information.

Please follow the appropriate link below for instructions on how to easily set-up your phone and other devices for student email.

- [Student email setup for iOS devices](#)
- [Student email setup for Android devices](#)



*I don't connect my personal social media accounts with my currently enrolled students, but you may reach out after graduation.*

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# Grading

Singers come to our choral ensembles with a wide variety of musical backgrounds, from beginners to those who are more experienced, and we welcome all of you. Singing is a mental, emotional and physical activity, and as such, each individual grows and progresses at a different rate. To this end, grading based solely on individual performing ability does not accurately reflect the team-nature and purpose of choral ensemble itself. Grades therefore are based primarily upon your consistent attendance and active participation, with the expectation that each student will work throughout the semester and year to learn their music and grow as a musician to the very best of their personal abilities.

I assume that every student desires to be a hard-working ensemble member right from the start.

- Each student will begin the semester with 100 points

If necessary, the following grading reductions will occur:

- Unexcused absence without practice recording = -11 points (lowering of 1 letter grade)
- Unexcused Tardy = -5 points
- Leaving class during rehearsal = -3 points
- Being asked to put away electronic device, after the first reminder = -3 points
- Not bringing music or pencil to rehearsal, after the first reminder = -3 points

Please note, for accuracy in record-keeping, all absences and grade reductions will be marked in Canvas the day of the absence (even if you are planning to go to the doctor). Grade reductions will be removed upon providing a note or make-up recording.

At the director's discretion, and to ensure students are learning their music, graded small group singing exercises or other short quizzes may be given.

A standard letter scale will be used for the final course grading:

A = 90-100, B = 80-89, C = 70-79, D = 60-69, F < 60

*If you are responsible, it is not difficult at all to finish the semester with an A grade (most students do).*

