**Reedley College, MUS 31 & 331**

**Choirs**

**Syllabus, Fall 2019**

**Humanities Division**

**Instructor**

Prof. Matthew David Wheeler matthewwheelermusic.com

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**Office hours**

Music Building Office

Check Office Door or by appt.

**Course Schedule**

MWF – 11:00AM - 11:50AM – MUS 170

MUS 331 only on MW / MUS 31 – MWF   
Final Exams – Dec 9th – 13th Time-TBA

**Other Schedule**

CLASS WILL NOT MEET: Monday, September 2nd (Labor Day); Monday, November 11th (Vet’s Day Observed); Thursday-Friday, November 21st -22nd Thanksgiving  
Full Refund Drop/Add Deadline: Friday, August 23th  
No “W” Drop Deadline: Friday, August 30st

Final Drop Deadline: Friday, October 11th  
If a class is canceled other than these stated dates, there will either be advance notice given by the instructor or an official announcement placed on the classroom door.

**Students with Disabilities**

If you have a verified need for an academic accommodation or materials in alternate media (i.e., Braille, large print, electronic text, etc.) per the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, please contact the instructor as soon as possible.

**Academic Honesty and Disruption**

For detailed information regarding Academic Dishonesty, Plagiarism, and Disruption, please see pages 46-47 of the Reedley College Catalogue. From the catalogue: Because cheating, plagiarism, and collusion in dishonest activities erode the integrity of the college, each student is expected to exert and entirely honest effort in all academic endeavors. Academic dishonesty in any form is a very serious offense and will incur serious consequences.

Please turn off and stow all cell phones and other electronic devices during class. Students may be dismissed from class and counted as absent for creating excessive disruptions.

**Course Description**

This course includes the study and performance of a wide variety of choral literature from all musical eras. Participation in all performances is required. The singers will read, rehearse, polish, and perform choral music. Tone quality, blend, interpretation, style, and musicianship are the focus of rehearsal. A minimum of two performances per semester is required.

**Prerequisites:**

Audition required if in MUS 31

**Advisories**

Eligibility for Mathematics 201.

**Required Materials**

Black 3-ring binder

#2 pencil

**Course Content  
Student Learning Outcomes:**

*Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:*

1. Learn how to sing in an ensemble

2. Ability to read advanced choral music

3. Ability to interrupt new music in a performance setting.

**Objectives:**

*In the process of completing this course, students will:*

1. Sing in at least 4-part harmony
2. Work within small groups or ensembles
3. Convey emotional context, appropriate for the piece of music
4. Have a better, more in tune, choral sound
5. Have a better understanding of the fundamentals of vocal technique

**Course Expectations, Late Work, Visitors, and Extra Credit**

* It is expected that students will attend all class sessions and participate fully. While this course is not evaluating singing skill level, it is evaluating pitch accuracy, which comes from muscle memory developed over time. Everyone will be singing in class regularly as well as in individual evaluations
* Late work and missed quizzes or exams will not be accepted without prior written consent of the instructor.
* Per the SCCCD policy, visitors (including children) are not allowed in classes without prior written consent of

the instructor.

* Extra credit, while unusual, will be offered to every student in the class equally.

**Course Grading and Evaluation**

-Participation – 30% – Being in class and fully aware is extremely important in a successful choir. The more into the piece the group becomes, the more it comes to life. Never hold back from being the best that you can be.

-Musical Notes – 20% – I will be checking randomly that you have been making appropriate notes, that I the director will give during each rehearsal.

-Performances – 50% – There will be at least 2 performances this semester. One at FCC, and the other one with Reedley High. Both dates, TBA. Attendance is mandatory!!!!

Attendance - Attendance at all class sessions is required. This is a skill-based course that develops and builds on itself over time. One cannot acquire classroom information and experience if he/she is not in attendance. Absences will be reflected in your final grade. You will be allowed 2 absences with no additional penalty than any zeros received on quizzes or exams. After 2 absences, you will lose 5% off of your final grade for each absence. In serious, documented cases, a quiz may be made up in advance of an absence.

Assignments provide a means for you to practice the material covered in class and a means for your instructor to evaluate your proficiency with the material. Assignments are due at the beginning of class on the date indicated. Late assignments will not be accepted. You are responsible for the work assigned in class even if you are absent. Test provide a means for your instructor to test your comprehension of material covered in class.

**Grading Scale:**

A: 92.5-100

A-: 90.0-92.4

B+: 87.5-89.9

B: 82.5-87.4

B-: 80.0-82.4

C+: 77.5-79.9

C: 72.5-77.4

C-: 70.0-72.4

D+: 67.5-69.5

D: 62.5-67.4

D-: 60-62.4

F: below 60.0

**Fall Semester Repertory – Subject to Change due to skill level**

1) Wade in the Water – Alec Schumacher

2) Psalm 8 – Dan Forrest

3) Jabberwocky – Sam Pottle

4) Ding-a-Ding – Greg Gilpin

5) Mary did you know – arr. Pentatonix

6) Sleigh Ride – Leroy Anderson

7) Jolly Old St. Nicholas – arr. Kirby Shaw (this is selected small group)