

Midwestern Singers: MUS 1981, 2981, 3981, 4981
Spring 2021

Director: Dr. Thomas Wininger
Email: Thomas.wininger@msutexas.edu

Office: C117-I

Class Meeting times: MWF 12:15pm-12:45pm

Location: Akin Aud.

Office Hours: MWF, 11:00 am; TH, 12:00 pm; or by appointment

Purpose: A select chorus of mixed voices dedicated to the performance of choral literature of all periods and styles. In this class we will learn choral techniques and vocal training that are necessary to be a professional level singer.

Requirements: Students who audition and are accepted into the Midwestern Singers are required to:

- Attend all concerts, rehearsals, and extra rehearsals outside of class time.
- Work on music outside of rehearsals as necessary.
- Be musically prepared for all concerts, rehearsals, audition dates as scheduled.
- Come prepared for all rehearsals and concerts (i.e. bring music, pencil, water, etc.).

COVID-19 Regulations and Policies:

- **We will follow all MSU Covid protocol — can be found on the website**
- Face masks must be worn by everyone at all times during rehearsals/recordings/concerts.
- Maintain at least a distance of 6 feet and avoid congregating in large groups.
- Students are advised to have their own personal hand sanitizers.
- Wash your hands regularly with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds.
- Minimize touching services.
- Please help maintain a clean and safe space for everyone.
- If you are experiencing any symptoms of illness or think you might have been exposed to someone with COVID-19, please:
 - Stay home or in your residence hall room.
 - Do not go to class, events, work or elsewhere.
 - Contact your instructors to make arrangements to keep up with your course work.
- Contingency plan (subject to change):
 - Should any student(s) have to quarantine due to COVID-19 concerns, they should contact Dr. Wininger via email.
 - If a significant number of students from a specific ensemble are exposed or contract COVID-19, then rehearsals of that ensemble will move online. Rehearsals will resume when it is safe.

Attendance Policy: Students are required to be on time for all rehearsals and call times. Absences from either rehearsals or concerts is not permitted with the exception of an official university-recognized excuse such as illness or extreme family emergencies. 3 tardies is equal to 1 unexcused absence. A student is considered tardy if they are not in their assigned location when the conductor begins warm ups. Make sure you allow ample time to commute to Hammons Hall for the Performing Arts.

All absences should be cleared with the director at least 24 hours prior to the absence. If a student is unable to sing due to laryngitis or sore throat, the student should still attend class and take notes on rehearsal so that they are caught up on any changes that are made.

Students are expected to adjust their personal schedules (i.e. jobs, appointments, interviews, etc.) in advance to meet the commitments of the choir. Students are subject to dismissal from the choir who:

- Have two or more unexcused absences or excessive excused absences
- Are unprepared to sing the music in a concert
- Are not able to make concert commitments established below

Attendance Policy will be temporarily suspended due to COVID 19 concerns.

Grading Policy: Grades for Midwestern Singers will be based on:

- Attendance at rehearsals and concerts
- Attitude and contribution to the choir in a positive manner at all events
- Two unexcused absences result in a grade of B; Three, a grade of C; Four, a grade of D; and five or more will result in an F.
- An unexcused concert absence will automatically result in a grade of F.

Midwestern Singers Schedule of Events: (Dates and times are subject to change)

Spring 2021

We will meet for all scheduled class periods from 12:15 pm–12:45 pm.

Performances and Concerts may be added to the calendar; I will always give you as much notice as possible.

Special dates:

Recording session / Workshop — **Saturday, April 10 and Sunday, April 11.** More specific times will be announced shortly.

We will take a day trip to the Red River for our multimedia project, but scheduling in advance is tricky due to weather. I am going to schedule two dates (**Saturday, April 17 and Saturday, April 24**) as tentative calls for this fieldtrip. If the 17th has good weather, then we will disregard the call on the 24th.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY: Cheating, collusion, and plagiarism (the act of using source material of other persons, either published or unpublished, without following the accepted techniques of crediting, or the submission for credit of work not the individual's to whom credit is given). Additional guidelines on procedures in these matters may be found in the Dean of Students' Office.

DISRUPTION OF TEACHING: Disruption or obstruction of teaching, research, administration, disciplinary proceedings, or other university activities authorized to be held or conducted on the premises of Midwestern State University. Such activity includes classroom behavior that interferes with either the instructor's ability to conduct the class or the ability of other students to profit from the instructional program.

INSTRUCTOR DROP: An instructor may drop a student any time during the semester for excessive absences, for consistently failing to meet class assignments, for an indifferent attitude, or for disruptive conduct.

OFFICE HOURS: If for any reason you need to talk to me out of class, please refer to the available office hours posted on my door, or set up an appointment.

SOCIAL JUSTICE: Social justice is one of Midwestern State University's stated core values and the professor considers the classroom to be a place where students will be treated with respect as human beings, regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, national origin, religious affiliation, sexual orientation, political beliefs, age, or ability. Moreover, diversity of thought is appreciated and encouraged, provided the students can agree to disagree. It is the professor's expectation that ALL students be able to consider the classroom a safe environment.

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, if you have emergency medical information that needs sharing, or if you need special accommodations

in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible.

Federal privacy law prohibits me from releasing information about students to certain parties outside of the university without the signed consent of the student. Thus, in almost all cases I will not discuss your academic progress or other matters with your parents. Please do not have them call me. Regardless of these important legal considerations, it is my general policy to communicate with the students, not their parents even when a student has signed a consent form. College students are adults and are expected to behave accordingly.

Managing Stress

Students may experience challenging situations that could interfere with learning and interpersonal functioning including stress, anxiety, depression, alcohol and/or other drug use, concern for a friend or family member, loss, sleep difficulties, feeling hopeless, or relationship problems. MSU provides the following resources to students, and you don't have to wait until your situation is a crisis before accessing them:

MSU Counselling Center (940.397.4618)
Vinson Health Center (940.397.4231)
Redwine Student Wellness Center (940.397.4206)

Further, additional resources may be available through MSU to address concerns of difficulty affording adequate food or housing and similar issues. I may be able to connect you to such resources, and anything along those lines that you choose to share with me will remain fully confidential.

In case of an emergency, contact the MSU Police Department (940.397.4239) or dial 911. If you or someone you know faces a sexual assault or domestic violence situation, call the 24-Hour Crisis Hotline (1.800.621.8504) for guidance or information.

Campus Carry

Senate Bill 11 passed by the 84th Texas Legislature allows licensed handgun holders to carry concealed handguns on campus, effective August 1, 2016. Areas excluded from concealed carry are appropriately marked, in accordance with state law. For more information regarding campus carry, please refer to the University's webpage at <https://msutexas.edu/campus-carry/rules-policies>.