

Midwestern Singers: MUS 1981, 2981, 3981, 4981 Spring 2024

Director: Dr. Thomas Winger **Office:** C117-I

Email: Thomas.winger@msutexas.edu

Class Meeting times: MWF 12:00 am-12:50 pm **Location:** Akin Aud.

Office Hours: MWF, 11:00 am; TH, 1:30 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 and educator.

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.).

Attendance Policy: Students are required to be present and on time for all rehearsals, sectionals, and call times. Absences from either rehearsals, sectionals, or concerts is not permitted with the exception of excuses such as illness or family emergencies. Absences must be approved by Dr. Winger, preferably with at least 24 hours' notice prior to the absence. Students are allowed three unexcused absences from rehearsal and three unexcused absences from sectionals before it begins to impact the final grade. Each subsequent unexcused absence beyond these will incur a penalty of one-half letter grade. Extra credit opportunities may be available, please inquire with Dr. Winger.

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 excessive unexcused absences and are unprepared to sing the music in a concert.

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

- Attendance at rehearsals, sectionals, and concerts
- Attitude and contribution to the choir in a positive manner at all events
- 4 unexcused absences result in a grade of B; 6, a grade of C; 8, a grade of D; and 10 or more will result in an F.
- An unexcused concert absence will automatically result in a grade of F.

Sectionals

All sections are required to host one sectional per week for at least 30 minutes. Attendance will be figured towards your final grade. Please be flexible with your colleagues in scheduling when possible.

Combined Choir Calendar — Spring 2024

All choir dates, times, and relevant information can be found at this [Calendar of Choral Events](#)

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 Northwestern 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 Northwestern 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.

College Policies

Campus Carry Rules/Policies

Refer to: [Campus Carry Rules and Policies](#)

Smoking/Tobacco Policy

College policy strictly prohibits the use of tobacco products in any building owned or operated by MSU TEXAS Adult students may smoke only in the outside designated-smoking areas at each location.

Alcohol and Drug Policy

To comply with the Drug Free Schools and Communities Act of 1989 and subsequent amendments, students and employees of Midwestern State are informed that strictly enforced policies are in place which prohibits the unlawful possession, use or distribution of any illicit drugs, including alcohol, on university property or as part of any university-sponsored activity. Students and employees are also subject to all applicable legal sanctions under local, state and federal law for any offenses involving illicit drugs on University property or at University-sponsored activities.

Campus Carry

Effective August 1, 2016, the Campus Carry law (Senate Bill 11) allows those licensed individuals to carry a concealed handgun in buildings on public university campuses, except in locations the University establishes has prohibited. The new Constitutional Carry law does not change this process. Concealed carry still requires a License to Carry permit, and openly carrying handguns is not allowed on college campuses. For more information, visit [Campus Carry](#).

Active Shooter

The safety and security of our campus is the responsibility of everyone in our community. Each of us has an obligation to be prepared to appropriately respond to threats to our campus, such as an active aggressor. Please review the information provided by MSU Police Department regarding the options and strategies we can all use to stay safe during difficult situations. For more information, visit [MSUReady – Active Shooter](#). Students are encouraged to watch the video entitled “*Run. Hide. Fight.*” which may be electronically accessed via the University police department’s webpage: [“Run. Hide. Fight.”](#)

Inclement Weather Statement

Key decision-makers will monitor weather projections and communicate with local news agencies and WFISD leadership to make a delay or cancellation decision. Notification occurs through official campus channels and in communication with the local news networks. MSU channels include MSU Alert, MSU Safety app, Postmaster, website headers, MSU Police, and the Office of Marketing and Public Information. The timeline is as follows:

Event	Time	Day	Decision
Inclement weather occurs during regular work/class day	3:30 PM	Day of inclement weather	Cancel classes/events after 5 PM
Overnight inclement weather expected	8 PM	Day before inclement weather	Close campus or delay opening
Delay called the day before but change to closure due to the extent of weather impact	6:15 AM	Day of delay	Close campus
No cancellation or delay decision made the night before	5:30 AM	Day after no decision made the night before	Close campus or delay opening

Grade Appeal Process

Update as needed. Students who wish to appeal a grade should consult the Midwestern State University [MSU Catalog](#)

Notice

Changes in the course syllabus, procedure, assignments, and schedule may be made at the discretion of the instructor.