

## Course Syllabus: E85.2082 Choral Materials and Techniques

**Course Title:** Choral Materials and Techniques E85.2082.001  
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**Rationale:** The choral rehearsal is more than just singing. Choral conductors must know and understand:

- the fundamentals of good singing
- the process of selecting age appropriate repertoire
- how to organize a choral rehearsal
- techniques for training the child's voice, the changing voice and the mature voice
- how to arrange and compose music appropriate to the vocal ability of the student
- why certain repertoire "works"

**Course Description:** Hands-on experience with vocal and choral techniques for the elementary, middle and high school voice and chorus, rehearsal techniques, choral arranging and composition for various ensembles, including selection and development of repertoire and involvement of students in the arranging, composing and performing process.

### Goals and Objectives:

Participants will:

- Develop of philosophy of music education
- understand the placement of voices
- learn how to train the voice to sing correctly
- develop skills in arranging music for SA, SAB and SATB
- be able to plan and conduct a choral rehearsal and performance
- be trained in selecting a repertoire suitable for a concert or festival
- work with established repertoire
- be able to recognize what makes a good choral a personal philosophy of music education

### Topics:

1. Developing the Singing Voice
  - The Child's Voice and the Elementary School Chorus
  - The Changing Voice and the Middle School Chorus
  - The Maturing Voice and the High School Chorus
2. Selecting and/or Arranging Appropriate Repertoire
3. Teaching Music in Context
4. Choral Rehearsal Techniques

### Assessment: Assessment will be based upon:

1. Successful completion of a final project including
  - arrangements for elementary, middle and high school
  - repertoire that "works:
  - contextual wraparounds for each piece of music
  - written performance program containing program notes, repertoire, listings of singers and credits
2. ability to rehearse and conduct original and pre-existing arrangements
3. Development of a repertoire of choral pieces for each level of chorus
4. Demonstration of ability to sing correctly

## **January 27 Introductions, Overview, The Wraparound**

**Assignment:** [Read Chapter 1 in Textbook – Philosophical Foundations](#). Begin to consider what your philosophy of music education is with regard to choral music and singing. (You will include your philosophy in your final project.) Prepare a draft for next week's class.)

## **February 3 The Child's Voice – Grades K-2**

**Assignment:** *Bring a K-2 unison piece of music that you have selected.* Prepare copies for the class. Be prepared to rehearse it with your classmates. Prepare a "wraparound" to place the piece in context and use it as a teaching tool. [Read Chapter 10 in Textbook – Vocal Techniques and Musicianship Skills](#)

## **February 10 The Child's Voice (Grades 3-5) Selecting pre-arranged repertoire**

**Assignment:** *Choose a grade 3-5 pre-arranged piece for young voices.* Prepare copies for the class. Be prepared to rehearse it with your classmates. Prepare a "wraparound" to place the piece in context and use it as a teaching tool.

## **February 17 The Child's Voice (Grades 3-5) Arranging Music**

**Assignment:** *Arrange a piece of music for children, grades 3-5.* Prepare copies for the class. Be prepared to rehearse it with your classmates. Prepare a "wraparound" to place the piece in context and use it as a teaching tool. [Read Chapter 4 – Development and Evaluation of a Choral Curriculum](#) [Read pages 79-80.](#)

## **February 24 Sightsinging in the Choral Rehearsal and rehearsal tips**

**Assignment:** *Prepare a short concert program using the three pieces you have rehearsed. Include program notes. Make copies for the class.* [Read Chapter 6 – Programming Music](#); [Read Chapter 11 – The Changing Voice](#)

## **March 3 The Changing Voice (grades 6-8) (Selecting pre-arranged repertoire)**

**Assignment:** *Choose a pre-arranged piece for changing voices that works.* Prepare copies for the class. Be prepared to rehearse it with your classmates. Prepare a "wraparound" to place the piece in context and use it as a teaching tool. [Read Chapter 3 – Audition and Placement of Singers](#) Add your pre-arranged piece for Changing Voices to your original program and submit your first half of Final Project!!

## **March 10 Arranging for Changing Voices (grades 6-8)**

**Assignment:** *Arrange a piece of music for changing voices.* (Three parts.) Prepare copies for the class. Be prepared to rehearse it with your classmates. Prepare a "wraparound" to place the piece in context and use it as a teaching tool.

## **March 17 Spring Break**

## **March 24 Hallmarks of a Good Choral Lesson**

**Assignment:** Prepare to teach a short 4 part song to the class, including warm-ups which focus upon blend, vocal technique, breathing and tone. Be prepared to model correct tone production and breathing. [Read Chapter 8 – The Choral Rehearsal](#)

## **March 31 The Maturing Voice – Selecting Pre-Arranged Repertoire**

**Assignment:** *Choose a pre-arranged piece for maturing voices that works.* (Three or four parts) Prepare copies for the class. Be prepared to rehearse it with your classmates. Prepare a "wraparound" to place the piece in context and use it as a teaching tool.

**April 7      The Women's Chorus/The Men's Chorus – Just in case....**

**Assignment:** *Choose a pre-arranged piece for maturing women or men's voices that works.* (Three or four parts) Prepare copies for the class. Be prepared to rehearse it with your classmates. Prepare a "wraparound" to place the piece in context and use it as a teaching tool.

**April 14      The Mixed Chorus – Arranging Music**

**Assignment:** *Arrange a piece of music for maturing voices.* (Four Parts mixed) Prepare copies for the class. Be prepared to rehearse it with your classmates. Prepare a "wraparound" to place the piece in context and use it as a teaching tool. [Read Chapter 13 - Management of a Choral Program](#)

**April 21      Preparation for a Concert**

**Assignment:** *Select any one of the projects in the book and work with one or two other classmates on a presentation.*

**April 28      Choral Classroom Techniques from Warm-up to Conclusion**

**May 5      Submission of Final Projects**

## **Bibliography**

Bloesch, Richard J. Twentieth-Century Choral Music: an Annotated Bibliography of Music Appropriate for College and University Choirs. Lawton, OK: American Choral Directors Association, 1997

**Brinson, Barbara Choral Music, Methods and Materials:Developing Successful Choral Programs (Grades 5 to 12) Schirmer, 1996 – Class Textbook**

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White, Evelyn Davidson. Choral Music by African-American Composers: a Selected, Annotated Bibliography. Lanham, Md. Scarecrow Press, 1996 Choral music from western and non-western repertoire

**Relevant Websites:**

<http://www.menc.org>

<http://www.jwpepper.com>

<http://www.nyssma.org/manual.cfm>

<http://acdaonline.org/>

<http://www.choralnet.org/index.shtml>