

**COURSE SYLLABUS  
VALENCIA A CAPPELLA CHORALE  
MUS 2930**

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**OFFICE HOURS:** N/A

**COURSE INFORMATION**

**COURSE NUMBER/TITLE:** MUS 2930 VALENCIA A CAPPELLA CHORALE

**CREDIT HOURS:** 1  
**TERM/YEAR:** Fall 2006

**CATALOG DESCRIPTION:**

Open to students, faculty, and people throughout the community. Select performing group (or groups) established for anyone with an expressed interest in performing choral music in the small group setting. Choral experience and music-reading skills are desired. Literature, public performance and a great attitude are stressed. May be repeated for credit. Music majors seeking additional opportunities to perform and work with a small choral ensemble are encouraged to join. Meets two hours weekly. Additional rehearsal may be required.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** Students will gain better understanding of performing in small ensembles. Focus will be on blend and balance, and learning repertoire in a small group setting. Additionally, students may also gain experience and knowledge in learning various types and styles of A Cappella music, HIGHLY EXPERIMENTAL!

**VALENCIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE STUDENT COMPETENCIES:**

1. Think critically and make reasoned choices by acquiring, analyzing, synthesizing and evaluating knowledge.
2. Read, listen, write and speak effectively.
3. Recognize the value of aesthetics.

**CLAST COMPETENCIES:**

1. Reading skills (literal comprehension, critical comprehension)
2. Logical reasoning skills

**PREREQUISITE:** Must audition or apply prior to registering.

### **Expected Student Conduct**

Valencia Community College is dedicated not only to the advancement of knowledge and learning but is concerned with the development of responsible personal and social conduct.

By enrolling at Valencia Community College, a student assumes the responsibility for becoming familiar with and abiding by the general rules of conduct. The primary responsibility for managing the classroom environment rests with the faculty. Students who engage in any prohibited or unlawful acts that result in disruption of a class may be directed by the faculty member to leave the class. Violation of any classroom or Valencia's rules may lead to disciplinary action up to and including expulsion from Valencia. Disciplinary action could include being withdrawn from class, disciplinary warning, probation, suspension, expulsion, or other appropriate and authorized actions. You will find the Student Code of Conduct in the current Valencia Student Handbook.

### **EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS**

**TEXT(S):** None

**LAB MANUAL:** None

### **EVALUATION**

#### **COURSE GRADE (Grade Components):**

Each student will be graded as to the extent to which he or she achieves the following standards:

<b>Attendance –</b>	<b>50%</b>
<b>Concert Preparedness –</b>	<b>25%</b>
<b>Participation and Cooperation –</b>	<b><u>25%</u></b>
<b>Total -</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Attendance** – Excessive absences will lead to a minimum drop of one letter grade, depending on the number of absences. (See attendance policy).

**Concert Preparedness** – This includes knowing your part and being memorized (when required) by the expected dates (TBA). Also includes having ALL of your music and folder, and having the required concert attire three weeks prior to the 1<sup>st</sup> concert.

**Participation and Cooperation** – This includes promptness, a good attitude, and focused in rehearsals and sectionals. Additionally, a student should NOT be disruptive (inappropriate behaviors), should bring a pencil to rehearsal and should LISTEN to the director giving directions regarding music, choir placement, seating and standing, behavior at performances and etc.

#### **GRADING SCALE:**

**A=Excellent**

**B=Good**

**C=Average**

**D=Below Average**

**F=Failure**

### **ACADEMIC HONESTY:**

Each student is expected to be in complete compliance with the college policy on academic honesty as set forth in the college catalog and the student handbook. Any student found cheating on an exam will receive a zero on that exam; the professor may also choose to withdraw the student from the class.

### **ATTENDANCE:**

Since attendance to rehearsals and performances are extremely crucial to the ability of a small ensemble to perform, attendance will be monitored closely. For the small ensemble to be able to perform and work harmoniously, each member is expected to miss no more than two rehearsals, so **a student will be withdrawn from this class, on the second absence.** However, if a student has had an emergency, and notifies the professor, promptly, (**prior** to the absence) there **may** be an extension granted, **at the discretion of the professor.** Since this is a small ensemble and it is necessary for all to be present to accomplish what we need for performing, students should make every effort to attend **ALL** rehearsals. If for any reason a Chorale group does not achieve a decent level of performance by performance time, that group or person(s) will NOT be allowed to perform.

### **SPECIAL SESSION ATTENDANCE ADDENDUM:**

Valencia chorale is a specialized group that works off a different schedule than what is stated in the schedule. This is due to the highly experimental nature of the group, and the fact that it is often used as a “summer alternative” to the Voices of Valencia or an opportunity for students to expand their musical horizons. With this in mind, please note that most nights we will work until 10:00p.m. (dance rehearsals and recordings) and that we may not meet some nights, to make up the difference or for special events or whatever reason the director may desire. Additionally, attendance requirements are much more stringent than VOV. Please be flexible with this and if you have any questions, please see the director. Additionally, there may be extra Mandatory Rehearsals. These will be announced well in advance, so that you may adjust your schedules.

SUMMER SESSIONS will attempt to follow the Summer Schedule, except in cases where performance(s) require more rehearsal time. Please be flexible.

### **SUB GROUPS OF VALENCIA**

Valencia A Cappella Choral is designed with flexibility and multiple formats in mind. An overall mixed ensemble is a desired goal, but may not always be feasible. In order to maximize the potential of the group, we will be subdividing into: Barbershop Chorale and quartets and Sweet Adelines Chorale and Quartets (if we have sufficient numbers and abilities.) These groups will be determined and decided upon by the director who reserves the right to alter, change, modify and even delete any group which the director feels is not working according to his expectations. All groups formed must have PRIOR permission and must meet the criterion set by the director. If there is not enough capable singers to form a particular ensemble, then that ensemble will have to participate in some other form, as determined by the director. The director has all rights and permissions for any ensemble reserved and NO ensemble may decide anything without the director's express permission. All final decisions and determinations belong to the director. All groups will use the name: Valencia A Cappella Chorale and may NOT change the name. Any smaller groups formed, i.e. quartets, etc. that meet the standard set by the production team will then be named by the director. **NO groups or any part of the Valencia A cappella Chorale may adopt an alternative name without the express permission of the director.**

## **PRODUCTION TEAM AND POLICIES**

A Small Ensembles Production team helps the director to set policies and make decisions as to the direction of the small ensembles. One policy set by the college and the production team and the Board is that NO ONE is allowed to recruit, announce or make mention of auditions or other group memberships. Additionally, no announcements of performances or other activities of any type may be without express permission of the director. This will require a two week advance notification, so that appropriate teams and/or boards may discuss it. Any violation will result in the immediate removal from this course.

## **TENTATIVE SCHEDULE**

**TBA**

### **SECTIONAL REHEARSALS**

Sectional rehearsals are provided for the members to facilitate and expedite their acquisition of the music. Sectional leaders (Vocal Captains) are selected by the ability and willingness to lead those rehearsals. It is **REQUIRED** that members show the same respect and courtesy to their vocal captains, just they are required to show this respect to their director. Disruptions (inappropriate behavior), skipping sectionals will NOT be tolerated and a student will be given an unexcused absence. Any subsequent violations (2<sup>nd</sup> offense) of this will be viewed as lack of cooperation and a failure to meet the student expected conduct code, and the student will be dropped from the class

### **CLASSROOM POLICIES**

- Three tardies (>6 minutes beyond the hour) equals 1 UNEXECUSED absence.
- When using practice room pianos, observe no smoking, drinking any beverage, or eating food of any sort.
- Drop of one letter grade for unexcused absences from the scheduled concerts, or student may be withdrawn from the class.
- Unexcused absence from a scheduled performance constitutes a letter grade reduction and may prevent you from any further participation.
- **All students are financially responsible for any music, folder and equipment (robes, costumes, etc.)** The same rules regarding Voices of Valencia Music folder will apply to the Valencia Chorale. Students may be billed a minimum of \$15.00 for lost music (Chorale only. VOV and Intone runs much more), or not turning in their music. (If you are a specialized small group member, this could be as high as \$100.00. For more info, please refer to VOV syllabus.) Failure to turn in music will result in a hold on your account!
- Pencil markings only are allowed (and encouraged) in assigned music.
- Music is issued to be practiced in rehearsals and also, away from rehearsals. Your preparation of selections is required and will help you to ensure excellent performances.
- Make schedule adjustments (work, doctor, dentist, school, and personal) within 5 calendar days after receiving notification of an upcoming concerts or special rehearsals. (All performances will be announced well in advance.)

- Performances may be on campus, or may be off campus (**most likely** – off campus). Attendance to these concerts is mandatory (unless EXTREME circumstances prevail, and this is at the discretion of the director.) Students must provide their own transportation to these performances, and are held directly accountable for their own actions.
- Students **are required** to buy a Chorale Shirt for performances. **Performance Attire.** No one will be allowed to perform without the **required** performance attire. (Performance attire consists of: **Current acceptable VALENCIA A CAPPELLA CHORALE or small group shirts** (VOV T-shirts, old concert shirts, small group shirts or any other will **NOT** be acceptable), black shoes, black socks or stockings, and black dress slacks.) This attire allows us to sing at places such as Disney, etc. Shirt orders will take place early on in the session, and payment and pickup is required at least **3 weeks prior** to the 1<sup>st</sup> performance. **NO shirt will be ordered, without payment!** Failure to follow performance attire rules will lead to the student **not** being allowed to perform at performance time and run the risk of being asked to step off the risers. **NO** cell phones or pagers are ever allowed on stage – **NONE!**  
ABSOLUTELY NO dangling earrings, bracelets, scarves, pins, or any type of head gear (NO hats, hoods, scarves, rags, or anything at all is to be worn on your head.
- Students will be **required** to stay beyond the 9:00 p.m. class time to practice their dance steps and coordinate it with the singing or for additional rehearsal time. Additionally, there is very likely to be an extra rehearsal or two, as performance time rolls around. Students will be notified of these rehearsals at least 3 weeks in advance of extra rehearsals.
- Music must be memorized according the schedule given by the director. If a student does NOT practice and learn their music on their own time, they will be dropped from the class. All students are expected to come to rehearsals PREPARED and ready to work on the ensemble sound of the group, NOT still learning their notes. Failure to be ready for rehearsal or performance will lead to the withdrawal of the student from the course.
- Failure to be ready for a performance and/or recording session will **NOT** excused and a student will be removed from the performance or recording and dropped from the course.

### **CELL PHONES AND PAGERS**

Cell phones and pagers are to be turned off during rehearsals and performances. If it is necessary for you to have one for work, please set it to vibrate and inform the director. Otherwise, this will be considered a disruption of the class and you may be asked to leave.

**Please Note:** The director reserves the right to remove a choral member from a performance and/or recording session for any of the reasons listed in the syllabus or if he feels that choral member will hinder a performance in any way. This will be done at the complete discretion of the director

**DISCLAIMER:**

Changes in this syllabus and/or schedule may be made at any time during the term by announcement of the professor. A revised syllabus **may** then be issued at the discretion of the professor. Additionally, the nature of this group is **EXPERIMENTAL**; therefore its content, makeup, musical style, genre, gender, group setting, and anything else applicable may change at any time.

HELP US MAKE THIS A GREAT SESSION AND A SUCCESSFUL PERFORMANCE SEASON BY FOLLOWING THE THREE "C's": **CHEERFULNESS COOPERATION AND COMMUNICATION!**

REV. 010306

I HAVE RECEIVED THE SYLLABUS FROM MR. JONES FOR THE **VALENCIA A CAPPELLA CHORALE** AND HAVE READ THROUGH AND UNDERSTAND COMPLETELY THE CONDITIONS, REQUIREMENTS AND GUIDELINES AS STATED THEREIN. ADDITIONALLY, I AGREE TO SUBMIT TO ALL THE REHEARSAL AND PERFORMANCE GUIDELINES AND RESPONSIBILITIES THAT ARE STATED IN THE SYLLABUS AND THAT I ACKNOWLEDGE THAT I MAY BE REMOVED FROM SECTIONALS, REHEARSALS, OR PERFORMANCES AND WILL BE **WITHDRAW** FROM THE COURSE IF I FAIL TO MEET THOSE REQUIREMENTS AND EXPECTATIONS.

PRINT NAME \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNED \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

I UNDERSTAND THAT IF I DO NOT RETURN THE MUSIC AND MUSIC FOLDER, BY THE DATE REQUIRED THAT I WILL BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE FOR BOTH. ADDITIONALLY, I REALIZE THAT MY RECORDS WILL BE FROZEN, UNTIL I EITHER RETURN THE MUSIC AND FOLDER, OR PAY \$25.00 (Chorale only!) (up to \$100.00, depending on what music you have) TO VALENCIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE MUSIC DEPT. ADDITIONALLY, I WILL PAY FOR ANY SMALL GROUP MUSIC, FOLDERS OR BAGS, THAT I MAY HAVE, AT THE COST LISTED IN THE SYLLABUS OR SET BY THE DIRECTOR. I ALSO UNDERSTAND THAT FAILURE TO TURN IN MUSIC WILL MEAN THAT I WILL RECEIVE AN INCOMPLETE FOR THE SESSION AND A HOLD WILL BE PLACED ON MY ACCOUNT BLOCKING GRADES, REGISTRATION, ETC.

SIGNED \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_