EXPANDED COURSE DESCRIPTION
MUSIC
School of the Arts, Media, Performance and Design
Music Department
FA / MUSI 2556 3.0 SECTION A
GOSPEL CHOIR
FALL 2017 / WINTER 2018

Last Modified Date: 09/19/2017

COURSE CALENDAR DESCRIPTION

Explores gospel choral music repertoire and performance techniques. Prerequisites: FA/MUSI 1556 3.0 or Permission of the course director, by audition.

Explores the repertoire, cultural traditions, performance techniques, aural skills, ensemble techniques, and pedagogical methods used in rehearsing and performing gospel music in a choral setting with instrumental accompaniment. Prerequisites: Permission of the course director, by audition.

INSTRUCTOR(S)

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Section / Format / Term</th>
<th>Contact Email</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Burke, Karen M</td>
<td>Sec. A / STDO / Y</td>
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<td>Butler, Corey</td>
<td>Sec. A / STDO / Y</td>
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SPECIAL FEATURES

Course: FA/MUSI 1556, 2556, 3556, 4556 3.0
Term: Fall/Winter 2017/2018
Course Instructor: Karen Burke, ACE 355, 416-736-2100, ext. 77131 burkek@yorku.ca
Course Instructor: Corey Butler butlerc@yorku.ca

Course Consultation Hours: By Appointment
Course Time and Location: Tuesday 4:30 – 7:30 pm, ACE 235

FA/MUSI 1556, 2556, 3556, 4556 provides students with an authentic gospel music experience. Using a rote style of teaching, students rely primarily on ‘learning by ear’ and aural memory to learn repertoire. This course encourages improvisation in solo and group settings as well as an understanding of primarily contemporary gospel choir music. The York University Gospel Choir (YUGC) presents workshops, showcases and annual concerts each year and concert performances include a live rhythm section and opportunities for soloists and small ensembles.

Prerequisite/Co-requisite: Open to both music majors and non-music majors (by audition and with permission) who have an interest in the study of popular Western music.

Course Goals
This course will teach vocal production, articulation, interpretation, vocal improvisation, rhythm, gospel styling and performance practice. Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to
demonstrate gospel music articulation, phrasing, diction, expression, intonation, blend and balance used in a variety of gospel styles. Students will develop the techniques and stage presence necessary to perform gospel music in a live setting.

Course Learning Outcomes
By the end of these courses, students will:

- Understand the historical roots of contemporary gospel music
- Become deeply familiar with the gospel artists/composers who have contributed to the lexicon of gospel choir music
- Learn to sing gospel choir repertoire ranging from early spirituals to contemporary gospel classics
- Have been given opportunities to have solo and/or small ensemble singing opportunities
- Develop knowledge of the ‘on-stage’ gospel music experience both by performing and by attending other off-site gospel music concerts
- Develop harmonization skills and the ability to learn parts by rote
- Apply their theoretical and practical knowledge of music to facilitate an approach to arranging their own gospel music performances
- Acquire the knowledge to create and perform original gospel music choral arrangements
- Become familiar with the culture of the gospel music community and its unique congregational responses
- Have the ability to take leadership in a group performance and mentor other singers

Organization of the Course
Auditions are held for all new registrants to confirm your voice range, aural aptitude and gospel music knowledge. Rehearsals are held weekly as a full choir however, teaching may happen in smaller sectionals and/or ensembles. 3rd and 4th year are considered the ‘Senior students’ and will have tasks and evaluations commensurate with their expected level of expertise. The important dates are as follows:

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<tr>
<th>IMPORTANT DATES</th>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, Sept. 12</td>
<td>First Fall Rehearsal</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, Oct. 2 (OSPO #1)</td>
<td><strong>Ontario Sporting Hall of Fame Gala</strong>, Westin Harbour Castle Hotel, Call Time: 3 pm – Dinner will be provided. Dress: ALL BLACK</td>
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<td>Saturday, Oct. 21</td>
<td><strong>Gospel Inter-Varsity Explosion (G.I.V.E.)</strong> along with UofT Gospel Choir, McMaster Gospel Choir and Humber Gospel ChoirCall Time for YUGC: 12:00 p.m.Rehearsal/Showcase 1– 5 p.m. Location: Tribute Communities Recital Hall (TCRH), York U Showcase Call: 5:30 p.m. Concert:7:00 p.m. (Tickets available online- $15 Adults/ $10 Students)</td>
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<td>Mon/Tues, Nov. 13/14</td>
<td>Vocal Evaluations (15%)(sign-ups begin in class on Oct. 31)</td>
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<td>Tuesday, Nov. 21</td>
<td>Dress Rehearsal, 4:00 pm, FFT</td>
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<td>Friday, Nov. 24</td>
<td>Concert #1, FFT, Call Time: 4:00 pm</td>
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<td>Saturday, Nov. 25</td>
<td>Concert #2, FFT, Call Time: 6:00 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, Nov. 28 (OSPO #2) (NO CLASS)</td>
<td>**St. Joan of Arc CHS, 1 St Joan of Arc Ave., Maple, ON, Call Time-7:30 am, Done by 11 am</td>
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Tuesday, Jan. 9
First Winter Rehearsal (Final Day to Submit Concert Report for Term 1)

Friday, Feb. 2 (Special Outing – more info to come)
West Prep Public School (Elementary), 70 Ridge Hill Dr., Toronto, ON. 10:30 am performance

Tuesday, Feb. 21 (NO CLASS)
Reading Week

Fri-Sun, Feb. 23-25 Volunteers needed!
Power Up Gospel Music Workshop @ York (Check it out! – powerupgospel.ca)

Tuesday, Feb. 27 (OSPO #3) – class time still available to us that afternoon
Ontario Vocal Festival, Mayfield SS, 5000 Mayfield Rd., Brampton, ON Call Time: 10:30 am

Tuesday, March 13
Senior Ensemble Presentations

Mon/Tues, March 19/20
Vocal Evaluations (15%) (sign-ups begin in class on March 6)

Tuesday, April 3
Dress Rehearsal, 4:00 pm FFT

Friday, April 6
Concert #1, FFT, Call time: 4:00 pm

Saturday, April 7 (scheduled as a Study Day but…)
Concert #2, FFT, Call time: 6:00 pm

Tuesday, April 10
Final Day to Submit Concert Report for Term II

Summary of Requirements:
- At least one (1) Off-Site Performance Opportunity (OSPO) per academic session*
- One Concert report EACH SEMESTER
- Mandatory Vocal Evaluations EACH SEMESTER
- Mandatory on-campus performances
- Memorized Lyrics

*See incentives built into the curriculum under OSPOs

**Evaluation**

**1556 & 2556:** Attendance/Performances 40%

Off-Site Performance Opp. (OSPO) 10%
Preparation/Participation 10%
Vocal Evaluations 30%
Concert Reports 10%
TOTAL 100%

**3556 & 4556:** Attendance/Performances 40%

Senior Ensembles 10%
Concert Reports/Off-Site Performance Opp. (OSPO) 10%
Vocal Evaluations 30%
Leadership/Participation 10%
NOTE: Students registered at the 3rd and 4th year levels will complete a Senior Ensemble performance and also may be called upon to perform duties and performances commensurate with the knowledge expected for this level. In the vocal evaluations, Senior students will be evaluated with accordingly higher expectations with regard to articulation, demonstrations of leadership and knowledge of authentic performance practice.

Final course grades may be adjusted to conform to Program or Faculty grades distribution profiles.

Last date to drop this course without receiving a grade: Feb. 9, 2017

Assignments and Evaluation (expanded)

**Attendance (Classes, Dress Rehearsals, Performances)** – 40%

**Classes**
Any student who is absent from *any three class meetings in one term*, may be dropped from the performances and/or required to demonstrate an understanding of missed material. **Students leaving early from class without permission will receive an absence for the entire class.**

Excessive absences or lateness will lead to failure in the course. Extraordinary circumstances or illness must be supported by documentation. For every three (3) late arrivals to class, you will receive one (1) unexcused absence. Attendance will be taken for each class/concert. Students are responsible to sign in at every rehearsal and performance event *or they will be counted as absent*. **Lates are cumulative over the entire year.**

**To receive an excused absence:**
An excused absence requires a 2-step process.

1. **NOTIFYING IN ADVANCE.** You must email Professor Burke (burkek@yorku.ca) in advance. If you email Professor Burke, you may proceed immediately to Step 2. If you only complete step 1, you may not receive an excused absence and your final grade will suffer.
2. **DOCUMENTATION.** After contacting Professor Burke, you must produce documentation for your absence. This could include but is not limited to a doctor’s note or a personal note for University-related business.

NOTE: Only one (1) absence from class per term is allowed without penalty. Further absences will result in a lower grade and excessive absences in a failure. Attendance records for all choir members are available for verification. It will be the responsibility of the student to check that record for accuracy. Any discrepancies should be reported immediately.
Performances and Dress Rehearsals
Attendance at these events is mandatory and final performances are equivalent to the final exam in another course. All dress rehearsals are mandatory for participation in concerts. **NOTE: All notes regarding concert dress rehearsal/performance absences must be filed by October 3 and January 23 respectively.**

Failure to attend the dress rehearsals and concerts, without notice, will result in a failing grade.

**Vocal Evaluations – 30%**
Vocal Evaluations will test text memorization, knowledge of the form, phrasing and rhythmic integrity using passages from our repertoire. A time slot for each designated group of singers of no more than 6 (and no more than 2 per voice part) will be arranged during the period just prior to the ‘end of term’ concerts. Students will be marked individually. If a student cannot demonstrate appropriate knowledge of the repertoire, the Course Director reserves the right to deny participation in the concert. **1st term’s vocal evaluations will be scheduled beginning November 13, 2017 and the 2nd term’s vocal evaluations will be scheduled beginning March 19, 2018.**

Because of the nature of the evaluations, make-ups are very difficult and so be sure to pay close attention to posted dates and show up to the time slot for which you signed up!

**Participation/Preparation/Leadership– 10%**
Students are expected to contribute to our rehearsal time by coming with their lyrics memorized for the assigned songs and having a commitment to excellence. In-class preparedness and participation with regards to solo tryouts, small ensembles and concert preparation tasks will also be counted towards your participation mark.

**Senior Ensembles (3rd and 4th year only) - 10%**
All students in 3rd or 4th year will be evaluated in groups not less than 4, and no more than 10, in March. Groups are responsible for executing an authentic gospel music performance of about 5-6 minutes in length. Outside of two given class times, you must use your own time to prepare your song to performance level.

Tip: Refrain from using print music and choreography and focus on the ‘quality and not the quantity’ (i.e. length) of your vocal performance. You will only have access to keyboard accompaniment. Your final individual mark will consist of the total of your group’s evaluation mark assigned by the Course Director plus the average mark assigned to you by the others in your group (peer evaluation).

Song choices must be submitted in advance to the Course Artistic Director by January 30, 2018 and the performances will take place in class on **Tuesday, March 13, 2018.**

**Concert Reports - 10%**
All students are required to attend at least one community gospel concert EACH term and to prepare a concert report as per the Report Template & Guidelines provided on-line. Reports should be at least 2 pages, double-spaced and double-sided and MUST be in regard to a Gospel concert. If you are not sure that the event you will be attending qualifies as a Gospel concert, please ask.
Concert Reports can be handed in at any time. The last date for submissions for Term 1 concert reports is the first class back after Christmas (January 9) and for Term 2, the deadline is just after the end of winter term, April 10th before 4:30 p.m. All submissions must be to the music office and if handing into the office, please get your report date-stamped! Assignments submitted via e-mail or ‘under the door’ will not be accepted. **NO EXCEPTIONS.**

**Off-Site Performance Opportunities (OSPOs) – 10%**

Students are expected to participate in at least (1) one off-site performance opportunity (OSPO) outside of class time per year. Participation in additional OSPOs increases your participation mark and is especially helpful to Senior Students. (See NOTE* below).

See the list of IMPORTANT DATES for the OSPOs that have been booked by the Course Director. From time to time, there may be other opportunities for off-site/extra performances. These opportunities will be posted and/or announced in advance to facilitate sign-ups.

*NOTE: 3rd and 4th year students may substitute an EXTRA off-site performance to replace EACH required concert report. In other words, Senior students must complete a total of 3 off-site opportunities if they do not hand in any concert reports AND at least one of these extra performances must take place during Term 1.*

**Repertoire:**

Music samples may be found on-line through resources such as Spotify and links may be posted from time to time on our official class Facebook page: YUGC – Members Only

Students are often ‘auditioned’ for solos during choir rehearsals. Students assigned solos will also be required to attend individual sessions with the instructor.

**Rehearsal Expectations:**

Our classes are scheduled from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. with the last hour of class periodically being used as a ‘flexible hour’, providing opportunities for a variety of activities such as:

- Sectionals (By grade or by section)
- Choreography Solo Tryouts
- Musicians’ Rehearsals
- Training for Developing Choir Directors
- OSPO Rehearsals
- Vocal Coaching
- Senior Ensemble Rehearsals/Observations

Students are asked to refrain from moving about during our rehearsals and to remain focused until the class is formally dismissed. There will be a 10-15 min. break given during our three-hour classes. Be prepared to stay until 7:30 p.m. ! **Cell phones are not allowed to be in use during rehearsals (unless requested by the Course Director) and are definitely forbidden on stage.**

**Concert Dress:**

Formal Concert Dress (unless otherwise directed) will be ALL BLACK with a ‘splash’ of red included in an accessory, i.e. belts, scarves, and ties. **Think more dressy, less casual!** No hats or gloves, please. Approved attire will consist of black pants or black skirts to the knee or longer for women and black pants for the men. For all, black shirts/blouses must have sleeves (short or
long) and conservative necklines. All men must wear black shoes and socks. Women, if wearing a skirt, please wear black hose. Please avoid the use of cologne or perfume and any clothing which draws undue attention to you. Non-compliance with the above rules will have consequences up to and including removal from performance. For less formal appearances, we will wear jeans and solid black sleeved top with no print, exceptions may include York apparel.

Where can I listen to gospel music?

Check out www.sprlive.fm M-T from 7 - 8 pm for Joyful Noyze. Apps such as ‘TuneIN’ give you access to American gospel music stations such as Praise 102.7 in Atlanta, GA. You are also encouraged to listen to local radio stations CIUT 89.5 FM The Gospel Music Machine on Sundays from 7-10 a.m., JOY 1250 AM’s REFLECTIONS M-F from 8-10 p.m., The Rush M-F from 4:30 – 6 p.m. AND Gospel Praise on Sundays from 5-8 p.m. to get your ear accustomed to gospel music and to listen for information on GTA gospel concerts. Also, visit the Toronto Mass Choir website for their specific concert info: www.tmc.ca and join the mailing list for gospelconnection.ca for regular announcements of GTA gospel concerts.

The following texts, books are recommended additional reading for the course:


Academic Policies / Information

The Senate Academic Standards, Curriculum and Pedagogy (ASCP) provides a Student Information Sheet that includes:

- York's Academic Honesty Policy and Procedures / Academic Integrity Web site
- Access/Disability
- Ethics Review Process for Research Involving Human Participants
- Religious Observance Accommodation
- Student Code of Conduct

Additional information:

- Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities
- Alternate Exam and Test Scheduling
- Grading Scheme and Feedback Policy

The Senate Grading Scheme and Feedback Policy stipulates that (a) the grading scheme (i.e. kinds and weights of assignments, essays, exams, etc.) be announced, and be available in writing, within the first two weeks of class, and that, (b) under normal circumstances, graded feedback worth at least 15% of the final grade for Fall, Winter or Summer Term, and 30% for 'full year' courses offered in the Fall/Winter Term be received by students in all courses prior to the final withdrawal date from a course without receiving a grade.
• Important University Sessional Dates (you will find classes and exams start/end dates, reading/co-curricular week, add/drop deadlines, holidays, University closings and more.
http://www.registrar.yorku.ca/enrol/dates/index.htm

• "20% Rule"
No examinations or tests collectively worth more than 20% of the final grade in a course will be given during the final 14 calendar days of classes in a term. The exceptions to the rule are classes, which regularly meet Friday evenings or on Saturday and/or Sunday at any time, and courses offered in the compressed summer terms.

Many courses utilize Moodle, York University’s course website system. If your course is using Moodle, click here to access it.
Moodle @ York University