EXPANDED COURSE DESCRIPTION
MUSIC
School of the Arts, Media, Performance and Design
Music Department
FA / MUSI 4556 3.0 SECTION A
GOSPEL CHOIR
FALL 2019 / WINTER 2020

Last Modified Date: 09/17/2019

COURSE CALENDAR DESCRIPTION
Explores gospel choral music repertoire and performance techniques. Prerequisites: Permission of the Instructor, 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)
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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Section / Format / Term</th>
<th>Contact Email</th>
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<tr>
<td>Burke, Karen M</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 2019/2020
Course Director: 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

Special Features

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.

Topics and Concepts

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 each term
- Memorized Lyrics
- PowerUp Volunteer Hours – Term II

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 also 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.

Learning Outcomes with Examples

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

Graded Assessment

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/Volunteer Hours 40%
Senior Ensembles 10%
Concert Reports/Off-Site Performance Opp. (OSPO) 10%
Vocal Evaluations 30%
Leadership/Participation/Volunteer Hours 10%
TOTAL 100%

Note: Students that make regular class attendance a priority will be the most successful in this course. Period. Instructions and examples for how to properly prepare assignments are presented each class. Sign-ups for evaluations also occur in class.

Additional Information

Performances and Dress Rehearsals
Attendance at these events is mandatory and final performances are equivalent to the final exam in any course. All dress rehearsals are mandatory for participation in concerts. **NOTE: All notes regarding concert dress rehearsal/performance absences must be filed by October 1 and January 21 respectively.**

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. Noncompliance 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 black York apparel.

**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 are scheduled to begin on November 11, 2019 and the 2nd term’s vocal evaluations are scheduled to begin on March 16, 2020.**

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! Official sign-ups begin Oct. 22.

**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. Senior Students are especially expected to model preparedness and provide musical support to their section.

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 – 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. Song choices must be submitted in advance to the Course Director by January 28, 2020 and the performances will take place in class on **Tuesday, March 10, 2020.**

**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. 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.

**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.**

**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 7) and for Term 2, the deadline is the last day of winter term, Monday, April 6th **before 4:00 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. However, participation in more than one OSPO 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.

Last date to drop a fall term (F) course without receiving a grade: November 8, 2019
Last date to drop a winter term (W) course without receiving a grade: March 13, 2020
Last date to drop a full year (Y) course without receiving a grade: February 3, 2020

**Academic Policies / Information**

The Senate Academic Standards, Curriculum and Pedagogy Committee (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

http://secretariat.info.yorku.ca/files/CourseInformationForStudentsAugust20121.pdf

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.

Final course grades may be adjusted to conform to Program or Faculty grades distribution profiles.
Many courses utilize Moodle, York University's course website system. If your course is using Moodle, click here to access it.

Moodle @ York University