

# MEN'S CHOIR

## MUSIC 3820/5820

**CONDUCTOR – Dr. Paul Neal**  
**ASSISTANT – Kevin Jackson**  
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**REHEARSAL – TR 3:30 – 5:00 PM**  
**LOCATION – FA 150 (TR)**

**CATALOG DESCRIPTION:** Principal ensemble for voice principals and other principals according to assignment by the Head of the Department of Music. Open to any VSU student by permission of the instructor.

**RATIONALE:** This course is the largest offering and serves as the cornerstone of the VSU Choral Department. The ensemble allows the student an opportunity to perform the highest quality of traditional choral literature from all stylistic periods. Elements of blend, balance, articulation, appropriate vocal technique, and unified musicianship are stressed.

**REQUIRED MATERIALS:**

1. No text is required.
2. Music is provided by the University. The student remains personally responsible for the condition of music once distributed. Report damage to or problems with music as soon as possible. Failure to return music when announced will result in registration holds.
3. Have a **one (1) inch, hardcover, black binder** with pockets at the conclusion of the first week of rehearsals.
4. Have a pencil **in hand** during every rehearsal.
5. **Concert Tuxedo.** Men wear standard black tuxedo, white shirt, black tie, and cummerbund. If you do not have a tux, see Dr. Neal and complete a tux order form immediately. The cost of the tux is approximately \$100. Checks payable to "VSU Foundation."

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:** Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

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1. Produce through the use of proper vocal technique, a pleasing, healthy vocal sound with proper intonation and blend within the ensemble. **DOM: 2 Use and apply appropriate theoretical and aural skills. NASM Standards: 2A (1) The ability to hear, identify, and work conceptually with the elements of music.**
2. Demonstrate in rehearsal and public performance elements of appropriate performance practice, based upon the historical and personal background of the composer and each piece performed, and the integration of these elements for an authentic performance of the work. **DOM: 4 Apply historical knowledge of activities related to music performance. NASM Standards: 2A (4) An acquaintance with a wide selection of musical literature, the principal eras, genres, and cultural sources.**
3. In rehearsal and public performance, students perform the repertoire, employing the expressive elements of joining text with music in each work performed: such as interpretation of the text, melodic direction, harmonic analyses, and other musical elements as they relate to the overall performance of

the work. **DOM: 1 Demonstrate acceptable professional level performance of ensemble literature. NASM 2A (3) An understanding of compositional processes, aesthetic properties of style, and the ways these shape and are shaped by artistic and cultural forces.**

4. Students will display expressive singing, good vocal technique, and classroom behavior as stated in the syllabus. **DOM: 1 Demonstrate acceptable professional level performance of ensemble literature.**

**EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES – DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC:** This course addresses the following Department of Music educational outcomes (from Music Education, Music Performance, the Bachelor of Arts in Music programs). Students will:

1. Demonstrate acceptable solo performance skill.
2. Meet all the standards set forth by the National Association of Schools of Music (NASM) for professional and liberal arts degrees in music.
3. Apply analytical, theoretical and historical knowledge of activities related to music performance activities.

**EVALUATION:** Over the course of the semester, student application and demonstration of the skills and knowledge in the course objectives will be noted by the instructor for each rehearsal and/or performances.

**ATTENDANCE/GRADING:**

1. Attendance is required at all rehearsals and performances. Students should plan to arrive at all rehearsal and performance commitments on time, with necessary materials. Students will be allowed THREE (3) ABSENCES for the semester. Each subsequent absence will lower the student's final average ONE FULL LETTER GRADE.
2. Three tardies equals one absence. Students are tardy as soon as Dr. Neal begins announcements. Also, early departures will be considered absences.
3. A student will be counted tardy until 15 minutes after the scheduled rehearsal time. After 15 minutes, the student will be counted absent.
4. A student who leaves a rehearsal 15 minutes or less early will be counted tardy. A student who leaves a rehearsal more than 15 minutes before the end will be counted absent.
5. During the rehearsal weeks of the concerts, NO ABSENCES will be allowed. A student absent during the week before a performance will be penalized ONE FULL LETTER GRADE.
6. Performances are class exams. A student who misses a scheduled performance WILL FAIL THE CLASS.
7. A student who accumulates seven (7) or more absences WILL NOT BE PERMITTED TO PERFORM in the concert, and WILL FAIL THE CLASS.
8. Per the attendance policy outlined above, the student will be observed each rehearsal by the instructor, who will recognize and note expressive singing, good vocal technique (correct posture, vowel formation, etc.), appropriate classroom behavior as stated below, and other rehearsal fundamentals. If the student is lacking in these areas, the instructor will take the following plan of action:
  - a. FIRST OFFENSE – Instructor will speak with the student after rehearsal with no penalty.
  - b. SECOND OFFENSE – Instructor will e-mail the student after rehearsal and one (1) tardy will be added to the date of the offense.
  - c. THIRD OFFENSE – Instructor will e-mail the student after rehearsal and one (1) tardy will be added to the date of the offense.

- d. FOURTH OFFENSE – Instructor will e-mail the student after rehearsal and one (1) absence will be added to the date of the offense.
  - e. ANY ADDITIONAL OFFENSES – same as FOURTH OFFENSE.
9. A student who “texts” with the cell-phone/blackberry/iPhone during rehearsal will automatically be counted absent for that rehearsal. If you are caught “texting” during a performance, you WILL FAIL THE CLASS.
  10. On the final scheduled class day, regular rehearsal will not occur. Instead, roll will be taken based upon each student’s completed online evaluation of the course. Any student who has not completed the online evaluation will be counted absent.

### ATTENDANCE MATRIX

THREE ABSENCES	A
FOUR ABSENCES	B
FIVE ABSENCES	C
SIX ABSENCES	D
SEVEN ABSENCES	F – a student with seven or more absences will not be allowed to perform in the final concert and WILL FAIL THE CLASS.

### ABSENCE MAKE-UP POLICY

A student with fewer than seven absences may make up one (1) absence by completing two hours of work in the Choral Office, subject to Dr. Neal’s availability and need. Only one absence may be removed under this policy. All make up work must be completed and submitted by WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4.

### CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR

1. Be on time. Be prepared to begin rehearsal promptly at 1:00 PM. Warm-ups are not optional, so all students are expected to participate. You must be in your seat and ready for announcements.
2. Have a pencil **in hand** during every rehearsal. Students are expected to retain what the instructor says, and must make as many marks as possible in the music to help them remember. “If Dr. Neal says it, you write it down.” Occasionally, a pencil check will be made – if you do not have a pencil, you will be counted tardy for that day’s rehearsal.
3. Leaving rehearsal for bathroom and water breaks is distracting for both the director and your fellow singer, so you must remain in your seat throughout the rehearsal.
4. Cellular phones, pagers, blackberries, etc. must remain silent during all rehearsals and performances.
5. Remain actively engaged in the choral rehearsal at all times. Text-messaging, completing work for other courses, studying for an upcoming exam, talking or sleeping is a distraction to both students and the conductor. There is always room for improvement in individual performance.
6. A student who is ill or otherwise unable to actively contribute to the rehearsal must notify the instructor before the beginning of rehearsal. A student unable to sing is expected to remain focused on the music during the rehearsal.

### POLICY STATEMENT ON PLAGIARISM AND CHEATING

The full text of this policy is available in the College of Education Dean's Office, EC room 227. One student forging another student's signature on the attendance roles is considered cheating by both parties. The following penalties will be enforced, as stated in the Policy:

- **FIRST OFFENSE:** Both students will be counted as "absent" for the day in question.
- **SECOND OFFENSE:** Both students will earn the letter grade "F" for the course.
- **THIRD OFFENSE:** Both students will earn the letter grade "F" for the course, and further action involving referral of the matter (with documentation) to the appropriate college (university) officials within the administrative structure will be taken. (Please also see page 39 of the VSU Student Handbook.)

### **SPECIAL NEEDS STATEMENT**

Valdosta State University is an equal opportunity educational institution. It is not the intent of the institution to discriminate against any applicant for admission or any student or employee of the institution based on the sex, race, religion, color, national origin or handicap of the individual. It is the intent of the institution to comply with the Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and subsequent executive orders as well as Title XI in Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

Students requesting classroom accommodations or modifications due to a documented disability must contact the Access Office for Students with Disabilities located in the Farber Hall. The phone numbers are 245-2498 (V/VP) and 219-1348 (TTY).