



**Arts and Communication Division**

**Course Outline**

MUS111, MUS112, MUS211, 212  
Course Number

Chamber Ensemble I, II, III, IV  
Course Title

2  
Credits

3  
Lecture

0  
Laboratory Hours

16 weeks  
Length of Semester

**Catalog Description:**

An opportunity for all interested persons who sing or play an instrument to gain further musical skill and small group experience on the college level. Students utilize their primary or secondary performance area depending upon ensemble membership. College owned instruments are available for student use.

MUS 112, 211, and 212 consist of the continuation of instrumental playing activities started in MUS 111.

Prerequisites: Previous instrumental playing experience.

**Coordinator: James Kelly**  
**Ext. 3716**

**Latest Review: Spring 2005**

A. GENERAL OBJECTIVES

1. To train students in the art of Chamber Ensemble performance.
2. To perform pieces of music from the various periods of music history that are conducive to the Chamber Ensemble medium.

B. SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

1. The Chamber Ensemble gives every student, regardless of ability, the opportunity to improve his playing by performing various pieces of music.
2. Specific areas of student performance that will be worked are: tone quality intonation, articulation, phrasing, rhythm reading and interpretation.
3. Emphasis will be given to sectional performance as well as total ensemble performance.
4. Solo performance will be offered for students who have attained the advanced skill level.
5. Students will demonstrate their skills in performances given for the college and community.
6. Students will acquire an understanding of the principles and concepts of chamber ensemble performances. They will also acquire basic conducting skills that are applicable for both the ensemble conductor and player-conductor.

C. GOALS

1. To provide students the opportunity to experience the chamber music repertoire by participating together in duets, trios, and larger ensembles appropriate for their level of ability.
2. To provide students with a "Master Class" setting in which they can critique themselves and each other in a positive, constructive manner so as to objectively evaluate their performances.
3. To provide students who have achieved a solo playing level the opportunity to work with an accompanist or accompanying group.
4. To provide students with factual knowledge of the chamber music repertoire including the composers and performance practices so they may better understand the performance and interpretive criteria.

D. REQUIREMENTS

1. Students will be asked to study and prepare at least 6 ensemble works each, and be tested on them at various times during the semester.
2. Students will be expected to practice their repertoire alone and with their respective groups both outside of class and during designated class times.
3. Students will be encouraged to attend at least one chamber ensemble concert and submit a report.

E. MATERIAL COVERED

1. At the beginning of each semester the instructor evaluates the group in terms of tone, technique, attack, phrasing, and intonation. Each semester the student is faced with different levels of skills depending on the personnel of the ensemble, and along with instructor input the student selects the pieces of literature which correspond to displaying the attributes and strengthening the weak areas. Work throughout the semester is based on improving the overall performance ability of the ensemble. Sectional rehearsals will take place at the discretion of the instructor. Here is where skill germane to either the vocal, brass, woodwind, or percussion sections is discussed and practiced.

F. TESTING AND MEASURING

Evaluation of the progress of the ensemble and of the individual is done frequently by the instructor. Students are assigned home practicing and are checked when appropriate. Attendance is an integral part of each student's evaluation. Performances by the group are considered major tests and constitute a large percentage of the final grade. Those students who use college-owned instruments and practice room facilities need to give special consideration for clearing their schedules to participate in these performances. This may involve adjusting work hours, re-arranging family activities, etc.