

# UW OSHKOSH ORCHESTRA

SYLLABUS: Fall Semester, 2008

**Dr. Rob McWilliams, Conductor**

Office: A/C N120, 424-7016 Email: mcwilrob@uwosh.edu Music Dep't: A/C N206, 424-4224

## I. PHILOSOPHY

The goal of the UWO Orchestra, in rehearsal and performance, is to achieve the highest degree possible of learning and performance excellence. It is the responsibility of the conductor and the players to be fully prepared for every rehearsal and performance. It is only through each member's willingness to prepare and perform the music to their best ability that the goals of this ensemble can be achieved.

## II. REHEARSAL SCHEDULE

Monday-Wednesday 4:10-6:10 MusicHall stage, A/C Bldg.

The schedule of rehearsal order will be posted by the beginning of each week. The instrumentation and part assignments required may vary at times according to the works being prepared. *If this is the case please check the posted weekly schedule carefully (and often!!) and be ready at the indicated times if you are not involved for the whole rehearsal.*

## III. PERFORMANCES / PLAYING TESTS

### 1) Sunday October 19th

Music Hall, 7:00 p.m.

Soundcheck, 5:30 p.m.

### 2) Thursday December 4th

Music Hall, 7:30 p.m.

Soundcheck, 6:00 p.m.

## PLAYING TESTS

#1 Sep 29 - Oct 3

#2 Nov 10 - 14

## IV. CONCERT DRESS

MEN: Black Tuxedo, white shirt, black bow tie, formal black shoes, black socks.

WOMEN: All black (long black dress - below knee - with black tights) or dress black pants, long sleeved black top, black dress shoes (no open heels).

## V. MUSIC

Each ensemble member will be assigned a folder and will be responsible for the folder and its contents. Fees will be assessed for lost folders, lost music, or damage due to lack of reasonable care or excessive marking. A grade of "incomplete" will be rendered for unreturned folders or music. Please look after our music—it's expensive stuff!

## VI. BULLETIN BOARD

The primary and most current notice board will be outside of N14. Please check this regularly and especially on rehearsal days. Some notices will be also be posted on the board outside of the conductor's office (N120).

## VII. SECTIONALS

It is expected that members will fully participate in any sectional r'ials as arranged in advance (may include some outside of class time) attendance will be treated the same as a full r'ial.

## VIII. SMALL ASSIGNMENTS

More details will be given in class. Weighting: up to 15% of total grade.

## IX. ATTENDANCE AND GRADING POLICY

- \* Attendance at all rehearsals by all members of the ensemble is fundamental to achieving the maximum musical growth - every absence adversely affects the potential for optimum rehearsal improvement. The following policy is therefore designed to ensure that every class member contributes fully to the ensemble for everybody's benefit.
- 1. Potential conflicts with rehearsal times or concert dates as notified on this syllabus must be submitted IN WRITING to the conductor no later than the first rehearsal of the second full week of the semester.** The nature and frequency of conflicts will be evaluated to determine participation in the ensemble. Conflicts that result in an unsatisfactory degree of participation will result in forced withdrawal from the class.
  - 2. The only excusable absences are:**
    - a) **illness** that prevents you from attending any classes (to be documented with submission of a doctor's excuse on return after the absence), or
    - b) **medical or other emergency** in your **immediate family**.
- \* **To have an absence under either of the above guidelines counted as "excused" you must:**
- i) **call in the absence to the conductor (@424-7016 and leave a message if the office is unattended) or email to: mcwilrob@uwosh.edu** as soon as you know you will not be attending— i.e. in advance (except in emergency situations) **AND**
  - ii) **submit all necessary written documentation to the conductor no later than the first rehearsal after the absence** (attendance/tardy forms will be available at rehearsals and, if applicable, you must bring a copy of the doctor's excuse that can be filed with the form).
- \* For the first two unexcused absences the course grade will be lowered half a grade for each absence. Every unexcused absence after the second one results in the course grade being lowered by one whole grade for each absence. **Three or more unexcused absences will result in a review of the right to remain in the ensemble and can lead to dismissal from the class and a failing grade.** An unexcused absence from a soundcheck, concert or performance will be deemed to equal three unexcused absences.
- 3. It is expected that members of this ensemble will be fully prepared on their individual music for every rehearsal and performance.** Playing tests on the music currently being rehearsed are advised on this syllabus or may be called at any time with reasonable advance notice. Over the course of the semester the total of any playing tests called can count for up to 50% of the course grade. It is the member's responsibility to sign up for a test time from those posted or to make arrangements with the conductor for an alternative time. Failure to make arrangements and complete a playing test will result in a zero score for that test.

## X. TARDINESS POLICY

The professional habit of arriving early for rehearsal and warming up is the expected behavior. **At the very minimum, rehearsals should begin on time with everyone present.** Therefore, attendance will be taken at the beginning of every rehearsal. Students arriving after rehearsal has commenced **must** speak with the conductor at the end of rehearsal and fill out an absence/tardy form. Failure to do this will result in the student being marked absent & unexcused for the rehearsal. Tardies can only be "excused" for emergency reasons which must be documented in writing at the end of the rehearsal. Every two unexcused tardies = one unexcused absence.