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| **A Cappella Choir (MULB 1801-500 & 5171-501)** |
| **Syllabus | Fall 2025** |
| **Allen Hightower, Director of Choral Studies** Allen.Hightower@unt.eduOffice: MU 218936-714-1220 (Mobile) | **Dong Hyun Kang, A Cappella Choir Associate Conductor**DongHyunKang@my.unt.eduOffice: MU 217410-340-0015 |
| **Office Hours:** By Appointment | **Rehearsal Times and Location:**1:00 PM – 1:50 PM Monday/Wednesday/Friday in 230Tuesday/Thursday in 232 |

**Course Objects:**

This course partially fulfills the MULB ensemble requirement for degree programs within the College of Music. Through the preparation and performance of excellent choral literature, the A Cappella Choir experience is designed to deepen a student’s musical understanding, develop ensemble skills, and prepare them for lives as productive citizens.

**Standard Uniform:**

**Sopranos & Altos**: Official A Cappella Dress, and Pearls, Hose, Black Shoes

**Tenors & Basses**: Official A Cappella Suit, Shirt, Tie, Black Socks, Black Shoes

Any exceptions to the official uniform expectations should be requested through a scheduled meeting with Dong Hyun and Dr. Hightower.

**Both:** The choir uniform should be neatly pressed and tastefully hemmed for all performances.

**Personal expressions of jewelry:** In order to create the most uniform look within the choir, we will not wear non-uniform necklaces, earrings, nose rings, or jewelry displayed through other piercings in performance.

**Hair:** Long hair should be neatly pulled back away from the face.Hair color should be among those colors that appear in nature. Colors such as pink and purple do not enhance the uniformity of the ensemble’s appearance. Please consider the look of the ensemble.

**Materials:**

* You will provide your own tablet or black rehearsal folder for your rehearsal music.
* Music will be provided as a hard copy and/or shared electronically as needed.
* Have a pencil at each rehearsal to mark all musical information.
* Bring all of your assigned music to each rehearsal and performance.
* We will provide official A Cappella Choir binders for performance.

**Course Content:**

The UNT A Cappella Choir is a laboratory course for the development of advanced ensemble skills for vocalists. Students will experience significant choral repertoire, improve musicianship skills, and learn ensemble discipline in a collaborative setting. The singers and the conductors share equally in the responsibility of preparing for each rehearsal. Through intentional preparation and with a positive sense of expectation, the high standards and goals for this choral organization can be accomplished.

**Methods of Assessing Ensemble Member’s Progress:**

1. Rehearsals
2. Performances
3. Section Rehearsals
4. Individual singing demonstrations of assigned repertoire
5. Successfully singing off music to be memorized

**Course Requirements:**

1. A Cappella Choir members are expected to come to each rehearsal prepared to sing their part alone. This will require the singer to spend time outside the rehearsal securing the pitches and rhythms of the assigned choral repertoire.
2. A Cappella Choir rehearsals are for the express purpose of refining the music and for the development of the choir as a whole. These rehearsals are not for teaching the singers their notes.
3. **Grand Chorus Commitment: A Cappella Choir is the flagship ensemble of UNT and has the privilege to perform some of the greatest choral masterworks in the repertoire. As a member of A Cappella you are required to perform in Grand Chorus, and attend scheduled rehearsals and performances. There will be specified Tuesday evening rehearsals in the spring semester in addition to the two dress rehearsals with the Symphony Orchestra. See the schedule below.**

**Attendance and Grading Policy:**

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| * **Attendance:** There is no differentiation between excused and unexcused absences. Your final grade is not lowered for the first 4 absences. For each subsequent absence, your semester grade is reduced by a full letter grade. Two tardies are considered 1 absence.
* **Repertoire Preparation Exams:** There will be periodic singing tests administered by Dong Hyun. You will be required to sing-off the assigned music until you pass the standard of preparation.
* **Semester Grade: Attendance (rehearsal and concert) will constitute 75% of the final grade and Repertoire Preparation Exams constitute 25% of the final grade.**
* Dr. Hightower begins rehearsal at exactly 1:00 p.m. If you enter after he has begun, you are considered tardy to rehearsal. Section Leaders are to record a tardy for any student not in the rehearsal room when warm-ups begin at 1:00 pm. The Section Leader is not to judge the reason for the tardy, but simply to record the tardy.
* If there are extenuating circumstances that caused the tardy, please see Dr. Hightower immediately following the rehearsal.
* Parking can be difficult at UNT. Plan accordingly. I35 is a terror. Plan accordingly.
* Please help your other professors be sensitive to releasing you on time, so that you can reach A Cappella Choir rehearsal in a timely manner. Sometimes this requires a conversation with your private lesson teacher or professor. It is the student’s job to arrive to class on time. Your professor or coach may not monitor the time carefully, thus you must.
* Be highly communicative with Dr. Hightower and Dong Hyun about any tardies or absences. The responsibility is yours to initiate the communication. You can directly email Dong Hyun as soon as you know that you will be late or absent from rehearsal. The music professional always seeks to work well in advance and communicate with others in anticipation of conflicts. Be proactive.
* Because we continue to live and move and have our being in a post-pandemic world, there will be unique considerations given to covid-19 illnesses. You should not attend a rehearsal or other choir obligation if doing so violates the prescribed protocols of the University of North Texas.
* Absences for covid-19 will not count against you if you communicate with us and present appropriate documentation of your diagnosis. If a student is absent 5 or more times before a performance or has not passed the performance examination for that concert, the student will not be afforded the privilege to perform in the concert, and those points will be deducted from the final grade.
* Our attendance policy as the flagship choral ensemble at UNT is based upon the highest expectation of an honor system. If you are healthy and able to attend a rehearsal, we anticipate that you will be there in a timely fashion, ready to rehearse.
* If you are well enough to attend rehearsal but for some reason need to sit out and not sing, please request this of Dr. Hightower prior to the rehearsal. Don’t simply sit out without a conversation with Dr. Hightower.
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* **Cell phones** should not be out during the scheduled rehearsal period. If a member is found to be using a mobile device during rehearsal, they may be asked to leave the rehearsal, and will lose credit for that day’s rehearsal. This can result in the lowering of the final grade by one complete letter. This is common courtesy. Do not be on your phone during rehearsal.
* **Tablet in Rehearsal:** For singers utilizing a device to read their music, it is understood that you will only have your music on the screen during our rehearsal. Using the device anything other than our rehearsal process is inappropriate. Do not monitor email or texts during rehearsal.
* **Missing a Dress Rehearsal:** Missing a dress rehearsal will negatively impact your grade by a full letter grade.
* **Missing a Performance:** Missing a performance can result in failure for the course for the semester.

**UNT Choral Studies Calendar for 2025-2026**

**Fall 2025**

August 11–14: Audition week (Call backs August 15 AC/August 16 US and CC)

August 18: First day of classes

August 23: US/CC retreats off campus

September 5: Chorale and Camerata retreats on campus 5–9 pm (230/232/Recital Hall/VH)

September 6: AC retreat off campus

September 20: dress rehearsals in MPAC 9–4 pm (all choirs except US)

10-11 am Chorale 11:15-12:15 pm CC

12:30-1:00 pm Camerata 1:45-2:45 pm AC

September 23: Vox rehearses with BO 4:15-5:00

September 24: UpFront! Concert Rotation 1 3:15 pm Voertman

September 26: Choral Fest 7:30 pm in MPAC

6:20-6:50 pm CC in IRR 6:20-6:50 pm CAM in Lyric 6:20-7 pm US on stage

6:50-7:20 pm AC/Vox in IRR 6:50-7:20 pm CH in Lyric

3-4 pm Vox

September 30: Vox rehearses with BO 4:15-5:00

October 2: Vox rehearses with BO 4:15-5:00

October 3: Dress rehearsal Vox/BO 6–10 pm VH

October 4: Vox/BO concert 8 pm in VH

October 7: AC High School Invitational 7:30 pm in MPAC (dress 4–7 pm)

October 22: UpFront! Concert Rotation 2 3:15 pm Voertman

October 31: US pre-NCCO concert at St. Andrew’s 6:30 pm

November 5–7: US performance at NCCO conference (depart 11/5 am, perform 11/6, return 11/7)

November 6–8: US performance at NCCO conference

November 10: dress rehearsals US/CAM 12–3 pm in MPAC (12–1:30 CAM/1:30–3 US)

November 11: Vox rehearses with BO 4:15–5 pm

November 11: US/CAM concert 7:30 pm in MPAC

November 12: UpFront! Rotation 3 concert 3:15 pm

November 14: Dress Rehearsal AC 7–9 pm in MPAC

November 15: AC concert 7:30 pm in MPAC

November 17: CC/CH dress rehearsal 12–3 pm MPAC (12–1:30 CH/1:30–3 CC)

November 18: Vox rehearses with BO 4:15–5 pm

November 18: CC/CH concert 7:30 pm in MPAC

November 20: Vox/BO dress rehearsal 6–10 pm VH

November 21: Vox/BO concert 8 pm in VH

November 24–28: University closed for Thanksgiving break

December 2: Sounds of the Holidays rehearsal 6–9pm

December 4: Sounds of the Holidays rehearsal 6–9pm

December 5: Sounds of the Holidays for all choirs 7:30 pm

**Spring 2026**

January 7–10: Tentative AC tour

February 3: Black History Month showcase dress 6–8 pm VH

February 5: Black History Month showcase 8 pm VH

February 10: Vox rehearses with BO 4:15–5 pm

February 11–14: TMEA

February 17: US/CC Dress Rehearsal with WO 1–1:50 pm MPAC;

Vox rehearses with BO 4:15–5 pm

February 19: US/CC Concert with WO 7:30 MPAC (6:30 call time)

February 19: Vox/BO Dress 6–10 pm VH

February 20: Vox/BO Concert 8 pm VH

February 23-24: Graduate Choral Conducting Auditions

February 26: US/CC Dress with WO 2–2:50 pm MPAC (Jake residency?)

February 27: CBNDA performance with WO/US/CC 7:30 pm MPAC (5:30 pm call time)

February 28: AC performance in VH 12–12:30 pm

March 3: AC pre-SWACDA performance, 7:30 pm MPAC

March 4–7: SWACDA performance AC, Albuquerque

March 9–13: Spring Break

March 17: US/CC Dress with WO 1–1:50 pm MPAC (if needed)

March 19: US/CC Dress with WO 2–2:50 pm MPAC

March 23: US Dress 12–1:30; CC Dress 1:30–3 pm MPAC

March 24: CC Concert (with WO and US special guests) 7:30 pm MPAC (6:30 call time)

March 27: AC Dress 1–3 pm MPAC; US dress 3–5 pm MPAC

March 27: US Concert (with New Haven trio special guests) 7:30 pm MPAC

March 28: AC Concert 7:30 pm MPAC

March 31: \*GC Rehearsal 6–9 pm sectionals 230/RH; Vox rehearses with BO 4:15–5 pm

April 6: CAM/CH Dress 12–3 pm; concert 7:30 pm MPAC

April 7: \*GC Rehearsal 6–9 pm 230/RH; Vox rehearses with BO 4:15–5 pm

April 9: Vox/BO Dress 6–10 pm VH

April 10: Vox/BO Concert 8 pm CH

April 14: \*GC Rehearsal 6–9 pm RH

April 20: \*GC Dress 7–10 pm MPAC

April 21: \*GC Dress 7–10 pm MPAC

April 22: \*GC Concert 7:30 pm MPAC

**\*All students enrolled in A Cappella, University Singers, and Concert Choir are required to participate in Grand Chorus.**

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**UNT Course Syllabi Information**

**For complete information on course syllabi requirements, please see the** [university's policy](https://policy.unt.edu/policy/06-049).

**(**<https://policy.unt.edu/policy/06-049> **)**

**In addition to the information below, course syllabi should minimally include the following information:**

* Course Title and Course Number
* Course Objectives
* Instructor Office Hours
* Attendance Expectations
* Grading Criteria
* Statement on timely return of student work, particularly final exams or final projects
* Statement that students should not schedule their end-of-semester jury against a regularly scheduled class
* For Faculty, Teaching Fellows and Adjuncts:
	+ All undergraduate syllabi for lecture courses are required by law to be available to the public. **At UNT, undergraduate syllabi for lecture courses should be uploaded into the Faculty Information System by the 7th class day.**
		- To access the Faculty Information System, go to your my.unt home page. Under the Faculty Tab, click on Faculty Information System.
	+ UNT requires that all graduate course syllabi to be uploaded into FIS.

***Rather than including the text for the information below, it is also an option to include the links in course syllabi and review the information on the first day of class.***

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

Students caught cheating or plagiarizing will receive a "0" for that particular assignment or exam [or specify alternative sanction, such as course failure]. Additionally, the incident will be reported to the Dean of Students (Office of Academic Integrity), who may impose further penalty. According to the UNT catalog, the term “cheating" includes, but is not limited to: a. use of any unauthorized assistance in taking quizzes, tests, or examinations; b. dependence upon the aid of sources beyond those authorized by the instructor in writing papers, preparing reports, solving problems, or carrying out other assignments; c. the acquisition, without permission, of tests or other academic material belonging to a faculty or staff member of the university; d. dual submission of a paper or project, or resubmission of a paper or project to a different class without express permission from the instructor(s); or e. any other act designed to give a student an unfair advantage. The term “plagiarism” includes, but is not limited to: a. the knowing or negligent use by paraphrase or direct quotation of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgment; and b. the knowing or negligent unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or agency engaged in the selling of term papers or other academic materials.

See: [Academic Integrity](https://policy.unt.edu/policy/06-003)

LINK: <https://policy.unt.edu/policy/06-003>

**STUDENT BEHAVIOR**

Student behavior that interferes with an instructor’s ability to conduct a class or other students' opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor may refer the student to the Dean of Students to consider whether the student's conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The university's expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including university and electronic classrooms, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc.

See: [Student Code of Conduct](https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct)

Link: <https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct>

**ACCESS TO INFORMATION – EAGLE CONNECT**

Your access point for business and academic services at UNT occurs at [my.unt.edu](http://my.unt.edu/). All official communication from the university will be delivered to your Eagle Connect account. For more information, please visit the website that explains Eagle Connect.

See: [Eagle Connect](http://eagleconnect.unt.edu/)

LINK:  [eagleconnect.unt.edu/](http://eagleconnect.unt.edu/)

**ODA STATEMENT**

The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Access (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with an accommodation letter. You can now request your Letters of Accommodation ONLINE and ODA will mail your Letters of Accommodation to your instructors. You may wish to begin a private discussion with your professors regarding your specific needs in a course. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester. For additional information see the Office of Disability Access.

See: [ODA](https://disability.unt.edu/)

LINK: [disability.unt.edu](http://disability.unt.edu/). (Phone: (940) 565-4323)

**Health and Safety Information**

Students can access information about health and safety at: <https://music.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness>

**Registration Information for Students**

See: [Registration Information](https://registrar.unt.edu/students)

Link: <https://registrar.unt.edu/students>

**Academic Calendar, Fall 2025**

See: [Fall 2025 Registration Information](https://registrar.unt.edu/registration/fall-academic-calendar.html)

Link: <https://registrar.unt.edu/registration/fall-academic-calendar.html>

**Final Exam Schedule, Fall 2025**

See above

**Financial Aid and Satisfactory Academic Progress**

Undergraduates

A student must maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) to continue to receive financial aid.  Students must maintain a minimum 2.0 cumulative GPA in addition to successfully completing a required number of credit hours based on total hours registered.   Students cannot exceed attempted credit hours above 150% of their required degree plan.  If a student does not maintain the required standards, the student may lose their financial aid eligibility.

Students holding music scholarships must maintain a minimum 2.5 overall cumulative GPA and 3.0 cumulative GPA in music courses.

If at any point you consider dropping this or any other course, please be advised that the decision to do so may have the potential to affect your current and future financial aid eligibility. It is recommended that you to schedule a meeting with an academic advisor in your college or visit the Student Financial Aid and Scholarships office to discuss dropping a course before doing so.

See: [Financial Aid](http://financialaid.unt.edu/sap)

LINK: <http://financialaid.unt.edu/sap>

Graduates

A student must maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) to continue to receive financial aid. Students must maintain a minimum 3.0 cumulative GPA in addition to successfully completing a required number of credit hours based on total registered hours per term. Music scholarships require a 3.5 cumulative GPA. Students cannot exceed maximum timeframes established based on the published length of the graduate program.  If a student does not maintain the required standards, the student may lose their financial aid eligibility.

If at any point you consider dropping this or any other course, please be advised that the decision to do so may have the potential to affect your current and future financial aid eligibility. It is recommended you schedule a meeting with an academic advisor in your college, an advisor in UNT-International or visit the Student Financial Aid and Scholarships office to discuss dropping a course.

See: [Financial Aid](http://financialaid.unt.edu/sap)

LINK: <http://financialaid.unt.edu/sap>

**RETENTION OF STUDENT RECORDS**

Student records pertaining to this course are maintained in a secure location by the instructor of record. All records such as exams, answer sheets (with keys), and written papers submitted during the duration of the course are kept for at least one calendar year after course completion. Course work completed via the Canvas online system, including grading information and comments, is also stored in a safe electronic environment for one year. You have a right to view your individual record; however, information about your records will not be divulged to other individuals without the proper written consent. You are encouraged to review the Public Information Policy and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) laws and the university’s policy in accordance with those mandates.

See: [FERPA](http://ferpa.unt.edu/)

Link: <http://ferpa.unt.edu/>

**COUNSELING AND TESTING**

UNT’s Center for Counseling and Testing has an available counselor for students in need. Please visit the Center’s website for further information:

See: [Counseling and Testing](http://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services)

Link: <http://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services>.

For more information on mental health resources, please visit:

See:  [Mental Health Resources](https://disparities.unt.edu/mental-health-resources)

Link: <https://disparities.unt.edu/mental-health-resources>

**ADD/DROP POLICY**

Please be reminded that dropping classes or failing to complete and pass registered hours may make you ineligible for financial aid. In addition, if you drop below half-time enrollment you may be required to begin paying back your student loans. See Academic Calendar (listed above) for additional add/drop Information.

Drop Information: <https://registrar.unt.edu/registration/fall-academic-calendar.html>

**STUDENT RESOURCES**

The University of North Texas has many resources available to students. For a complete list, go to:

See: [Student Resources](https://success.unt.edu/aa-sa-resources)

Link: <https://success.unt.edu/aa-sa-resources>

**CARE TEAM**

The Care Team is a collaborative interdisciplinary committee of university officials that meets regularly to provide a response to student, staff, and faculty whose behavior could be harmful to themselves or others.

See: [Care Team](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/care-team)

Link: <https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/care-team>