

UMBC UGC New Course Request: MUSC 122: Gospel Choir

Date Submitted: 4/3/20

Proposed Effective Date: Spring 2021

	Name	Email	Phone	Dept
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Other Contact	Janice Jackson	jackson@umbc.edu	x53520	Music

COURSE INFORMATION:

Course Number(s)	MUSC 122
Formal Title	Gospel Choir
Transcript Title (≤30c)	Gospel Choir
Recommended Course Preparation	MUSC 170, MUSC 171, and/or MUSC 173
Prerequisite NOTE: Unless otherwise indicated, a prerequisite is assumed to be passed with a "D" or better.	none
# of Credits Must adhere to the UMBC Credit Hour Policy	1
Repeatable for additional credit?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Max. Total Credits	10 <small>This should be equal to the number of credits for courses that cannot be repeated for credit. For courses that may be repeated for credit, enter the maximum total number of credits a student can receive from this course. E.g., enter 6 credits for a 3 credit course that may be taken a second time for credit, but not for a third time. Please note that this does NOT refer to how many times a class may be retaken for a higher grade.</small>
Grading Method(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reg (A-F) <input type="checkbox"/> Audit <input type="checkbox"/> Pass-Fail

PROPOSED CATALOG DESCRIPTION (Approximately 75 words in length. Please use full sentences.):

This class affords students instruction in sacred music from the African American heritage. The course will provide an introduction to and study of a variety of musical styles including traditional and contemporary gospel, spirituals, and hymns. Vocal technique is part of the class structure and some vocal instruction will be given. Basic music reading will be taught as well. The ability to read music is not required but is highly recommended.

RATIONALE FOR NEW COURSE:

a) Why is there a need for this course at this time?

This course would fill a curricular need as a preparatory course for upper level choral reading ensembles. Many choral singers are taught by rote in high school, and this course would allow for choral music participation without the music reading skills our other ensembles require, while preparing those students to join our 300-level reading ensembles.

b) How often is the course likely to be taught?

Every semester, beginning in Fall 2020

c) How does this course fit into your department's curriculum?

This course would prepare students interested in the music minor who cannot currently read music well enough to enroll in 300-level ensembles, which require an audition/placement to ensure that their music reading skills are adequate. Those students who are not prepared adequately would be advised into MUSC 122.

- d) What primary student population will the course serve?
This course is available for anyone interested in taking it.
- e) Why is the course offered at the level (ie. 100, 200, 300, or 400 level) chosen?
It is a 100-level course because music reading is not required.
- f) Explain the appropriateness of the recommended course preparation(s) and prerequisite(s).
Although music reading is not required, it is encouraged. The recommended course preparation courses provide additional experience in rudimentary music reading as it applies to choral singing.
- g) Explain the reasoning behind the P/F or regular grading method.
The grading method is letter-based to encourage full attendance.
- h) Provide a justification for the repeatability of the course.
This course is repeatable for credit, in line with the Music Department's other ensembles.

ATTACH COURSE SYLLABUS (mandatory)

MUSC 122 Gospel Choir

**Wednesdays, 9:00-10:30pm
Concert Hall, PAHB**

Instructor: Janice Jackson

Office: PAHB Room 255

Office Hours: by appointment

Phone: 410-455-3520

Email: jackson@umbc.edu

COURSE OVERVIEW

This class affords students instruction in sacred music from the African American heritage. The course will provide an introduction to and study of a variety of musical styles including traditional and contemporary gospel, spirituals, and hymns. Vocal technique is part of the class structure and some vocal instruction will be given. Basic music reading will be taught as well. It is recommended that you take MUSC 170 and 171 (Beginning and Intermediate Voice Class), along with this course. MUSC 173 Intro to Choral Singing is also recommended to students to improve their vocal and sight singing skills.

The ability to read music is not required but is highly recommended.

CLASS PREPARATION

Students will be responsible for having a black binder containing assorted choir information as well as music and lyrics. Scores of music to be performed can be purchased from the instructor. Students are expected to bring a pencil and their binders to every rehearsal and all performances.

ENGAGEMENTS/PERFORMANCES

Engagements and performances are, in part, the reason why we rehearse. All engagements/performances are mandatory. Special circumstances must be communicated to Mrs. Jackson in advance. There will be no more than 6 performances per semester.

GRADING

Your grade in Gospel Choir is based on your attendance, preparation, and positive contributions to the ensemble. All absences in choir must be excused in order not to affect the student's grade. Excused absences are given for death in the immediate family, personal illness, or other serious reasons. For illness or other excusable absences, you need to bring documentation/proof as to the reason for your absence from a doctor, funeral director, etc. The instructor has the final say in excusing any absence.

Tardies

3 unexcused tardies = one unexcused absence. After the third unexcused tardy your grade will drop by one letter grade.

Unexcused Absences

You have two unexcused absences that you may use at your discretion.

Subsequent absences will result in the lowering of your final grade by one letter grade.

3 Unexcused Absences = B

4 Unexcused Absences = C

5 Unexcused Absences = D

STATEMENT OF ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Integrity in a music performance class involves different issues than in a traditional college course, as these classes do not involve the usual quizzes and exams to determine one's grade. Integrity for a musician involves arriving on time for rehearsal already warmed up and ready to perform at one's best. It also means that you have adhered to a regular practice schedule (as determined by you and your instructor), and have prepared all the music for that week to the absolute best of your ability.

Practice room access is available in the music office.

TITLE IX

Disclosures of Sexual Misconduct and Child Abuse or Neglect

As an instructor, I am considered a *Responsible Employee* per UMBC's Policy of Prohibited Sexual Misconduct, Interpersonal Violence, and Other Related Misconduct. While my goal is for you to be able to share information related to your life experiences through discussion and written work, I want to be transparent that as a Responsible Employee I am required to report disclosures of sexual assault, domestic violence, relationship violence, stalking, and/or gender-based harassment to the University's Title IX Coordinator.

Additionally, I also have a mandatory obligation to report disclosures of or suspected instances of child abuse or neglect.

The purpose of these reporting requirements is for the University to inform you of options, supports, and resources; you will not be forced to file a report with the police. Further, you are able to receive supports and resources, even if you choose to not want any action taken. Please note that in certain situations, based on the nature of the disclosure, the University may need to take action.

If you need to speak with someone in confidence about an incident, UMBC has the following Confidential Resources available to support you:

The Counseling Center: 410-455-2472

University Health Services: 410-455-2542

After-hours counseling and care available by calling Campus Police at 410-455-5555

Other on-campus supports and resources:

The Women's Center, 410-455-2714

(for students of all genders, identities, and expressions)

Title IX Coordinator, 410-455-1606

POLICY FOR USE OF ELECTRONIC DEVICES

NO ELECTRONIC DEVICES TURNED ON. As musicians, focus, deep concentration, and careful listening are essential to our craft. This is impossible to attain when attention is shared with a phone, computer, or another electronic device. In addition, when these devices are on it impedes optimal learning for all those around you.

If you are observed by a faculty member with a device turned on without the guidance of, or requirement by, a music professor during a class, a rehearsal, a performance, or backstage in the recital hall during a performance, you will not receive attendance credit for that class/rehearsal/performance (that is, you will receive a grade of "zero," which will also impact any related grading criteria, such as participation, etc.).