

McLennan  
C O M M U N I T Y  
C O L L E G E

WACO, TEXAS

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**COURSE SYLLABUS  
AND  
INSTRUCTOR PLAN**

**Chorale**

**MUEN 1141 01**

Dr. Bonnie Borshay Sneed

**NOTE: This is a 16-week course.**

## *Who are we in the MCC Chorale?*

You are coming to MCC, first and foremost, to get an excellent education which will prepare you for your next higher educational experience and/or for a career/job.

But we believe in these **Core Values** as part of the MCC community. Welcome to a great year!

[modified version of the College's **Core Values** as prepared in Summer 2018]

- Relationships – We will be honest, humble, respectful, and gracious to each other. We best serve each other when we work as a team instead of in isolation.
- Inclusiveness – As an institution that welcomes diversity in all aspects, we will first seek to understand one another. We will be open-minded and actively seek differing perspectives in deliberation and decision-making. We will welcome all those who wish to be part of our community.
- Integrity – We will work with the highest level of integrity in all that we do. We will seek to be fair and unbiased in our decision-making and actions. Remember, that integrity means doing the right thing, NO MATTER WHAT!
- Transparency – We will be transparent, open, and courageous in our communication. We will communicate decisions and the reasons for with each other.
- Excellence – As musicians, you already know this. We will strive for excellence in all that we do, taking responsibility for all of our actions. We will actively seek new and better ways to work.

*If this is your first time in an MCC Choir, know that you are stepping into a tradition of excellence, dedication, and fun! Our choral program is designed to prepare and educate students for a lifetime of singing. Having conducted high school and college choirs for over twenty years, I bring a unique perspective on the choral art, and can prepare singers well for the various auditions, competitions and performances ahead. Stated in the pages that follow, the expectations of membership are clearly detailed for the MCC singers. Our hope is that many students will be interested in exploring their singing abilities, and that they will find increased opportunities to fit choir into their schedules.*

### ***Our GOAL:***

***Enhance and improve the student's choral experience and prepare him/her for a lifetime of singing***

#### **Course Description:**

Any major choral group, campus choir, chorus, or swing choir. Provides the opportunity for the study and performance of music in large and small ensembles. These courses are open through audition to all students but are strongly recommended for all music majors and minors in their area of primary emphasis. Semester Hour 1 (3 lec/3 lab)

#### **Prerequisites and/or Corequisites:**

None. Students must audition for this group and be able to read music, sing on pitch, and sing in foreign languages.

#### **Course Notes and Instructor Recommendations:**

Students will be successful through daily attendance and practice of their repertoire. Rehearsal and Performance attendance is required.

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Department **Recitals** will be held on certain dates during the semester and may fall within the rehearsal times of Band and Choir. We will, as a class, attend these recitals to be part of the MCC Music Community of musicians and to support our fellow singers and instrumentalists. We will have rehearsal before and after these recitals as time permits in our regular rehearsal day schedule. These recitals are not opportunities for students to miss a rehearsal.

\*\*\*Failure to arrive at performances in the correct attire will result in a FULL GRADE DEDUCTION\*\*\*

**Instructor Information:**

Instructor Name: Dr. Bonnie Borshay Sneed

MCC E-mail: bsneed@mclennan.edu

Office Phone Number: 254-299-8275

Office Location: BPAC 100

Office/Teacher Conference Hours: TBA

Other Instruction Information: Like us on Facebook: SING AT MCC, Instagram SingatMcc, and read about the conductor at: <https://sites.google.com/site/bbsneed4>

**Required Text & Materials:**

Music is provided. Concert dress is required for all performances. All singers must be present and on-time in complete uniform (including the shoes, socks, etc) for all performances. Failure to do so will result in a lowering of the grade for the performance. Music is provided, but if it is lost, then the student is required to pay a \$35.00 missing music fee. A hold will be placed on the student's account until the music is returned or the payment is made.

**We don't want your money; just don't lose the music!**

Uniforms:

**Tenors and Basses: black tuxes, white shirt, black bowtie  
black socks and black shoes  
Plan NOW to have your tux!!**

Sopranos and Altos:

**Long black dresses will be assigned and borrowed for each semester.** (\$75 replacement fee)

Be sure to have the hem checked with the shoes you will be wearing. DON'T CUT THE FABRIC!!!

Black shoes, with NO HEELS in excess of 2 inches are required.

No athletic shoes, flip flops or sandals are allowed.

Hair is off the shoulders, and no big jewelry.

**MCC Bookstore Website:** <http://www.mclennan.edu/bookstore/>

**Student Support/Resources:**

MCC provides a variety of services to support student success in the classroom and in your academic pursuits to include counseling, tutors, technology help desk, advising, financial aid, etc. A listing of these and the many other services available to our students is available at <http://www.mclennan.edu/campus-resource-guide/>

College personnel recognize that food, housing, and transportation are essential for student success. If you are having trouble securing these resources, we encourage you to contact a success coach by calling (254) 299-8226. Students can visit the Completion Center Monday-Friday from 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. to meet with a success coach and receive additional resources and support to help reach academic and personal goals. Paulanne's Pantry (MCC's food pantry) is open 12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m., Monday-Friday, without an appointment. The Completion Center and pantry are located on the Second Floor of the Student Services Center (SSC).

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### **Minimum Technical Skills:**

Students should have basic computer skills, knowledge of word processing software, and a basic understanding of how to use search engines and common web browsers.

### **Backup Plan for Technology:**

In the event MCC's technology systems are down, you will be contacted/notified through your MCC student email address. Please note that all assignments and activities will be due on the date specified in the Instructor Plan, unless otherwise noted by the instructor.

\* [Click Here for the Minimum System Requirements to Utilize MCC's D2L|Brightspace](http://www.mclennan.edu/center-for-teaching-and-learning/teaching-commons/requirements)

([www.mclennan.edu/center-for-teaching-and-learning/teaching-commons/requirements](http://www.mclennan.edu/center-for-teaching-and-learning/teaching-commons/requirements))

Click on the link above for information on the minimum system requirements needed to reliably access your courses in MCC's D2L|Brightspace learning management system.

### **Methods of Teaching and Learning:**

Lecture, rehearsal and performance. Participation and attendance are a significant portion of this course.

#### Rehearsal/Participation Expectations (51% of the grade) – this includes Dress Rehearsals

- On time to rehearsal means EARLY – no leaving early or going in and out
- Music Folder and Pencil are ALWAYS present – use them
- Take notes and Practice OUTSIDE OF REHEARSAL
- Demonstrate excellent posture and vocal technique
- Respect each other and improve as a Singer
- Drink Water – bring a bottle to class
- Absolutely NO hairspray, perfume or cologne
- NO cell phones, NO whining

#### Performance Expectations (49% of the grade) – this includes Dress Rehearsals

- On time for dress rehearsal and performance call means EARLY
- Memorization is complete and music in the folder, if needed, is present
- Dress rehearsal does NOT mean come in your uniform – it means we run the entire concert
- Correct uniform is in clean and well-presented condition, and all parts are present (Concert only)
- Absolutely NO hairspray, perfume or cologne
- NO cell phones, NO whining

### **Course Objectives and/or Competencies:**

To rehearse and perform a large variety of choral music from the 16th-century to recently-composed choral works; in English and a variety of foreign languages; from a cappella to accompanied major works with orchestra. This repertoire will aid in the development of your vocal and choral singing and strengthen your skills in communication, team work, critical thinking and problem-solving.

**Course Outline or Schedule:** *Occasionally, extra rehearsals or performances may occur for extenuating circumstances. Every attempt will be made to work out schedule challenges. Dates are subject to change and will be announced through email and in rehearsal. You will be given enough time to re-schedule work with your employer. Saying you have to work is **not an automatic excuse for missing a required event.***

**Students are REQUIRED to connect to the Remind app for texting purposes**

**Spring Calendar - GET AND KEEP A HARD-COPY CALENDAR/PLANNER!!!**

Important Dates

- There will be a scheduled concert during the day at some point this semester: TBA
  - Monday, April 13th: Dress Rehearsal, BPAC, 5:00 - 6:30pm
  - Friday, April 17th: Spring Concert, BPAC, 7:30 performance, Call: TBA
  - \*\*Tuesday, May 12th: Alma Mater singing at Commencement, 7:30pm, Waco Civic Center
- \*\*REQUIRED - failure to attend will result in the Spring semester grade being changed to an "F"

**Other REQUIRED Events for Music Majors:**

All student and faculty recitals. Check the departmental calendar.

**Course Grading Information:**

**Short answer? BE AT ALL REHEARSALS, ON TIME, WITH MUSIC AND A PENCIL!!**

(51% participation, 49% dress rehearsal and performances):

Everyone must attend rehearsals in order for the utmost collaboration and teamwork to occur among the singers. The choir's sound needs to be shaped and molded, and each person's unique voice contributes to the choral tone. Further, rehearsals require many markings and process-oriented activities that can only happen when the singer is present.

Performances are the final product of weeks of rehearsals, and are the only method of assessment for this portion of the grade. Students who fail to attend performances miss the opportunity to complete their own progress and prevent the entire ensemble from performing at its potential. **One cannot earn an 'A' for the semester if he/she does not attend all dress rehearsals and concerts.**

Attendance Policy – or “2 for free”

Absences are not excused or unexcused. They are simply absences.

You are not present. You cannot help your section or your choir move forward.

**Students may keep an A** in choir by having only 2 absences. On the 3rd absence the grade is a “B”.

- Rehearsals: Tardies are not a good idea. 3 tardies = 1 absence
- Missing folder or pencil = 1 tardy
- 10 minutes late = 1 absence
- Failure to participate in rehearsal = 1 absence

On the **5th absence the student may not be permitted to sing in the concerts, nor attend any further rehearsals.**

He/She may earn a "D" **ONLY IF** he/she completes a written, research paper on a composer and/or composition which will be assigned by the conductor. If the student does not complete the assignment by the last class day, the student will receive an "F" in the course. If there are extenuating circumstances, a “C” may be assigned at the discretion of the Conductor.

Students who **fail to attend dress rehearsal will not be permitted to sing in the performance**, and will earn an “F” for the semester. Students who are absent from any performance will earn an “F” for the semester.

Students will not be allowed to drop without the permission of the Conductor which includes a face-to-face scheduled appointment between the student and the Conductor. **NO STUDENTS will be allowed to drop from the course after September 5th.** This is an auditioned ensemble, and selection for the choir is an honor and a privilege.

**Scholarship students who earn a “B” will be on probation for the next semester. Those who earn a “C” will lose their scholarship for the next semester, and may have to repay it.** Extenuating circumstances must be discussed

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with the conductor within one week of the excessive absences. Failure on the part of the student to communicate in person or in writing with the Conductor will not be an excuse for earning an F in the course. ***The responsibility is on the STUDENT to communicate with the Conductor. This must be done through a face-to-face meeting.***

*The Choir is only as good as its least dedicated member. DON'T LET THAT BE YOU!*

**Late Work, Attendance, and Make Up Work Policies:**

There are no make-ups for being late, missing concerts or rehearsals.

**VPA Attendance Policy Exception for Ensembles and Production:**

\*\*\*Absence from **10%** of scheduled ensemble and production meetings/rehearsals will be taken as evidence that a student does not intend to complete the course. If this occurs prior to the 60% point of the semester, the instructor will withdraw the student from the course with an assigned grade of W. The instructor may reinstate the student if satisfied that the student will resume regular attendance and complete the course. In the event of an excused absence (illness or death in the immediate family or attendance of an MCC sponsored event), prior notification of the missed rehearsal is required.

*These policies apply to ALL absences, including illness, school-related functions, family emergencies, etc. Students who know in advance of an absence should inform the instructor **BEFORE** the missed class (although advance notice does not mean an excused absence). It is your responsibility to inform your instructor of school sponsored activities before the absence. Emergencies will be handled on an individual basis.*

**Withdrawals after the 60% Point in the Semester:**

If a student's 10% absences are reached after the official drop date (60% point) the instructor (1) may assign a grade of W provided the student is passing and requests to be withdrawn or (2) will assign a grade of F if the student is failing. In (2) the instructor may assign a grade of W in the case of extenuating circumstances

**Illness Policy:**

REHEARSALS: Singers have a wide variety of maladies that may prevent them from actually singing during a rehearsal. A student will be expected to participate using his/her ears more than the voice. The student may be asked to serve as a judge and write a written critique of the choir's performance on their musical selections during the rehearsal in which he/she cannot sing. If a student is too ill to do this, then he/she should be home getting care.

PERFORMANCES: If a singer is too ill to perform, he/she, if able, should plan, in consultation with the Conductor, to attend the performance in uniform and sit in the audience. If it is a sudden illness, the student should send an email to Dr. Sneed as soon as possible. (bsneed@mclennan.edu). The time on the email will be recorded. If there is no communication from the singer concerning the absence, the student will earn a "0" for the concert. Any extenuating circumstances should be brought to the attention of the Conductor as soon as possible

**Student Behavioral Expectations or Conduct Policy: Read the opening Core Values**

The General Conduct Policy in the Highlander Guide states:

*"Students are expected to maintain classroom decorum that includes respect for other students and the instructor, prompt and regular attendance, and an attitude that seeks to take full advantage of the education opportunity."*

\* [\*\*Click Here for the MCC Academic Integrity Statement\*\*](#)

([www.mclennan.edu/academic-integrity](http://www.mclennan.edu/academic-integrity))

The link above will provide you with information about academic integrity, dishonesty, and cheating.

\* [\*\*Click Here for the MCC Attendance/Absences Policy\*\*](#)

([www.mclennan.edu/highlander-guide/policies](http://www.mclennan.edu/highlander-guide/policies))

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Click on the link above for the college policies on attendance and absences. Your instructor may have guidelines specific to this course.

**Accommodations/ADA Statement**

Any student who is a qualified individual with a disability may request reasonable accommodations to assist with providing equal access to educational opportunities. Students should contact the Accommodations Coordinator as soon as possible to provide documentation and make necessary arrangements. Once that process is completed, appropriate verification will be provided to the student and instructor. Please note that instructors are not required to provide classroom accommodations to students until appropriate verification has been provided by the Accommodations Coordinator. Instructors should not provide accommodations unless approved by the Accommodations Coordinator. For additional information, please visit [mclennan.edu/disability](http://mclennan.edu/disability).

Students with questions or who require assistance with disabilities involving physical, classroom, or testing accommodations should contact:

[disabilities@mclennan.edu](mailto:disabilities@mclennan.edu)

254-299-8122

Room 319, Student Services Center

**\* Click Here for more information about Title IX**

**([www.mclennan.edu/titleix](http://www.mclennan.edu/titleix))**

We care about your safety, and value an environment where students and instructors can successfully teach and learn together. If you or someone you know experiences unwelcomed behavior, we are here to help. Individuals who would like to report an incident of sexual misconduct are encouraged to immediately contact the Title IX Coordinator at [titleix@mclennan.edu](mailto:titleix@mclennan.edu) or by calling Dr. Drew Canham (Vice President for Student Success) at 299-8645. Individuals also may contact the MCC Police Department at 299-8911 or the MCC Student Counseling Center at MCC by calling 299-8210. The MCC Student Counseling Center is a confidential resource for students.

McLennan's Title IX webpage (<http://www.mclennan.edu/titleix/>) contains more information about definitions, reporting, confidentiality, resources, and what to do if you or someone you know is a victim of sexual misconduct, gender-based violence or the crimes of rape, acquaintance rape, sexual assault, sexual harassment, stalking, dating violence or domestic violence.

*\* You will need to access each link separately through your Web browser (for example: Internet Explorer, Mozilla, Chrome, or Safari) to print each link's information.*