

Occidental College Department of Music

THE OCCIDENTAL GLEE CLUB
MUSC 121 and MUSC 122, section 2
SYLLABUS 2020-2021

2 UNITS

Instructor: Désirée LaVertu, Director of Choral & Vocal Activities, NTT Associate Professor of Music
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Office Hours: T 1:00-1:30; TH 2:00-3:00 or by arrangement. Meeting is by email appointment only, stating precisely why you wish to meet, so that both of us come to the conversation prepared.

Class location: Booth 204

Regular weekly meeting times:

Tuesdays **11:40-12:45**

Wednesdays **7:15-9:45**

Thursdays **11:40-12:30** (*sopranos & altos only*)

Thursdays **12:30-1:20** (*tenors & basses only*)

Thursdays before concerts and some Tuesdays (see schedule of events below): **combined 11:40-1:20**

Concerts & Events:

Listed at end of this document

AUDITIONS

Auditions take place at the beginning of the Fall Semester only, starting with an individual audition with the Director of Choral and Vocal Activities and the Glee Club section leaders. After this preliminary audition, candidates who have passed through the preliminary process join returning members of the Glee Club for a rehearsal for the quartet portion of the audition. ALL singers, both prospective and returning, participate in the quartet rehearsal and the audition itself, in which the student will sing his/her part on his/her own with section leaders singing the other parts. The section leaders listen to and weigh in on the quartet auditions, but the Director makes the final decisions. Students who pass all rounds of the audition process are invited to sing with the Glee Club and *are expected to sing for the entire academic year*, culminating in the Senior Concert, Commencement, and end-of-year retreat in May. See schedule of events below.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

To create and cultivate a high quality performance-oriented ensemble through rigorous rehearsal preparation

To perform the finest choral literature in performances of the highest quality both on and off campus

To develop a culture of professionalism, personal responsibility, teamwork, and excellence

To improve skills and enhance knowledge in the following areas:

 Musicality

 Musicianship, including sight reading

 Historical performance practice considerations

 Correct pronunciation of Latin, Italian, German, French, and other languages

To learn about the development, construction, and form of musical compositions

To understand different styles of music through exploration and performance of a variety of music

To develop vocal technique and skill, both on an individual and ensemble level

To increase awareness of the expressive and communicative aspects of the texts sung

To engage in artistic culture at the highest possible levels of complexity and competence

To provide a place of belonging and create a sense of unity among many

To contribute to the campus and general surrounding communities

EXPECTATIONS

1. All Glee Club members participating in the Italy Course Abroad section (section 2) of **MUSC 121/122** must enroll in **MUSC 121** (*sopranos & altos*) or **MUSC 122** (*tenors and basses*) for both semesters of the academic year unless one semester is spent studying abroad.
2. In the case that one semester is spent abroad, either semester's enrollment will count toward the Course Abroad enrollment requirement.
3. Important information about rehearsals and performances will be conveyed to you through email.
You are expected to check your Oxy email account every day, reading any message the Director, the Manager, or your Section Leader has sent and responding promptly.
4. Cell phones are to be stored away in your backpack. They are not to be used during class.
5. Computers are also to be stored away during class.
6. Eating/chewing gum in class time or in concert is not be allowed; mouths must be free for singing. Beverages (especially water) are encouraged, however.
7. Backpacks and other items will be stored at the front and sides of the classroom; only music folders, pencils, and water may be taken to the seating area. There is a large amount of movement in this course, and the space in the seating area needs to be free of blockage.
8. Each singer must have their own music in hand at all rehearsals. Folders can be stored in the designated cupboard in the front of the classroom.
9. Each singer must be equipped with a pencil and make judicious markings in the scores based on the directions given by the instructor. These markings should include but are not limited to: dynamics, breath marks, pronunciation guides, and tempo changes.
10. Every singer should sit or stand in the assigned formation for each song; these formations contribute to the sound quality of each piece. Singers are expected to memorize what their position is in each song.
11. If a singer auditions for and is given a solo in a selection, they are expected to learn it correctly and memorize it as soon as possible, long before the dress rehearsal preceding the performance of it. Failure to do so may result in the loss of that solo. The instructor is always available for individual time to practice the solo; students should make an appointment to do so via email.
12. Throughout the year, we will have guests: visiting high schools and colleges, clinicians, guest lecturers, alumni, prospective students, and other observers. As a Glee Club member, you are expected to be respectful to all guests, to listen politely and attentively, and to participate in discussions appropriately. You are also expected to be welcoming and friendly.
13. Throughout the year and especially on tour, we will visit other schools as well as churches, synagogues, private homes, tourist destinations, etc. As a Glee Club member, you are the face of Occidental College and the Music Department, and you are expected to be respectful to all people in your behavior and demeanor.
14. There is an expectation of **service** made of all members of the Glee Club. (Officers, Section Leaders, and a cappella group leaders already fulfill some of their service obligation.) A sign-up sheet for these duties will be circulated so that you can select the date and time of commitments you choose.

Service is expected in the following areas, but is not limited to:

Setting up and breaking down risers and moving piano before, during, and after concerts

Writing thank-you notes to Glee Club donors

Quad sitting (to publicize events)

Greeting and welcoming visiting choirs and directors

Being an authorized driver and driving Oxy vans to Oxy Glee Club events

CADENCE & ACCIDENTALS MEMBERSHIP

Glee Club members are eligible for membership in both Cadence and The Accidentals, the choral department pop a cappella ensembles. (Singers must audition separately for these groups.) Singers who are accepted into one of the a cappella groups must be **enrolled** in Glee Club and must earn an **A** grade each semester. They are expected to have excellent attendance and a positive attitude in Glee Club, understanding that membership in one of the a cappella ensembles is a privilege of being in Glee Club.

GRADING: The semester grade is worth a total of 200 points.

190-200 = A

180-189 = A-

172-179 = B+

165-171 = B

159-164 = B-

152-158 = C+

145-151 = C

139-144 = C-

132-138 = D+

125-131 = D

119-124 = D-

118 or less = F

GRADING IS BASED ON THE FOLLOWING:

I. CLASS SESSIONS (including Final Exam)

ATTENDANCE

Wednesday class session:

First unexcused absence = 10 points off

Second unexcused absence = 15 points off

Third unexcused absence = 20 points off

Fourth unexcused absence = 25 points off

Fifth unexcused absence = 30 points off

T/Th class sessions:

First unexcused absence = 5 points off

Second unexcused absence = 10 points off

Third unexcused absence = 15 points off

Fourth unexcused absence = 20 points off

Fifth unexcused absence = 25 points off

Final Exam:

Unexcused absence = 20 points off

A student who is excessively or regularly absent may be considered for dismissal from the group, and may not be allowed to go on tour.

ALL absences are unexcused except for the following:

1) An academic conflict for which you provide written documentation in the form of a syllabus, email, or other correspondence with a professor.

Academic conflicts include: required field trips and required lectures for another class, senior comprehensive examinations, dress rehearsals and performances for theater department

productions (as described on the theater department website). Occasionally, participation in an Oxy intercollegiate athletic event will be excused; this arrangement must be made in consultation with the Director at the beginning of the semester.

NOTE: Academic conflicts do NOT include: Dance Pro, fraternity/sorority pledge week or other events, student government, finishing a paper, preparing for an exam, attending a make-up class, or a conference with another professor. When another professor (or anyone else) requests a time that conflicts with this class, you are expected to inform that person that you have class at that time (i.e. you have an academic conflict) and need to meet at an alternate time. (*con't next page*)

(GRADING continued – list of excused absences)

2) A *severe* illness that requires bed rest and for which you provide a doctor's note

NOTE: fatigue, sore throats, headaches, colds, etc., are not acceptable reasons for missing rehearsal; if you are physically unable to sing, you may sit near the group and follow along with your music.

3) An observed religious holiday as indicated by Oxy's Office of Religious & Spiritual Life (ORSL)

4) One time per semester: an observance of faith and conscience, coordinated by the student *within the first two weeks after receiving the syllabus* through either the Chief Diversity Officer (CDO) or ORSL (once per semester only)

5) A medical emergency in your immediate family for which you can provide email confirmation

Procedure for reporting an upcoming absence, whether excused or unexcused:

EMAIL the Director, copying your section leader on that email. Attach pertinent documentation such as an email from a professor, a class syllabus, a doctor's note, a flier, etc., as appropriate.

PUNCTUALITY

Punctuality is essential to the musical development and corporate morale of the Glee Club. All tardies are unexcused except those created by one of the circumstances listed above.

First unexcused tardy = 1 point off

Second unexcused tardy = 2 points off

Third unexcused tardy = 3 points off

Fourth unexcused tardy = 4 points off

Fifth unexcused tardy = 5 points off

Etc. Students who find themselves in the unfortunate position of being tardy are expected to inform their section leader who will convey the information to the Director. NOTE: a student who is excessively or regularly tardy may be considered for dismissal from the group, and may not be allowed to go on tour.

II. DRESS REHEARSALS

Punctual attendance is **mandatory** at DRESS REHEARSALS, which include the following:

1. Wednesday night before each weekend event/concert

2. Thursday combined rehearsal before each weekend event/concert

Dress rehearsal unexcused tardy = **5 point off**

Dress rehearsal unexcused absence = **15 points off**

III. CONCERTS & PERFORMANCES

Attendance is **mandatory** at all scheduled performances – refer to performance schedule below.

Concert/Performance unexcused tardy = 10 points off

Performance unexcused absence = 15 points off

Concert unexcused absence = 35 points off

NOTE: Students are expected to arrive at the destination a few minutes BEFORE the call time in order to be ready to work at the stated call time

IV. WRITING ASSIGNMENTS

Writing assignment #1 – Due **Wed 10/21/21**: Topic: Homecoming Concert

Writing assignment #2 - Due **Tues 12/02/21**: Topic: Winter Concert

1. In “HAT” format: “huh?”/”ah ha!”/transference
3 components required for full credit:
 1. Concept you did not understand
 2. How and when you began to understand/comprehend it
 3. How you will transfer this realization into future Glee Club work
2. Format: 12-point Times New Roman font; 1.5 spacing; justified margins; correct usage and full spelling of song titles and other information. (For example: song titles should be in quotation marks, while titles of large works are italicized.) Correct grammar and spelling expected.
3. Assignments are to be printed and handed in

Writing assignment #3 – Due **Wed 1/20/21**

Synthesis of journal entries made in Italy.

Questions will be the same for each concert venue/architectural space:

1. What was the first thing you noticed about the space?
2. What was your guess about the changes/alterations of the music that would be needed because of the space in order to make the concert a success?
3. Was your guess accurate? What was the reality of creating the pieces of music in the space?
4. What was your favorite aspect of the space aesthetically? What did you like about it?

Writing assignment #5 – Due **Wed 3/03/21** Topic: PSICA choral festival

Writing assignment #2 - Due **Tues 4/27/21** Topic: Pops Concert or student conductor concert
(Same format as above)

ENSEMBLE SCHOLARSHIPS

The Glee Club provides scholarships for private voice lessons with an Occidental faculty member.

These scholarships cover ½ hour lessons (\$375.00 per semester).

These scholarships are available to members of the Glee Club who:

- are in leadership positions (e.g. section leaders, other officers, a cappella group directors)
- are music majors with a voice emphasis
- sing in College Chorus

Scholarship recipients must also meet the following requirements:

1. Sing in the Glee Club for the full year, *receiving a grade of “A” for both semesters*
2. Sing for a MOFA (Music on a Friday Afternoon) at least once during each semester
3. Prepare a minimum of 2 pieces from memory and perform them at a high level for semester juries
(*See Music Department website for full description of jury expectations.*)

CLASS SUPPLIES

The Glee Club provides each singer with a copy of each piece of music and a black folder. You are expected to bring your own sharpened (or mechanical) pencil with you to all rehearsals. Your music folder and a pencil are to be brought to every rehearsal without fail, in the same manner that you would bring a textbook, notebook, writing utensil, and/or laptop to an academic class. Failure to do so demonstrates a lack of seriousness and commitment and has negative effect on the caliber of the ensemble.

PERFORMANCE ATTIRE - there are two concert outfits required of each student in Glee Club:

1. FORMAL CONCERT ATTIRE: overall polished, sophisticated, and elegant look

OPTION 1:

1. Black suit (with two- or three-button jacket)
2. White button-down shirt (clean, crisp and pressed)
3. White short-sleeved undershirt
4. Tie (provided by Glee Club)
5. BLACK socks
6. Black DRESS shoes. No athletic shoes, boots, sandals, or other casual shoes. Note: for Italy Course Abroad, dressy black boots allowed (due to weather considerations)

OPTION 2:

1. Black DRESSY dress of your choice, meeting these guidelines:
 - A-Line skirt; knees cannot be seen
 - Modest neckline
 - Short or $\frac{3}{4}$ length sleeves are preferable, but sleeveless dresses are acceptable if singers have a DRESSY shrug or DRESSY and FITTED cardigan to wear with it. All dresses must be authorized by Director.
2. Black DRESSY shoes (close-toed only). No athletic shoes, boots, sandals, or other casual shoes.
 - Flats should be *extra* dressy so that they have a formal look. Patent leather is preferred.
 - Note: for Italy Course Abroad, dressy black boots allowed (due to weather considerations)
3. BLACK tights
4. Silver, gold, or light sparkly necklace and earrings of choice. Neither should be too large or too distracting.
 - Necklaces must hang above the neckline of the dress.

2. CASUAL CONCERT ATTIRE

1. **Current Year** "Glee" tee shirt (clean and not wrinkled) – first tee shirt provided by Glee Club
When performing in cold weather, warm shirts should be worn *underneath* the t-shirt, not over it.
Logo should be visible.
2. **Blue** jeans
3. Casual but CLOSE-TOED shoes (athletic shoes okay)

Hair clean, well-groomed, out of face; no perfume or heavily scented products

STUDY ABROAD

Glee Club members studying abroad in the first semester are expected to learn the repertoire from the fall semester that the group will continue to sing on tour and in the spring semester. Section leaders are available to assist with this process if needed. Sheet music will be mailed to those abroad so that they may participate in the January tour. Acceptance back into the Glee Club after a semester off is a privilege, not a right, and students are expected to treat it as such.

LEADERSHIP 2020-2021

Manager – Lulu Wiesemann

Plans retreat, makes announcements, makes t-shirt arrangements (or designates), provides email reminders about schedule and other announcements, records seating/standing arrangements for Director, reserves vans, compiles and updates member info, publicity

Librarian – TBD

Keeps all music organize: distributes all the music, runs photocopies as needed, files music in Glee Club library

Section Leaders

Lead section musically and personally: run sectionals as needed, keep attendance, maintain seating/standing arrangements as designated by Director, monitor behavior, work with individual members as needed to improve musicianship

Soprano: TBD; Alto: TBD; Tenor: TBD; Bass: TBD

Accidentals Director – SaraJoy Salib

Leads SSAA a cappella group in consultation with Glee Club Director

Cadence Director – Jules Caspole

Leads TTBB a cappella group in consultation with Glee Club Director

All directors run rehearsals, teach music, create or commission arrangements, schedule performances, coordinate performances on Glee Club and College Chorus concerts (and Glee Club tour) with Glee Club director, and work individually with Glee Club director.

COSTS

There are costs associated with Glee Club membership; however, the Glee Club remains committed to enabling any qualified student to participate fully, regardless of his or her ability to pay. An estimate of costs is below:

1 . PERFORMANCE ATTIRE: ~\$100-150 depending on individual needs.

Glee members who drive will organize a shopping trip (or trips) as needed.

(See description of required attire below)

2. Italy Course Abroad: ~\$800-2200 (depending upon grants and scholarships received)

3. Black 3-hole binder for concerts

ACADEMIC ETHICS

The College's policies on Academic Ethics and Academic Misconduct can be found here: <http://bit.ly/OSje7E>. The Student Handbook contains a detailed description of the College's policy and procedures regarding academic ethics. Please be sure to familiarize yourself with this material.

ACCOMODATIONS

Students with documented disabilities and learning differences who are registered with Disability Services are required to present their accommodation letter to the instructor at the beginning of each semester or as soon as possible thereafter.

Any student who has, or thinks they may have, a physical, learning, or psychological disability may contact Disability Services at [\(323\) 259-2969](tel:3232592969) to learn about available services and support. More information is available at <http://www.oxy.edu/disability-services>.

GLEE CLUB SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

MUSC 121 & 122 (section 2) is a high-level performance ensemble. ALL members are expected to participate in **ALL SCHEDULED EVENTS LISTED BELOW**; attendance at them is *mandatory*. Members are expected to maintain a daily/weekly calendar of some sort, and to keep their schedule and time organized. Other events may be added to our schedule, but the events below are the ones that are absolutely required for the class.

Monday August 24

Rehearsal of returning members

Tuesday August 25

Convocation – 9:00 AM (Thorne Hall)

Welcome Concert – 7:00 PM (Herrick)

Wednesday August 26

AUDITIONS for new members – 6:00-10:00 (Bird)

Thursday August 27

AUDITIONS for new members – 3:00-7:00 (Bird)

Tuesday September 1

REHEARSAL with potential new members 12:00-1:00 (Booth 208) *mandatory for all singers*

QUARTET AUDITIONS 6:00-10:30 (Booth 204) *all singers must sign up for a time*

Wednesday September 2

FIRST OFFICIAL CLASS MEETING of 2017-18 Glee Club (Booth 204)

Thursday September 3

Sectionals S/A 11:40-12:30 T/B 12:30-1:20 (Booth 204)

Saturday & Sunday September 12 & 13

OGC RETREAT

Depart Saturday 9:00AM, return Sunday no later than 12 noon

Location: Camp Colby Ranch, Palmdale, CA

Tuesday October TBD

Combined Rehearsal for Homecoming 11:40-1:20 (Thorne)

Wednesday October TBD

Dress Rehearsal for Homecoming 7:15-10:00

Thursday October TBD

Combined Rehearsal for Homecoming 11:40-1:20 (Thorne)

Friday October TBD

Sing for Homecoming Banquet 6:30 PM – Call at 6:00 PM

Saturday October TBD

HOME COMING CONCERT - 3:00 PM CALL for 5:00 concert

HOME COMING GAME (Sing National Anthem only) time TBA

Sunday November 22

4:00 PM College Chorus Concert (*attendance mandatory*)

Tuesday November 24

Combined Rehearsal for Winter Concert 11:40-1:20 (Herrick)
(*Note: this is the Tuesday before Thanksgiving*)

Tuesday December 1

Combined Rehearsal for Winter Concert 11:40-1:20 (Herrick)

Sunday December 6

HOLIDAY CONCERT - 2:00 CALL for **4:00** concert (Herrick)

Friday December TBA

Final Exam Time 6:30-9:30

Course Abroad 2021: Italy

Sunday January 10, 2021 – depart LAX to Rome

Monday January 11, 2021 – arrive Rome; guided tour of city; check in to hotel; Welcome Dinner

Tuesday, January 12, 2021 – morning guided tour of Imperial Rome; evening **concert in Santa Maria Sopra Minerva Basilica**

Wednesday, January 13, 2021 – morning guided tour of religious Rome;
sing Mass at Vatican; evening concert at Sant'Eustachio Church

Thursday, January 14, 2021 – transfer to Montecatini via Sienna; guided walking tour of Siena

Friday, January 15, 2021 – morning tour of Florence; evening **concert in Basilica of Santa Croce**

Saturday, January 16, 2021 – morning at leisure/free time; transfer to Venice

Sunday, January 17, 2021 – morning guided walking tour of island of San Marco; evening **concert in St Mark's Basilica**

Monday, January 18 – return to Oxy

SPRING SEMESTER 2021

Tuesday & Wednesday January 19/20: NO CLASS

Thursday January 21

Combined Rehearsal for Home Concert 11:40-1:20 (Herrick)

Saturday January 23

MLK Day of Service c. 5:00 (Lower Herrick)

Sunday January 24

2:30 CALL for **4:00 PM HOME CONCERT** (Herrick)

Wednesday February 3

SOLO night **7:00-11:00 PM** (Bird Studio)

Each Glee Club member will sing a solo of their choice not to exceed 2 minutes in length.

Singers may accompany themselves, but no one will be allowed to sing a cappella. An accompanist will be provided. Singers may not sing a solo that they have had in a Glee Club or a cappella group song. If a singer is unable to sing due to illness, a 2-page paper reviewing and commenting on the event will be written instead.

Saturday February 27

PSICA Choral Festival at Claremont Colleges

1:30-3:30 Master class (*optional*)

4:00-5:30 Warm-up in rehearsal room and sanctuary (*exact times TBA*)

6:30-9:30 Festival

Wednesday April 14

Dress Rehearsal for Pops Concert **7:00-11:00 PM** (Herrick)

Thursday April 15

Combined Rehearsal 11:40-1:20 (Herrick)

Sunday April 18

1:30 CALL for 4:00 POPS CONCERT (Herrick)

Sunday April 25

College Chorus Spring Concert/Choral Conducting Class final

2:00 CALL for 4:00 Concert

Tuesday April 27

Last day of class

FINAL EXAM

May TBA 6:30-9:30

May 12-16 Senior Week Activities:

NOTE: all seniors are expected to attend all events except Sunday morning rehearsal

Wednesday May 12

END OF YEAR BANQUET (off campus in evening)

Thursday May 13

Rehearsal 1:00–3:00 PM (Booth 204)

Note: students should come to rehearsal in concert attire.

CONCERT 4:00 Monte Vista Retirement Home

Friday May 14

Commencement Rehearsal c. 12:00 PM (Greek Bowl)

Saturday May 15

8:00 AM CALL for 8:45 AM BACCALAUREATE SERVICE (Herrick)

2:30 CALL for 4:00 PM SENIOR CONCERT (Herrick)

Sunday May 16

7:15 AM CALL/SOUND CHECK for 8:45 AM COMMENCEMENT (Greek Bowl)

Monday May 17

Check out of dorms by 10:00AM