



The mission of Concord University is to provide quality, liberal arts based education, to foster scholarly and creative activities and to serve the regional community (<http://www.concord.edu/academics/>).

## **MUS 461: ConChords**

**CRN 20148; Section 1**

**Semester Taught:** Spring 2019

**Credit Hours:** 1

**Prerequisites:** none

**Course Time (if applicable):** 1:00-1:50 MWF

**Building and Room Number (if applicable):** FA M105

**Professor:** Dr. Kelly Hudson

**Office Location:** Fine Arts M113

**Office Hours:** TBA

**Email:** [khudson@concord.edu](mailto:khudson@concord.edu)

**Phone:** 384-5301

**Course Description/Rationale:** A small, select vocal ensemble which performs music in a wide variety of styles.

**Course Management System:** Blackboard

**Hardware/Software Needed:** N/A

**Text requirements:** N/A

**Concord University Educational Goal(s):** Skills #7 – An ability to learn and work effectively both independently and collaboratively; Knowledge #6 – An awareness of the aesthetic principles, methods, materials, and media employed in artistic performance and the creation of works of art and literature; Attitude #5 – Appreciation for the creative process and for the rich diversity of artistic achievement.

**Music Dept. Learning Outcomes:** 1. Performance: Ability to perform as a soloist and ensemble member at appropriate levels for public school and/or studio teaching. (Knowledge #6, Attitudes #7)

**Course Requirements / Grading Policy:**

### **Grading Policy**

**35%: Mastery of the Subject Matter:** Students must be able to perform the music as assigned during the semester. This includes pitches, diction, musicality, etc. Music-checks may be conducted at any time; three are scheduled during the semester (see calendar for dates). Students are not evaluated on vocal talent, but are expected to attain a certain level of accuracy that may require work outside of class. Extra help will be provided if requested (and is, in fact, encouraged). Any obvious deficiency, however, and a lack of effort to resolve the deficiency, will result in a lowered grade based on subjective observation. In the case of a severe deficiency approaching the time of a concert, the student may not be allowed to participate in the concert.

**35%: Class participation:** Members of a performing ensemble need to work together for a common goal; vital to that group effort is each member's general conduct, attitude, and contribution. Be respectful and courteous to all of your fellow musicians, and contribute positively to the ensemble. General lethargy or distracting activity of any kind is grounds for a lowered grade based on subjective observation. The

list provided below under “Self-grading” should give you an idea of what is expected of each singer during rehearsals.

**25%: Attendance and Punctuality:** An attendance policy is in force to ensure the quality of the Collegiate Singers’ performance. Unlike other courses, the absence of an ensemble member affects not only his/her own quality of work, but that of the ensemble, as well. Adherence to the attendance policy is a sign of professionalism and respect to the other members of the ensemble. All members of the Collegiate Singers, regardless of major, are expected to adhere to the attendance policy.

Your responsibilities concerning attendance include:

- contacting Dr. Hudson in advance or as soon as possible if you must miss a rehearsal.
- **learning any rehearsal material you missed during your absence (for any reason).** This not only includes notes, rhythms, and gestures notated in the score, but also any markings given by the conductor. Contact another member of your section to get this information.
- regularly checking your absences on Blackboard and reporting any potential discrepancies (particularly if you were tardy – make sure you were not marked absent).

The chart below indicates the score that a student will earn for absences. That score will then be averaged into the semester grade according to the percentages above.

No. of unexcused absences	“Attendance & Punctuality” Score
0-1	100
2	90
3	75
4	50
5	25
6+	0

Some details:

1. Absences will be considered unexcused if no notification has been received within 24 hours of the rehearsal. Notification by another student is NOT acceptable.
2. All written notification for pre-planned events (athletic team schedules, drama production schedules, weddings) must be submitted to Dr. Hudson by 2/1.
3. Tardy = arriving after warm-ups have begun
4. 3 tardies = 1 unexcused absence
5. 3 excused absences = 1 unexcused absence
6. University activities (such as field trips that are part of a class or traveling as a member of a university athletic team) are exempt and do not count as excused or unexcused absences.
7. Absence from any one performance will result in a course grade of F.
8. At the director’s discretion, make up work may be assigned to help reduce effect on grade of absences.

## 5%: Self-grading

After the final performance of the semester, singers are required to submit a grade to Dr. Hudson reflecting their own view of their achievements that during the semester, along with a justification of the grade they assigned based on the criteria below. This self-grade will not be averaged into the final grade directly, rather the student will get credit for completing the self-grading; the student will earn 100% for completing and turning in the self-grading assignment or 0% if the self-grading assignment is not completed. The following grading schedule is based on and similar to the general guidelines put forth by the University in the catalog:

\*notes\*:• These are, of course, guidelines, and individual cases will be addressed as needed. Not every behavior in a category may be present at all times.

- numerical grades will be used (e.g. 82 for B- or 88 for B+)
- Similar guidelines will be used by Dr. Hudson to assign “Class Participation” grades.

A: The singer was on time and consistently attentive at all rehearsals. The singer made a positive contribution to the ensemble in voice and attitude by being prepared to sing when appropriate and making a concerted effort to master the class material and meet the challenges of the music, both technically and musically. The singer wrote in all performance notes and markings in the score, based on conductor instructions or his/her own preference. The singer was never disruptive to the rehearsal either by talking or other actions (e.g. texting, leaving the room).

B: The singer was present and consistently attentive at all rehearsals. The singer was prepared to sing when appropriate. The singer made a better-than-average effort to meet the challenges of the music, both technically and musically. The singer wrote in all performance notes and markings in the score based on the conductor instructions or his/her own preference. The singer was not disruptive to the rehearsal either by talking or other actions (e.g. texting, leaving the room); if minimal disruptions occurred, he/she adjusted the behavior immediately.

C: The singer was absent (unexcused) no more than one time. The singer made acceptable effort to meet the challenges of the music, both technically and musically. The singer wrote in most performance notes and markings in the score, based on conductor instructions or his/her own preference. If the singer was disruptive in class, he/she adjusted the behavior when asked.

D: The singer was absent (unexcused) no more than two times. The singer made minimal effort to meet the challenges of the music, both technically and musically. The singer wrote in minimal or no performance notes and markings in the score, based on conductor instructions or his/her own preference. If the singer was disruptive in class, he/she did not adjust behavior when asked.

F: Any **one** of the following behaviors may be grounds for a grade of “F.”

The singer was absent (unexcused) from rehearsals or did not participate in rehearsals (for example, sitting and not singing). The singer was not ready to sing when asked, and made no effort to master the class material and meet the challenges of the music, both technically and musically. The singer made no attempt to improve behavior when asked, and did not make any markings in his/her score. The singer was disruptive to the point that rehearsal had to be stopped or he/she was asked to leave.

## Course Timeline (Schedule of Assignments/Assessments/Presentations)

The calendar that hangs in the choral rehearsal room is the official calendar for rehearsal and performance responsibilities. Please check that calendar regularly.

Reserve the following dates and times on your academic, work, and personal schedules:

Wednesday, Jan 16	12:00-12:50	Rehearsals begin
Monday, Jan 21		NO CLASS – MLK Day
<b>Monday, Feb 25</b>	<b>3:00</b>	<b>Founders' Day</b>
<b>Sunday, Apr 28</b>	<b>7:00-9:00 pm</b>	<b>Dress Rehearsal</b>
<b>Monday, Apr 29</b>	<b>7:00 pm (6:00 call)</b>	<b>Spring Concert</b>
Friday, May 3 – Wednesday, May 8		Submit Self-grade
<b>Saturday, May 11</b>	<b>9:00 am – 4 pm</b>	<b>Commencement ceremonies</b>

## Accessibility/Accommodations:

Concord University is committed to responding to the needs of students with disabilities as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act. Please inform your instructor at the beginning of the class semester if you have a disability and are requesting accommodations. It is your responsibility to self-disclose that you are requesting accommodations. The University and instructor will provide you with a reasonable accommodation. You should register with CU's Disability Services Office, located in the Athens campus Jerry and Jean Beasley Student Center, Bottom Floor, across from the Campus Post Office. The Disability Services Office phone is 304-384-6086 or you can email the Director, Nancy Ellison, at nellison@concord.edu for assistance.

## Academic Dishonesty

Academic dishonesty is morally unacceptable as well as destructive to the learning and teaching atmosphere. Academic dishonesty includes the giving or receiving of improper help on examinations or assignments, falsifying documents, and plagiarism (the act of stealing and using, as one's own, the ideas or the expression of the ideas of another). Such dishonesty can lead to a variety of penalties — including but not limited to failure of assignment, failure of course, loss of institutional privileges, or dismissal from the University. (See University Catalog Academic Policies and Procedures.)

## Concord University Honor Code

A Concord University Honor Code was approved by students, staff, faculty, administration, and the CU Board of Governors. The Code states:

*"As a member of the Concord University Community I will act with honesty and integrity in accordance with our fundamental principles and I will respect myself and others while challenging them to do the same."*

The Honor Code is intended to unite the Concord community behind a culture of honesty, integrity, and civility.

## Class/Online Attendance Policy

Regular class attendance is part of a student's academic obligation at Concord. Irregular attendance may affect academic performance adversely and is detrimental to the atmosphere of a class. (See University Catalog Academic Policies and Procedures.)

## Emergency Alert System

In an effort to increase safety and security on our campus, Concord University encourages everyone to register for instant text message alerts. Alerts will only be used for security and safety notices. All

students, faculty, and staff are eligible to receive text message alerts on their cell phones or email alerts. Please contact the IT Help Desk for further assistance (304-384-5291).

### **Emergency Information**

Emergency/courtesy telephones are located at the main entrance of each residence hall and at various other locations on campus. Emergency telephones can be identified by the flashing blue light and will provide the user with a direct link to Public Safety at the press of a button. To report an on-campus emergency, call 304-384-5357 or 911. The Office of Public Safety is located on the bottom floor of the Rahall Technology Center. For further emergency information go to:

<http://www.concord.edu/administration/office-public-safety>.

### **Inclement Weather Policy**

As a general policy, the University will remain in normal operations during adverse weather conditions. In the event of severe weather conditions, the following may occur:

#### University Closure

No students or employees are to report.

#### Classes Cancelled

Students do NOT report BUT employees are expected to report to work at their normal time.

#### Operating on an Inclement Weather Delay

Under this schedule, all 8 a.m. classes will start at 10 a.m. Students and faculty will follow the Inclement Weather Schedule. (See <http://www.concord.edu/emergency-alerts> for Athens/Beckley Inclement Weather Schedules.)

*\*Announcements invoking the late schedule or other options referenced above are aired on area radio and television stations and are sent as text and email messages to those enrolled for this service.*

### **Student Conduct**

In classrooms, online, laboratories, and during any activities that are part of course requirements, students are expected to observe reasonable rules of conduct.

### **Sexual Harassment & Assault**

Federal law, Title IX, and Concord University policy prohibits discrimination, harassment, and violence based on sex and gender (Including sexual harassment, sexual assault, domestic/dating violence, stalking, sexual exploitation, and retaliation). If you or someone you know has been harassed or assaulted, you can receive confidential counseling support through the Concord University Counseling Center (304-384-5290). Alleged Violations can be reported non-confidentially to the Concord University Title IX Coordinator at 304-384-6327 or [titleix@concord.edu](mailto:titleix@concord.edu). Reports to Campus Security can be made at (304-384-5357). As an employee at Concord University, I am a mandatory reporter which means I must report any sexual misconduct I am made aware of. This includes verbal or written (such as in an assignment) disclosures of sexual harassment or sexual assault.

### **Technology Services**

Contact the CU Help Desk at extension 5291 from campus or 304-384-5291 off campus. You may also e-mail [cuhelpdesk@concord.edu](mailto:cuhelpdesk@concord.edu).

### **Syllabus Disclaimer**

**"This syllabus is subject to change based on the needs of the class. Please check it regularly."**