

URSULINE ACADEMY 2018-2019 Curriculum Guide

PERFORMING ARTS

MU 612 CHORUS I

Grade: 9, 10, 11, 12

Credit: ½ Credit

Length: 1 Semester

Prerequisite: NONE

Description: This performance-oriented course focuses on the basics of good choral singing (posture, breathing, articulation and meaning) and the fundamentals of music (rhythm, pitch, intensity and tone color). The fundamentals of music reading are also emphasized. A variety of music from different cultures and traditions are studied and performed. This course prepares students for the other UA choirs. The Christmas or Spring Concerts serve as the main portion of the final exam.

Special cost or materials: Concert attire

MU 622 ADVANCED CHORUS

Grade: 10, 11, 12

Credit: 1 Credit

Length: 2 Semesters (may be repeated)

Prerequisite: Instructor approval or successful completion of MU 612

Description: Performance-oriented course with emphasis on good vocal and choral techniques. Challenging choral literature from a wide range of cultures and traditions is studied and performed. There will be several performances each semester with the Christmas and Spring Concerts forming the major portion of each semester's final exams.

Special cost or materials: Concert attire and festival fees

MU 629 CONCERT CHOIR

Grade: 9, 10, 11, 12

Credit: ½ Credit per semester

Length: 1 or 2 Semesters (may be repeated)

Prerequisite: Instructor approval

Description: Concert Choir is a performance oriented course. This is a group for students who wish to explore choral repertoire in a large ensemble. Ideally students should have some prior musical background, although extensive choral experience is not necessary. Anyone who wishes to improve their vocal skills is welcome to take this course. The knowledge and skills needed for successful choral singing will be emphasized through the study of a diverse repertoire. There will be several performance opportunities each semester with the Christmas and Spring Concerts forming the major portion of each semester's final exams.

Special cost or materials: Concert attire and festival fees

MU 610 INTRODUCTION TO INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

Grade: 9, 10, 11, 12

Credit: 1 Credit

Length: 2 Semesters

Prerequisite: NONE

Description: This course is designed for students with little or no prior experience on a standard orchestral wind instrument (flute, oboe, clarinet, bassoon, horn, trumpet, trombone, tuba, or percussion). The fundamentals of instrumental technique and basic musicianship are studied through the medium of a diverse instrumental literature. Smart Music technology is used to enhance student progress and to tailor practice assignments to each student's level of ability. The Christmas and Spring Concerts form the major portion of each semester's final exams.

Special cost or materials: Smart Music subscription \$40.00 per year and instrumental rental or purchase (most instruments can be rented from UA for a modest fee.)

MU 613 MUSIC – INDEPENDENT STUDY

Grade: 10, 11, 12

Credit: ¼ Credit per semester

Length: 1 or 2 Semesters (may be repeated)

Prerequisite: Instructor approval

Description: This course, which meets twice weekly, enables the student to receive one-on-one instruction on their chosen instrument or voice. Vocal students will be required to develop their skills on piano or guitar as well as their voice, in order to increase their understanding of the fundamental aspects of music and their overall musicianship. Music for study will be selected from a diverse range of cultures and traditions.

MU 615 INSTRUMENTAL ENSEMBLE

Grade: 9, 10, 11, 12

Credit: ½ Credit per semester

Length: 1 or 2 Semesters (may be repeated)

Prerequisite: Instructor approval or successful completion of MU 610

Description: This course is designed to give students the opportunity to develop their instrumental skills. Instrumental technique and musicianship are studied through the medium of a diverse instrumental literature. The Christmas and Spring Concerts form the major portion of each semester's final exams.

Special cost or materials: Smart Music subscription \$40.00 per year and instrumental rental or purchase (most instruments can be rented from UA for a modest fee).

MU 616 MUSIC THEORY – INDEPENDENT STUDY

Grade: 10, 11, 12

Credit: ¼ credit per semester

Length: 1 or 2 Semesters (may be repeated)

Prerequisite: Instructor approval

Description: This course meets twice weekly. While it is specifically designed to prepare students for college level music theory course, it is open to any student who wants to understand more about how music is created. Students will study vocabulary, ear training, and analyze music from various musical traditions. Students will complete composition exercises in order to put their knowledge into practice.

Assessments will also include listening quizzes, written quizzes, and arranging and/or composition projects.

SH 621 INTRODUCTION TO PUBLIC SPEAKING

Grade: 11, 12

Credit: ½ Credit

Length: 1 Semester

Prerequisite: NONE

Description: This course is an exploration of the value of public speaking. Students will learn about public speaking by engaging in a variety of speech experiences that are based in real-life contexts. Emphasized skills include topic selection, creative writing, research, outlining, speech writing, and speech delivery.

TH 644 DIRECTING FOR THE THEATRE

Grade: 11, 12

Credit: ½ credit

Length: 1 semester

Prerequisite: NONE

Description: This course provides students the opportunity to develop skills associated with theater production specifically in the realm of stage management and directing. Students enrolled in this course will actively engage in student directed productions.

TH 645 THEATRE EXPLORATIONS

Grade: 9, 10, 11, 12

Credit: ½ Credit

Length: 1 Semester

Prerequisite: NONE

Description: This course is an exploration of theatrical productions. The focus of Theatre Explorations is to increase students' understanding, appreciation, and critical perceptions of the theatrical event. The student will write, read, participate in small group work, discuss, create theatrical designs, and present to achieve the goals of this class. Designing will offer avenues to explore students' individual theatrical interests.

TH 646 ACTING FOR THE THEATRE

Grade: 9, 10, 11, 12

Credit: ½ Credit

Length: 1 Semester

Prerequisite: TH 645

Description: "Acting is believing" and this course is designed for the student who wants to use her creative talents, tap her inner resources, and strengthen her self-confidence as she learns to present a believable character of stage. The student will be introduced to the actresses' lingo, basic stage movement and direction, and learn vocal skills needed in theatrical performance. The student will have the opportunity to be part of improvisations, group comedic and dramatic scenes, and participate in a children's theatre performance as well as other acting experiences.

DA 712 DANCE

Grade: 9, 10, 11, 12

Credit: ½ Credit

Length: 1 Semester

Prerequisite: NONE

Description: Students will learn fundamental and terminology of various dance styles while developing strength, confidence, balance, and flexibility. Dance styles will include ballet, tap, jazz, hip hop, lyrical and modern. Students will perform the skills learned from class in the dance recital at the end of the semester.

Special cost or materials: \$75.00

DA 716 ADVANCED DANCE

Grade: 9, 10, 11, 12

Credit: ½ Credit

Length: 1 Semester

Prerequisite: DA 712

Description: Students will refine dance skills, moving beyond the fundamental levels while incorporating advanced steps, rhythms, patterns, and combinations. Class technique will focus on faster and more intricate footwork. The dancer at this level will develop speed, clarity, dynamics, and the ability to execute complex combinations. A variety of dance styles will be introduced and students will perform skills learned from class in the dance recital at the end of the semester.

Special cost or materials: \$75.00

DA 718 CHOREOGRAPHY

Grade: 10, 11, 12

Credit: ½ Credit

Length: 1 Semester

Prerequisite: DA 712 or instructor approval

Description: Students will be introduced to a practical experience focusing on the process of creating dance choreography. Emphasis will be placed on identifying, selecting and utilizing a variety of source material. Student choreography skills will be developed through use of critical evaluation, use of choreographic devices, use of improvisation for generating movement, and creating meaning through the use of time, space, energy/force, and weight. Students will perform the skills learned from class in the dance recital at the end of the semester.

Special cost or materials: \$75.00