

The George Washington University Singers Tour Choir  
Spring 2013 Syllabus

Rehearsals: Tuesday/Thursday 12:45-2

Phillips B120

1 Credit

Gisele Becker, Director of Choral Activities

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Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 2-4 or by appointment

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** The University Singers is an auditioned, mixed chorus consisting of GW graduate and undergraduate students. Every two years, selected students go on an international concert tour. Through rehearsals, performances, lectures and readings students will be preparing for the concert tour to South Africa May 20-30, 2013.

**COURSE PREREQUISITES:** Individual audition with the Director of Choral Activities. Registration through the University and through the Office of Study Abroad.

**TEXTS AND MATERIALS:** Students will be required to buy music from the GW Bookstore. A list of all titles will be available at the first rehearsal. In addition, there are two required texts for this semester. Both are available in the GW Bookstore: Mathabane, Miriam and Mark. Miriam's Song.  
Russell, Alec. Bring Me My Machine Gun: The Battle for the Soul of South Africa from Mandela to Zuma.

Men are required to have a tuxedo (cummerbund, black tie, black socks and black shoes) for performances. Women are required to purchase the concert dress from Eastern Apparel (approximate cost: \$65).

A black folder with the horizontal GW logo is also required.

**EXPECTED LEARNING OUTCOMES:** As a result of completing the work for this class, students should have familiarity with the political history of South Africa in order to fully experience their time there. Musically, students should be able to demonstrate mastery of the music being performed.

**LEARNING TOOLS:** Small group discussions, guest lecturers and guest musicians will help give the students information that will enhance their tour experience. Vocal warm-ups, sightreading exercises and discussion of the music being learned will help the student have a deeper knowledge of basic music theory, musical terms and context of the works within the American music oeuvre.

**GRADING:** Pass/Fail.

Attendance is extremely important and students are expected to attend all rehearsals and performances. Each student is permitted three absences per semester. Dress rehearsals and concerts are MANDATORY. Failure to attend a dress rehearsal and/or concert WILL result in a FAILING grade.

If you are ill, please email me. Work conflicts, study sessions and internships do NOT count as excused absences. If severe health issues arise, we will discuss options for you to make up work. Religious observations do not count toward your absences as long as WRITTEN notice is given in advance.

Small group quizzes will be given to assess the student's mastery of the music being performed. The date of each of these quizzes will be given at least one week in advance of the test.

Students are required to read the texts listed above and be prepared for discussion. Small groups will be assigned certain passages of the texts to present to the entire group.

**TOUR REQUIREMENTS:** Students have the financial obligation of paying \$2,000 towards their tour costs, plus spending money, as is outlined in the itinerary provided by Classical Movements Tour company. Copies will be available at the first rehearsal. In addition, students must be available to participate in the GW Graduation Ceremony on Sunday, May 19, 2013. Air travel for the tour is between Washington, D.C. and Johannesburg, South Africa. Students are responsible for travel from Washington to their final home destinations.

**SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS OUTSIDE OF CLASSROOM:** Disability Support Services (DSS) is available to any student who may need an accommodation based on disability. Students should contact DSS at 202-994-8250 or <http://gwired.gwu.edu/dss/>.

**GW COUNSELING CENTER:** The UC offers 24/7 assistance and referrals to addresses student problems. The phone number is 202-994-5300. More information can be found at <http://gwired.gwu.edu/counsel/CounselingServices/AcademicSupportServices>.

**SECURITY:** In the case of an emergency, shelter in place, if at all possible. If the building that you are in is affected, follow evacuation procedures. Seek shelter at a predetermined rendezvous location.