

**College of Micronesia-**

**FSM PO Box 159 Kolonia**

**Pohnpei, FM 96941**

**COURSE OUTLINE**

MU105 National COM Choir of Micronesia  
Course Number & Title

Languages and Literature  
Department

**Course Description:**

This is a semester-long course designed to improve vocal technique, musical awareness, and provide students with choral performance opportunities. Types of music performed in this course may include classical, jazz, Micronesian, multi-cultural, patriotic and other choral music. Students will learn healthy vocal technique and understand how to use that technique to produce a variety of timbre, dynamics and colors. Choir is a one-credit course and students can take it for three semesters in order to fulfill their three-credit humanities requirement or open elective.

**Course Prepared by:** Daniel C. Meyer

**State:** National Campus

	Hours per week		No. of week		Total Hours		Semester Credits
Lecture	_____	x	_____	x	_____	=	_____
Laboratory	<u>3</u>	x	<u>16</u>	x	<u>48</u>	=	<u>1</u>
Workshop	_____	x	_____	x	_____	=	_____

**Purpose of Course:**

Degree Requirement	_____
Degree Elective	<u>x</u>
Certificate	_____
Other	<u>x</u>

**Prerequisites:**

Successful audition  
1/28/2005

Date Approved by Committee & Date Approved by President

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colors. Choir is a one-credit course and students can take it for three semesters in order to fulfill their three-credit humanities requirement or open elective.

## **I. General Objectives**

Students will:

1. Read music: pitches, dynamics, rhythm and tempo.
2. Recognize, perform and value a variety of vocal and musical styles.
3. Identify common voice injuries, treatment, and preventative measures.

### **Specific Objectives**

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- 1.1 Sight sing in unison and in parts, alone and in a group.
- 1.2 Recognize the form of a piece of music.
- 1.3 Evaluate the quality of a piece of music through its form, style and lyrics.
- 2.1 Perform a wide range of vocal and choral styles.
- 2.2 Evaluate choral performances by themselves and others on the basis of vocal technique and ensemble.
- 2.3 Follow a choral conductor.
- 2.4 Understand the basics of choral conducting.
- 2.5 Recognize and perform dynamics and articulation.
- 2.6 Understand and demonstrate proper performance etiquette.
- 2.7 Demonstrate vowel modification.
- 2.8 Recognize the cultural and musical value of a piece of music.
- 3.1 Demonstrate correct vocal technique.
- 3.2 Understand the benefits of healthy vocal technique.
- 3.3 Understand the dangers of incorrect voice usage.

## **II. Course Content**

A. The course consists of the rehearsal and performance of music within, but not limited to, the following thematic categories:

1. Music from throughout Micronesia, including neighboring countries and territories.
2. National anthems from various countries, with an emphasis upon those countries which are present locally.
3. Folk music from various traditions.
4. Classical music from various traditions (not just European-based).
5. Chants from various traditions.
6. Jazz.
7. Music by women.
8. Commissioned music.

B. Performances may include, but are not limited to:

1. COM-FSM graduation ceremonies and other ceremonies throughout the year.
2. National events in Palikir.
3. State events in Kolonia.
4. Community meetings.

5. Assemblies at local schools.
6. Radio concerts.
7. Recording sessions.
8. Choral concerts.

C. Daily classroom activities will include, but are not limited to:

1. Vocal warm-ups using the Group Vocal Techniques method.
2. Sight singing exercises.
3. Rehearsal of music for upcoming performances

### **III. Textbooks**

12-15 pieces of sheet music per student per semester at approximately \$1.00-\$2.00 per piece.

### **IV. Required Course Materials**

Printed choral music Choral  
folders (\$2.00)

### **V. Reference Materials**

Alderson, Richard. *Complete Handbook of Voice Training*. West Nyack, NY: Parker, 1979.

Doscher, Barbara. *The Functional Unity of the Singing Voice*. Metuchen, NJ:  
Scarecrow Press, 1988.

Haasemann, Frauke and James Jordan. *Group Vocal Technique*. Chapel Hill, NC: Hinshaw  
Music, Inc. 1998.

Jennings, Kenneth. *Sing Legato*. San Diego, CA: Neil A. Kjos Music Company 1982.

Miller, Richard. *The Structure of Singing: System and Art in Vocal Technique*. New York:  
Schirmer, 1986.

Vennard, William. *Singing: the Mechanism and the Technique*. New York: Carl Fischer,  
1967.

### **VI. Instructional Cost**

A. Choir robes (ca \$15 x 40 robes = \$600.00). This is a one-time cost, as the same robes will be used  
each semester.

B. Rehearsal/performance piano (ca \$800.00). This is a one-time cost.

C. Transportation to/from concert venues.

### **VII. Methods of Instruction**

Demonstration, participation, listening and lecture.

### **VIII. Evaluation**

Student evaluation in Choir will be based on attendance and participation in class exercises, activities, rehearsals, musical preparation and performances. The final performance of each semester will be graduation. Each Choir student will be expected to participate in the graduation performance and their final grade will be changed if they do not do so.

### **IX. Attendance Policy**

The College attendance policy shall be applied.

### **X. Academic Honesty Policy**

The College academic honesty policy shall be applied.

### **Appendices**

#### **Class location**

Choir rehearsals need a location with a piano (88 keys with pedals) and unobstructed chairs (no desks or tables attached to them).

One space which could be used is the MITC, provided it is available and a piano could be kept there. This would also be close enough to the dorms and the rest of campus for the students to arrive promptly.

Another option could be the Land Grant office space if they should ever choose to move their office location. This location also has the advantage that no new piano would have to be acquired, since one could be rolled over from the keyboard lab next door.

#### **A. Typical daily class structure**

- i. 7-10 minutes vocal warm-ups, sight singing exercises.
- ii. 40 minutes rehearsal of music for upcoming performances.
- iii. 5-8 minutes review/listening/discussion.

#### **B. Student participation**

- iv. Choir is an auditioned class and is limited to 40 students (10 sopranos, 10 altos, 10 tenors, 10 basses), assuming a rehearsal location can be found to accommodate this amount of students. Auditions will be held during the first week of classes.
- v. If a student is a proficient pianist, he or she may enroll in the class and serve as the accompanist for the choir and get full credit for participation in all performances and rehearsals.

vi. Students who are in their third (or more) semesters of Choir may apply to be "student directors." Student directors, under the supervision of the music instructor, may choose a piece of music, rehearse this piece with the Choir and conduct it during performances.

vii. Proposed name for the choir: The National Choir of Micronesia.