

# Odessa College Mariachi COURSE SYLLABUS



## ODESSA COLLEGE MUSIC DEPARTMENT

Director: Mr. Gabriel Garcia M. Ed.

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

#### 1st Semester

This course will introduce music theory, fundamental techniques and the historical background necessary to read and interpret Mariachi music in an authentic and culturally entertaining manner. The students will learn to simultaneously combine varying disciplines such as mathematics, reading and musical techniques.

#### 2nd Semester

The student musicians will learn to participate in a group setting creating the ensemble environment. This will promote ensemble techniques and teamwork. The musicians will reinforce their math and reading skills in a manner consistent with Texas Essential Knowledge Skills (TEKS) for Fine Arts. The students will engage in exercises that will develop and refine their creative and intellectual emotions as well as developing an appreciation for the music, history and culture of Mexico. Through public performances, the students form a team that allows them to promote pride for Odessa College, their community and culture.

## MAJOR TOPICS, THEMES, AND ISSUES OF COURSE CONTENT

All students will become proficient in music fundamentals that are similar to the methods used in Band, Orchestra and Choir. They will familiarize themselves with music theory, musical terminology and history in English and Spanish.

## SKILLS TO BE EMPHASIZED

The students will become familiar with: musical terms and symbols, learn to read and sight-read mariachi music, learn aural skills to differentiate the various rhythms and genres utilized by the mariachi, recognize music intervals which are the basis of composition and melody and to cooperate within the class to become a musical entity.

## PRODUCTS TO DEMONSTRATE LEARNING

Some of the products to demonstrate learning include: School Performances, Civic Performances, Individual and Group Competitions, Playing and Written tests.

- Cinco de Mayo in the Odessa and surrounding area.
- New Mexico Mariachi Conference/Clinic and Festival
- Edinburg Mariachi Festival and Contest
- San Antonio Mariachi Festival and Contest
- San Marcos Mariachi Festival and Contest

## MAJOR ACTIVITIES / LEARNING EXPERIENCES

1. All students in (Mariachi) will attain the necessary skills needed to perform and interpret music at the highest level. Students needing individual help will be assisted by the course instructor or students who are performing at a higher level of proficiency.
2. Students will participate in group and individual performances and evaluations.

3. Students must be prepared to perform all required material individually or as a group when requested by the instructor or student leaders.
4. Performances for School and Civic functions are a very important part of individual development. Working with people within and outside the music department will enable the students to attain the organizational and cooperative skills necessary to succeed in a performance setting.
5. The students will carry themselves in a manner expected of professional musicians with emphasis on punctuality and stage presence.

## MATERIALS / RESOURCES

Music is provided by the Mr. Garcia and pending OC budget. The music and/ or arrangements will be chosen when the level of the group is determined by the instructor. Individual competitions and festivals may require the student to purchase accessories pertinent to the Mariachi Ensemble. Compact Discs and DVD's will be used when musical examples and performance techniques are stressed.

## MATERIALS REQUIRED:

- Pencil
- Notebook

## EXPECTATIONS

1. Come to class prepared
2. Retrieve and return instruments when assigned
3. Attend all performances and section rehearsals
4. Ask for assistance when needed
5. Make sure that instruments and uniforms are properly maintained and returned in the condition they were issued
6. Adhere to professional behavior on and off campus
7. Reflect and enjoy the excitement and rich cultural heritage of the music

## MAJOR ASSIGNMENTS

Grades are based on participation and preparation  
Group participation at music festivals.  
Group performances are expected and individual attendance is required and preparation evaluated.

## MAJOR ASSIGNMENTS / ASSESSMENT

Grades for the class are not given, but earned by the student. Any questions concerning grades should be brought to the attention of the mariachi instructor. Grades are made up of the following criteria:

60% daily class work

40% assessments (tests, exams, quizzes, performances)

It is important that each student participates daily as that is where the majority of the grade is earned.

## REQUIREMENTS FOR PERFORMING GROUPS

- Successful Audition or invitation

Odessa College complies with Section 504 of the Vocational Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. If you have any special needs or issues pertaining to your access to and participation in this or any other class at Odessa College, please feel free to contact me to discuss your concerns. You may also call the Office of Disability Services at 335-6861 to request assistance and accommodations.

## Learning Resource Center (Library)

The Library, known as the Learning Resources Center, provides research assistance via the LRC's catalog (print books, videos, e-books) and databases (journal and magazine articles). Research guides covering specific subject areas, tutorials, and the "Ask a Librarian " service provide additional help.

Student E-mail

Please access your Odessa College Student E-mail, by following the link to either set up or update your account: <http://www.odessa.edu/gmail/>. All assignments or correspondence will be submitted using your Odessa College email.

#### Student Portal

Please access your Odessa College Student E-mail, by following the link to either set up or update your account: <http://www.odessa.edu/gmail/>. All assignments or correspondence will be submitted using your Odessa College email.

Technical Support For Blackboard username and password help and for help accessing your online course availability and student email account contact the Student Success Center at 432-335-6878 or online at [https://www.odessa.edu/dept/ssc/helpdesk\\_form.htm](https://www.odessa.edu/dept/ssc/helpdesk_form.htm).

Important School Policies For information regarding student support services, academic dishonesty, disciplinary actions, special accommodations, or student's and instructors' right to academic freedom can be found in the Odessa College Student Handbook.

The Odessa College Student Success Coaches will help you stay focused and on track to complete your educational goals. If an instructor sees that you might need additional help or success coaching, he or she may submit a Retention Alert or a Starfish Alert. A Student Success Coach will contact you to work toward a solution.

The SEI process for face-to-face and online courses is scheduled for the week of November 26th.

## **Expectations for Engagement – Online Learning**

To help make the web-based learning experience fulfilling and rewarding, the following Expectations for Engagement provide the parameters for reasonable engagement between students and instructors for the online learning environment. Students and instructors are welcome to exceed these requirements.

### **Reasonable Expectations of Engagement for Instructors**

1. As an instructor, I understand the importance of clear, timely communication with my students. In order to maintain sufficient communication, I will
  - provided my contact information at the beginning of the syllabus;
  - respond to all messages within 24 hours if received Monday through Thursday and within 48 hours if received Friday through Sunday; and,
  - notify students of any extended times that I will be unavailable and provide them with alternative contact information (for me or for my supervisor) in case of emergencies during the time I'm unavailable.
2. As an instructor, I understand that my students will work to the best of their abilities to fulfill the course requirements. In order to help them in this area, I will
  - provide clear information about grading policies and assignment requirements in the course syllabus, and
  - communicate any changes to assignments and/or to the course calendar to students as quickly as possible.
3. As an instructor, I understand that I need to provide regular, timely feedback to students about their performance in the course. To keep students informed about their progress, I will

- post grades for discussion postings within one week of the discussion thread closing.
- provide grades for major assignments within 2 weeks of the due date or at least 3 days before the next major assignment is due, whichever comes first.

### Reasonable Expectations of Engagement for Students

1. As a student, I understand that I am responsible for keeping up with the course. To help with this, I will
  - line up alternative computer and internet access in case my primary computer crashes or my internet services is unavailable;
  - recognize that the college provides free wi-fi and computer labs during regular campus hours to help me with accessing my course; and,
  - understand that my instructor does not have to accept my technical issues as a legitimate reason for late or missing work if my equipment or service is unreliable.
2. As a student, I understand that it is my responsibility to communicate quickly with the instructor any issue or emergency that will impact my involvement with or performance in the class. This includes, but is not limited to
  - getting “kicked off” of the system during tests or quizzes;
  - having trouble submitting assignments; and
  - dealing with a traumatic personal event.
3. As a student, I understand that it is my responsibility to understand course material and requirements and to keep up with the course calendar. While my instructor is available for help and clarification, I will
  - seek out help from my instructor and/or from tutors;

- ask questions if I don't understand; and,
- access my course several times during the week to keep up with assignments and announcements.

## **Expectations for Engagement – Face to Face Learning**

To help make the learning experience fulfilling and rewarding, the following Expectations for Engagement provide the parameters for reasonable engagement between students and instructors for the learning environment. Students and instructors are welcome to exceed these requirements.

### **Reasonable Expectations of Engagement for Instructors**

1. As an instructor, I understand the importance of clear, timely communication with my students. In order to maintain sufficient communication, I will
  - provided my contact information at the beginning of the syllabus;
  - respond to all messages in a timely manner through telephone, email, or next classroom contact; and,
  - notify students of any extended times that I will be unavailable and provide them with alternative contact information (for me or for my supervisor) in case of emergencies during the time I'm unavailable.
2. As an instructor, I understand that my students will work to the best of their abilities to fulfill the course requirements. In order to help them in this area, I will
  - provide clear information about grading policies and assignment requirements in the course syllabus, and
  - communicate any changes to assignments and/or to the course calendar to students as quickly as possible.
3. As an instructor, I understand that I need to provide regular, timely feedback to students about their



performance in the course. To keep students informed about their progress, I will

- return classroom activities and homework within one week of the due date and
- provide grades for major assignments within 2 weeks of the due date or at least 3 days before the next major assignment is due, whichever comes first.

### Reasonable Expectations of Engagement for Students

1. As a student, I understand that I am responsible for keeping up with the course. To help with this, I will
  - attend the course regularly and line up alternative transportation in case my primary means of transportation is unavailable;
  - recognize that the college provides free wi-fi, computer labs, and library resources during regular campus hours to help me with completing my assignments; and,
  - understand that my instructor does not have to accept my technical issues as a legitimate reason for late or missing work if my personal computer equipment or internet service is unreliable.
2. As a student, I understand that it is my responsibility to communicate quickly with the instructor any issue or emergency that will impact my involvement with or performance in the class. This includes, but is not limited to,
  - missing class when a major test is planned or a major assignment is due;
  - having trouble submitting assignments;
  - dealing with a traumatic personal event; and,
  - having my work or childcare schedule changed so that my classroom attendance is affected.

3. As a student, I understand that it is my responsibility to understand course material and requirements and to keep up with the course calendar. While my instructor is available for help and clarification, I will
- seek out help from my instructor and/or from tutors;
  - ask questions if I don't understand; and,
  - attend class regularly to keep up with assignments and announcements.