

**Northwestern University's Bienen School of Music**  
***Chamber Music Syllabus***  
**CONDUCT 391**

**COURSE OVERVIEW**

For the interests of the Northwestern University Chamber Music Program, "Chamber Music" is a genre involving 3 or more performers, playing classical music, without a conductor.

**THE BASICS – YOUR CHECKLIST**

1. Register
2. Complete questionnaire online
3. Go to orientation
4. Find the chamber music website
5. Submit your group's composite schedule to your assigned coach
6. Learn your music and rehearse 2 hours per week
7. Receive 7 hours of coachings and be able to document these

**CHAMBER MUSIC - the 4-1-1**

1. Attend 4 chamber music area master classes during the quarter.
2. Attend 1 NUSCC (Northwestern University Student Chamber Concert)
3. Perform 1 time at an "in-house" NU chamber music event.

The Chamber Music curriculum continues to change in response to feedback from students and faculty. I welcome your feedback.

## **GRADING**

Your final grade is a combination of the grade submitted by your coach minus any of the possible deductions listed below

Your coach will grade your attendance and preparation for coachings, as well as your attitude and professionalism. Your coach will also assess your individual progress throughout the quarter. There are no Incompletes (Y) given for this course except under unique/emergency circumstances. All grade changes will be executed through the University's official grade appeal process. See Dr. Linda Garton in MAB.

**The grading breakdown is as follows:**

**40% class attendance**

**40% performance requirements**

**15% coach grade**

**5% concert attendance (NUSCC)**

Additional grade deductions:

1. Late registration/non-registration: 1 full letter grade/week after add deadline
2. Failure to complete the questionnaire by the posted deadline: ½ letter grade
3. Use of electronic devices: ½ letter grade
4. Failure to commit to a performance date: automatic F for course
5. Registered, yet not participating in a group: automatic F for course

## **REGISTRATION**

- Register on CAESAR under CONDUCT 391-0-20
- All Students must be available to attend the Tuesday classes at 1 PM in MCR.
- All players must register for credit. Students registered for **two groups** must register for **both** groups (but **do not** have to double the attendance requirement). For students in 2 groups, the proper registration is CONDUCT 391-0-20 and 391-0-21.
  - Add Deadline: Students must add the course before the University add deadline. Students not registered by the deadline will be notified and their grade will be reduced by one letter grade. For each subsequent week in which your registration is delayed, another reduced letter grade will incur. University late registration fees apply.

- Freshmen and sophomores may not perform in more than 1 group per quarter without the consent of their private instructor.
- Juniors and seniors may not perform in more than 2 groups per quarter.
- Strings only: String Chamber Music is **required** during the sophomore and Junior years. You are encouraged to participate in chamber music as an elective in your other years.
- If a student drops the course, she must communicate this with her colleagues. She is also required to schedule a joint meeting with the chamber music coordinator and her studio teacher.
- Any changes in personnel during the quarter must be submitted in writing to the chamber music coordinator.
- Drop Deadline: Students who are registered for chamber music but are not participating in a group must drop the course on CAESAR by the drop deadline or receive an automatic "F" for the course.
- All players must be current students at Northwestern University.

### **CREATING YOUR CHAMBER GROUP**

#### **THE QUESTIONNAIRE:**

- All students must complete a questionnaire each quarter to participate in chamber music. The questionnaires are forms used to give the coordinator your contact information and your plans for group placement. There are clearly marked deadlines on these forms. Late questionnaires will not be considered.
- Fall Quarter is the only quarter in which we accept applications for the current quarter. This is also the only quarter in which you may submit an application as a single, unmatched performer. We will do our best to place you in an appropriate group but cannot guarantee your placement.
- For the Winter and Spring quarters, questionnaires will be available at end of the preceding quarter.
- Each student must submit a questionnaire. There is a half letter grade deduction for failing to complete the form on time each quarter.
- Groups must stay together for at least **two quarters** (exceptions apply in collaboration with the chamber music coordinator).
- If you need the class to stay on track toward graduation, you must find your own group.
- Do not secure your own coach.
- Group assignments will be posted online.

**COMPOSITE SCHEDULE:** Once you know your group assignment, get together immediately to make a COMPOSITE schedule for your group as a whole. This is merely a scheduling grid indicating the times in which your entire group is free to work together. Please do your best to make adjustments in lesson and work schedules to create time for your group. Composite schedules must be sent to your coach. Coachings are scheduled based on the joint availability of your group members and your coach.

**SELECT YOUR CONTACT PERSON:** Choose one member in your group as the contact person. This person will serve as a liaison between you and your coach. This person will coordinate and communicate about scheduling throughout the quarter.

**CONTACT YOUR COACH:** All contact information is listed online. Your *contact person* should contact your assigned coach, give him the group's composite schedule and secure an initial coaching time. All groups must receive SEVEN hours of coaching per quarter. Your coach will assist you in repertoire choice based on the parameters below.

**SECURE YOUR MUSIC:** Music can be secured through the Deering Library, your studio teachers, or from Regenstein 243. Please contact Leslie Grimm for access to the holdings in room 243.

**REHEARSE:** You must rehearse at least 2 hours per week.

**ATTEND 7 HOURS OF COACHINGS:** Each member of your group must attend seven hours of coachings within each quarter. At the end of the fifth week of classes, we will send you a form for you to indicate the coaching hours that you have received to date. Groups with less than 3 coaching hours will be asked to drop the course. Groups with less than 4 coaching hours by the beginning of exam week will automatically receive a C for the course, at best. Failure to submit a form or known fabrications will be handled on a case-by-case basis. There is no flexibility here. You must stay on top of your schedule and communicate scheduling concerns with the Chamber Music Coordinator.

### **REPERTOIRE:**

Your repertoire will be determined in consultation with your coach and should follow a natural progression of difficulty similar to the string requirement below.

### **STRING CURRICULUM/REPERTOIRE:**

String groups must follow this progression of study.

1. Quartets by Mozart, Haydn, early Beethoven
2. Middle Beethoven quartets, Mendelssohn, Tchaikovsky
3. Quartets, Quintets, Trios by Brahms, mid- to late-Beethoven, Schubert
4. Mixed string and winds

5. Late Beethoven quartets, Shostakovich, Ravel, modern works, etc.

## **THE 4-1-1**

### **TUESDAY CLASS AND MASTER CLASS ATTENDANCE: 4**

- All enrolled chamber music students must attend 4 Tuesday classes or masterclasses sponsored by the chamber area each quarter. There are no excused absences or incompletes (Y) given for missed attendance. See complete class listings online. Plan ahead.
  - For double majors only: In cases of direct conflicts with required courses, register for section 21, marked TBA. All class conflicts must be cleared through the chamber music coordinator who will contact the Dean of Students. You are not excused from Tuesday classes until you have gained the approval of the chamber music coordinator.
- If your group performs in a Tuesday class and/or chamber music masterclass AND you stay for the entire event, you will be given 1 attendance credit toward your total of 4. You will automatically receive your performance credit.

### **NU STUDENT CHAMBER CONCERT (NUSCC) ATTENDANCE: 1**

Every student must attend 1 student chamber music concert per quarter. These concerts can **only** be the Northwestern University Student Chamber Concerts. All NUSCC dates are listed online.

If your group performs in a NUSCC **and** you stay for the entire event you will be given 1 attendance credit and 1 performance credit.

### **PERFORMANCE REQUIREMENT: 1**

All groups **must** perform at least once per quarter at a NU chamber music event. This includes our master classes, regular concerts and community engagement events. A complete listing can be found online. We no longer accept performance in student recitals or studio classes.

If you are an undergraduate participating in a group with a graduate student, you must perform 2 times per quarter in order to meet the posted graduate student requirements.

### **APPLICATIONS TO PERFORM:**

All applications to perform can be found online. These include Tuesday classes, chamber music master classes, community engagement and NUSCC's. NEW THIS QUARTER: Please note there is a single deadline to apply for all performance/class opportunities. See Canvas for details.

## **PERFORMANCE OPPORTUNITIES**

### **TUESDAY CLASSES AND MASTER CLASSES:**

Tuesday classes and master classes are perfect opportunities for all students at any level of preparation to perform. You may perform as little or as much as time allows. Please take advantage of our wonderful guests. Complete your application online.

### **NU STUDENT CHAMBER MUSIC CONCERTS (NUSCC):**

To perform in the NUSCC's groups must have accomplished a high level of technical proficiency and musicianship and must obtain the formal and written permission of your coach. These concerts are reserved for our most accomplished groups and are video recorded. Talk to your coach to decide when and if you will perform. Apply online.

### **HONORS RECITAL:**

During the Spring Quarter the chamber area presents the chamber music honors recital. Students are nominated by their coach for outstanding work and commitment. Groups must have been together for at least two quarters and preference will be given to upper-class students. Due to timing constraints, partial works are often presented. All repertoire must be sanctioned by your coach. **Details TBA**

### **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT/OUTREACH:**

All groups are encouraged to perform each quarter in the Evanston/Chicagoland area. Go online for a complete listing of opportunities.

### **DRESS CODE FOR NUSCC PERFORMANCES and COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:**

Wear appropriate attire signifying the seriousness of the event.

Men: Suit or button-down shirt (tucked in), pants, belt, nice shoes (no gym shoes).

Women: nice pants, dress or outfit. No jeans, open-toed sandals, bare midriff, sleeveless tops or low cut blouses.

### **PROGRAM NOTES:**

All groups must prepare 1 minute of spoken program notes for any performance within the chamber music program. Program notes should give your audience some background material on your piece and point out unique aspects and challenges of your chosen piece. NOTES CANNOT BE PLAGIARIZED FROM EXISTING SOURCES, and SHOULD NOT BE READ FROM A WRITTEN STATEMENT.

Unsatisfactory program notes (as deemed by an officiating faculty member) or the omission of program notes may result in the lowering of your grade or a request for formal notes in writing. The decision of the chamber music coordinator is final.

**FAILURE TO COMMIT TO A PERFORMANCE:**

Once you have applied for any concert date or class, consider it a professional obligation. Failure to remain committed to a performance date except under emergency circumstances will result in an 'F' for the quarter. Communicate with your colleagues to clear all dates in advance.

**SECURING YOUR ATTENDANCE CREDIT:**

**For NUSCC's And Master Classes:** Obtain an attendance card before the program begins. Sign this card and submit it to the presiding GA at the conclusion of the recital. Securing your attendance is your own responsibility and must be done according to these requirements. We do not give credit for late arrivals or early departures! Be on time!

**For Tuesday Classes:** Please see the graduate assistants located at the entrance of MCR before the start of the class in order to secure your attendance credit. We allow a five-minute grace period for students with difficult commutes between classes. After the five-minute grace period, no attendance will be accepted. If there is no GA waiting outside MCR to take your attendance, you will not receive the credit. Be on time!

**ELECTRONIC DEVICES:** Students found using ANY electronic devices during any concert or class will be asked to leave by the presiding faculty or Graduate Assistant and no attendance credit will be given. You may retrieve your device from your studio teacher after class.



## ***OTHER ITEMS OF NOTE***

### **CANVAS/BLACKBOARD:**

All pertinent and relevant information is listed on the University's Canvas/Blackboard Learning System. Go to [northwestern.edu](http://northwestern.edu), select the Canvas/Blackboard link and find your chamber music Your section. You must be registered to access the site! Questions? See Leslie Grimm, coordinator of chamber music.

### **CHAMBER BULLETIN BOARDS:**

MAB: Room 204 (within the piano board) AND Regenstein: 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, outside the music office

### **JOB REFERRAL SERVICE:**

If you are interested in paid jobbing dates in the Chicago area, please use our gig referral service. Email [hire-musician@northwestern.edu](mailto:hire-musician@northwestern.edu) or call 847-491-5741.

### **REHEARSAL SPACES:**

Regenstein 117, 119, 137, 139: These rooms have grand pianos and can be signed out at the Regenstein office.

MAB rooms: Regular chamber music rehearsals for groups with piano may be booked for the quarter through the GA for Prof. Wang.

**FACULTY COORDINATORS:**

Coordinator of Wind and String Chamber Music: Leslie Grimm, Regenstein 243

[l-grimm@northwestern.edu](mailto:l-grimm@northwestern.edu), 773-297-6332 cell

Coordinator of Piano Chamber Music: Dr. Sylvia Wang, MAB

[sylvia-wang@northwestern.edu](mailto:sylvia-wang@northwestern.edu)

**CHAMBER MUSIC GRADUATE ASSISTANTS:**

Concert and Artistic Manager: Michael Powell,

[MichaelPowell2016@u.northwestern.edu](mailto:MichaelPowell2016@u.northwestern.edu)

Student in charge of all artistic and managerial aspects of the chamber music course including attendance, group formation, website maintenance, applications to perform, program creation and printing, NUSCC's, Tuesday classes and master classes.

Assistant to Concert Manager: Christian Bailey,

[ChristianBailey2016@u.northwestern.edu](mailto:ChristianBailey2016@u.northwestern.edu)

Chamber Music Engagement Co-Coordinator: Joshua deVries,

[JoshuadeVries2015@u.northwestern.edu](mailto:JoshuadeVries2015@u.northwestern.edu)

312-286-2966 (use in emergencies only)

Student in charge of all community engagement events and transportation including the People's Music School, the Mather Home, Skokie Park District

Chamber Music Engagement Co-Coordinator: Rebecca Dora,

[becca.dora.oboe@gmail.com](mailto:becca.dora.oboe@gmail.com),

920-912-4202 (use in emergencies only)