



MUS 560: Special Topics in Music Education: Showchoir Camps of America

Summer 2026

Graduate Credit: 1-3 credits @ \$350/credit
D2M **Augustana** Camp (June 14-20) CRN: 12326
D2H **Heidelberg** Camp (July 12-18) CRN: 12142

Continuing Education Units: 5 units @ \$75
CEM **Augustana** Camp CRN: 12327
CEH **Heidelberg** Camp CRN: 12327

Instructor: Susan Moninger, Professor Emerita of Music, Elmhurst University

Office Hours: By appointment

Email: susanmo@elmhurst.edu

Course Description: An in-depth course that addresses educational approaches for teaching show choir. Emphasis will be for middle and high school music educators. Highlights of the course include new techniques for pop, jazz and show choir. Students will learn through study and observation of these styles. Students will learn how to plan rehearsals and how to teach students about being a complete performer. Students will learn how to combine the ability to sing and dance as well as development of stage presence. Microphone technique and how to perform with instrumental accompaniment will also be addressed. Students will also have guest lecturers who are outstanding examples of educators and experts in this field.

Required Texts and Instructional Materials: You are required to attend all instructional and performance sessions. In addition, you will receive many musical scores and handouts related to the field of show choir.

Course Outcomes: Upon successful completion of this course, you should be able to:

- To develop an awareness of the responsibilities of the show choir director.
- To explore choral tone and diction for pop, jazz, and show choir style.
- To become familiar with combining the complex demands of a total performer including visual, aural, theatrical, vocal and choreography.
- To learn the historical background of the show choir genres.
- To explore choral rehearsal methods, where to find literature, and programming.
- To study attention to detail, including costuming, lighting, staging, and use of risers.
- To learn about sound systems.
- To develop an understanding of concepts of an ensemble such as teamwork, discipline, and respect for one another.
- To learn how to find listening and visual resources for your students as well as for yourself.

Attendance Policy: Student registered for Graduate and Continuing Education Credits are expected to attend all instructional and performance sessions. Any absences need to be approved through Susan Moninger or an SCA representative.

Course Activities: The SCA camp will include a combination of the following:

- Critical class discussion of various methods of teaching
- Team building exercises for the choral rehearsal, as well as active participation
- Observing and participating in choreography
- Student will meet various composers and participate in reading sessions of the newest releases in choral music of a variety of genres.
- Students will attend sessions with visiting special guests who are experts in the field.
- Students will participate in a final performance at the end of the week.



Course Assessment:

CEU and 1-credit Graduate Expectations: Students must fully attend the workshop for the entire intensive week.

2-credit Graduate Expectations: In addition to full attendance for the workshop, students will complete a written evaluation of what you have learned in the course and how you will apply various techniques to your teaching. The paper should be 4-5 pages in length, typed and double-spaced.

3-credit Graduate Expectations: In addition to full attendance for the workshop, students will complete a written evaluation of what you have learned in the course and how you will apply various techniques to your teaching. The paper should be 8-10 pages in length, typed and double-spaced.

Final Papers for the Augustana camp are to be submitted to Professor Moninger (susanmo@elmhurst.edu) by July 2. Final Papers for the Heidelberg camp are to be submitted to Professor Moninger by July 29.

Evaluative Criteria (for 2- and 3- credit graduate enrollment)

Final course grade will be based on a combination of the quality of the students work in the following areas listed above along with attendance, preparation for class discussion on reading assignments, and participation in class activities as well as a final paper. Excessive absences and/or tardies will adversely affect your grade.

DETERMINATION OF GRADES

Participation of class activities	70%
Critical class discussion of assignments	15%
Final Paper	15%
Total	100%

Heidelberg University Academic Policies:

Academic Honesty Policy:

The University values honesty and integrity as fundamental to learning and personal success. All members of the University should respect the integrity of another’s work and recognize the importance of acknowledging and safeguarding intellectual property. Violations of the Academic Honesty Policy include any dishonest behavior by students that impacts (or potentially impacts) their grade in a course, or assisting another student (intentionally or unintentionally) in such behavior.

Students can access the full Academic Honesty Policy in the [student handbook](#).

Students wishing to appeal an Academic Honesty Violation decision must submit the Appeal of Academic Honesty Violation form (<https://inside.heidelberg.edu/appeal-academic-honesty-violation>) within five business days of their receipt of the sanction. Appeals may only be made when:

1. There is new evidence,
2. When proper procedures were not followed, or
3. When the penalty involves suspension or dismissal from the University.

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Disability and Accessibility Accommodations

Some students with disabilities and other accessibility needs may require modifications to a course to achieve equal access. Heidelberg University provides resources and support for such students through the Office of Student Accessibility Services. Students participate in an ongoing, interactive process to determine appropriate accommodations for each course. If you need accommodations, please contact the Office of Student Accessibility Services as soon as possible. Accommodations generally cannot be made retroactive, so it is important to get them in place early in the semester. Please note, it is your responsibility to initiate and follow through with this process,

including all relevant forms and documentation. Email accessibilityservices@heidelberg.edu or call the Owen Center at 419-448-2301 to make an appointment.

Title IX

Heidelberg University does not discriminate or tolerate discrimination on the basis of sex, gender, transgender status, gender identity, or gender expression in its educational, extracurricular, or athletic programs, or in any admission or employment decisions. Heidelberg is committed to promptly and equitably responding to all reports of sexual discrimination with the goal of eliminating the misconduct and/or harassment, preventing its recurrence, and addressing its effects on any individual or the community. To report sexual misconduct or sexual harassment, students may contact anyone on the Title IX team:

Jake McGraw, Director of Security & Compliance, Title IX Coordinator
Campus Center 209
419-448,2408
jmcgraw@heidelberg.edu

Kayela Tidrick, Instructor of Sport Management, Title IX Deputy Coordinator
Adams 304A
419-448-2594
ktidrick@heidelberg.edu

To confidentially discuss sexual misconduct or sexual harassment, students may contact University Confidential Resources:

Health & Counseling Center, (419) 448-2041 or the Director of the Center for Survivor Empowerment, Meredith Lucius, (419)-448-2175.

For more information, please see the University's Sexual Discrimination Policy on our Title IX page on Heidelberg's inside website. Or click on the link here <https://inside.heidelberg.edu/docs/sex-discrimination-policy>

Certificates and Transcripts

Transcripts are available [upon request](#) for those enrolling for Continuing Education Units and 1-3 graduate credits. When ordering a transcript, all applicants should request "hold for grades."