

Ben-Gurion University of the Negev
Chamber Music Performance Course
Syllabus – 2019/20

Lecturer: Daniel Lachish
Academic Supervisor: Prof. Ute Deichmann

Eligibility

The course is open to all students, faculty, and other members of the University. Experience playing chamber music is not required.

Prerequisites

- Reasonable proficiency with a string, woodwind, or brass instrument, or piano as determined by audition
- Ability to read music

Requirements

- Mandatory class attendance, in accordance with the attendance policy of Ben-Gurion University of the Negev
- A ca. 10-minute presentation in class on an assigned or chosen topic related to the piece being prepared with the group (only for undergraduates who wish to receive credits)
- Participation in an internal concert at the end of each semester

Credits

For undergraduates only, two credits per year for up to two years.

Please note that credits will only be awarded if a suitable ensemble and permanent meeting time are found before the end of the registration change period (second week of the semester).

Goals

The goals of the course are as follows:

- To study compositions from the wealth of the chamber music literature by practicing in groups such as (string, wind, piano) trios or quartets.
- To learn about the life and works of the particular composers whose music we play as well as relevant aspects of music theory.
- Following the methods of Prof. Ramy Shevelov,
 - To learn to study together and listen to one another.

- To learn to listen to the intention of the music and the spirit of the composer.

This method places emphasis on listening - to the music and to one another. As a result, each group develops its own identity and unique way of playing.

Performances

At the end of each semester, each group performs the piece it studied for the other members of the course in an "internal concert". More advanced groups also perform in a public concert at the university and at university events.

Details

Auditions and placement in groups

Students who want to participate play an audition.

Chamber music groups are then formed according to students' level of playing. Students who participate in the course after the first year have the option to continue playing in their previous groups.

The groups are scheduled according to the time-table of the students and lecturer.

Choice of music

In most cases, the lecturer chooses the pieces according to the available instruments and levels of playing.

Time commitment, lesson description

Lessons take place once a week and last about 60 minutes. Before concerts there are usually additional lessons.

The lessons begin with an introduction by the lecturer to the piece, an aspect of music theory, and the essentials of chamber music playing. The largest part of the lessons is devoted to practicing. Students learn to play together or improve their ability to play together.