I. **OVERVIEW**
The following information will appear in the 2011 - 2012 catalog

MUSE 166  
**Chamber Music Ensembles (Strings)**  
1 Unit

**Formerly listed as:** MUSIC - 151: Chamber Music Ensembles (Strings)

**Recommended for Success:** Before enrolling in this course, students are strongly advised to demonstrate ability to read music and play an instrument at an advanced level.

Rehearsal and performance of chamber ensemble literature. Ensembles may include strings, woodwinds, or piano. Public performance required.

Four Maximum completions.
Field trips might be required.  (A-F or P/NP - Student choice)  Lecture

**Transfer:** (CSU, UC) **General Education:** (MJC-GE: Activities )

II. **LEARNING CONTEXT**
Given the following learning context, the student who satisfactorily completes this course should be able to achieve the goals specified in Section III, Desired Learning:

A. **COURSE CONTENT**

1. **Required Content:**

   a. Music notation
      i. Traditional usage

   b. Meters and rhythms
      i. Simple and compound time signatures
      ii. Note and rest values

   c. Analysis of chamber music literature
      i. Repertoire from different eras

   d. Rehearsal techniques
      i. Tuning
      ii. Balance and blend
      iii. Tone color
      iv. Phrasing
      v. Articulation
      vi. Refining of individual parts
      vii. Interpretation
e. Performance preparation and execution
   i. Concert format
   ii. Aesthetic considerations
   iii. Professionalism

f. Second repeat
   i. Expansion of rehearsal techniques
      a. Group rhythm work with the metronome and intensive tuning of chords from the root.
   ii. More challenging key signatures

g. Third repeat
   i. Expansion of sight reading techniques
   ii. Focus on stylistic issues
   iii. Increase in difficulty of repertoire studied

h. Fourth repeat
   i. Development of independent rehearsal technique
   ii. Advanced level of cuing
   iii. Repertoire studied
      a. Romantic
      b. 20th Century

B. **ENROLLMENT RESTRICTIONS**

1. **Advisories**

   Before enrolling in this course, students are strongly advised to demonstrate ability to read music and play an instrument at an advanced level.

2. **Requisite Skills**

   *Before entering the course, the student will be able to:*
   a. Identify and demonstrate musical notation of pitches.
   b. Recognize and demonstrate rhythmic notation.

C. **HOURS AND UNITS**

   1 Units
D. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION (TYPICAL)

Instructors of the course might conduct the course using the following method:

1. Lecture, instructor demonstration, and discussion
2. Students demonstrate phrases and articulations using call and response
3. Critique audio and/or video cassette recordings of the composition
4. Discovery through experimentation
5. Oral performance critiques
6. Assignments requiring independent practice

E. ASSIGNMENTS (TYPICAL)

1. EVIDENCE OF APPROPRIATE WORKLOAD FOR COURSE UNITS

Homework assignments require daily practice of both technical and musical aspects of chamber music

Participation in Public Performance required at the end of the semester

Typical chamber music assignments include works by Vivaldi, Haydn, Shostakovich, Bach, or Beethoven. The music studied and performed may be chosen from the Baroque, Classical, Romantic, or 20th century repertoire. Music is selected according to the level and instrumentation of each ensemble.

2. EVIDENCE OF CRITICAL THINKING

Assignments require the appropriate level of critical thinking

Students are given musical assignments that require analysis. They compare and contrast different musical styles and analyze tone quality, phrasing, intonation, fingerings, and bowings. Students determine rhythmic and technical difficulties and explore solutions.

If a student is having trouble in ensemble with technique in a certain passage they practice it at home and return to the group to share solutions to the problem. This could include experimentation with different parts of the bow, using relaxation techniques, and creating their own exercises to improve performance.

F. TEXTS AND OTHER READINGS (TYPICAL)

1. Other: Chamber music works will be chosen by the instructor according to the level and instrumentation of each group. Composers may include Bach, Beethoven, Vivaldi, Haydn, Bartok, or Mozart.

III. DESIRED LEARNING

A. COURSE GOAL

As a result of satisfactory completion of this course, the student should be prepared to:

compare and contrast different tempi, dynamics, tone colors, and melodic material. The student will also rehearse effectively with colleagues and perform in an ensemble in a public concert.
B. **STUDENT LEARNING GOALS**  
*Mastery of the following learning goals will enable the student to achieve the overall course goal.*

1. **Required Learning Goals**  
*Upon satisfactory completion of this course, the student will be able to:*
   a. Identify and perform pitch and rhythmic notation in a chamber ensemble.
   b. Analyze and demonstrate metric notation, tempi, and dynamics.
   c. Compare and contrast musical terms of expression and tempo.
   d. Develop effective rehearsal technique.
   e. Critique live musical performance.
   f. Perform in ensemble with interpretive response appropriate to the style period of assigned music.
   g. Develop sight-reading skills.

IV. **METHODS OF ASSESSMENT (TYPICAL)**

A. **FORMATIVE ASSESSMENT**
   1. Evaluation of student performance of assigned music
   2. Verbal quizzes
   3. Participation in weekly rehearsals

B. **SUMMATIVE ASSESSMENT**
   1. Review of DVD or CD of performance
   2. Participation in public performance