

Composition Skills 1
MUC 1211

University of Florida
School of Music
Fall, 2018
Room: MUB 232
MW 4

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Course Description: An introduction to the craft of contemporary music composition through guided exercises, score study, in-class projects, and discussions.

Course Requirements: Students will complete all assigned listenings, readings, analyses, compositions, and reports on time. The assignments should be submitted to the instructor on the Monday of respective weeks (see the schedule of topics and activities on page 2). Late assignments will receive 2% deduction per day.

There will be 3 listening reports, 6 composition projects and in-class reading sessions of compositions, as well as 2 analysis projects (details forthcoming).

Students will also be asked to contribute to the class by presenting their own creative work, perform on their instruments, and bring additional listening material to share (details forthcoming).

Student will arrange for an in-class performance of their final (6th) project at the end of the semester.

Students will prepare a report on a contemporary composer, chosen in consultation with the instructor (details forthcoming).

Students will present a portfolio of their work for the full composition faculty at composition juries (date and details will be announced).

Students can receive up to 6% extra credit by attending maximum 3 contemporary music concert, chosen in consultation with the instructor, and writing maximum 500-word reviews of the concerts (details forthcoming). These concerts include performances of UF New Music Ensemble, Unbalanced Connection Electroacoustic concerts, and all the events within Florida Contemporary Music Festival.

All students studying composition are encouraged to attend the weekly composition studio, Mondays at 4:05pm in room 232. In the studio, the composition faculty and students present their works.

Materials: manuscript paper, pencil, laptop and computer notation program (Sibelius or Finale), access to the computer lab.

Students need to have access to the e-learning Canvas page of the course, to UF's electronic course reserve, and to the physical course reserve at the Fine Arts Library Front-desk (FAA). All the course materials will be uploaded to /put on the above sources (details forthcoming). Make sure to check these sources, as well as your UF email address regularly. Please use only your UF email address, or Canvas Message Center, for communicating with the instructor.

Attendance: Regular attendance is required. Certain absences can be excused with proper documentation. Please consult UF attendance policies: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/>.

Academic Honor Policy and Conduct: It is expected that you exhibit ethical behavior concerning your work in this class. Students are expected to do their own work, use their own words in papers, and to reference outside sources appropriately. Failure to uphold the standards of academic honesty will result in the appropriate disciplinary action.

As a result of completing the registration form at the University of Florida, every student has signed the following statement: "I understand that the University of Florida expects its students to be honest in all their academic work. I agree to adhere to this commitment to academic honesty and understand that my

failure to comply with this commitment may result in disciplinary action up to and including expulsion from the University."

We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity.

Furthermore, on work submitted for credit by UF students, the following pledge is either required or implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment."

All violations of academic honesty will be referred to the Dean of Students Office for disciplinary action without exception. Plagiarism or cheating will result in a failing grade for the plagiarized assignment, and possibly the course. If you are uncertain about these guidelines, please talk to your instructor.

Disrespectful behavior by any student to a fellow classmate, teaching assistants, or the instructor is unacceptable under any circumstances. Such behaviors include, but are not limited to, arriving late/leaving early, sleeping in class, text messaging, doing non-course related reading/homework, and discrimination of any type. Cell phones are to be silenced and put away for the duration of class. In any such case, the instructor may ask the student(s) to leave the classroom. Our classroom is an open classroom, your discussions and views will be heard and respected if delivered in a respectful manner.

Students Requesting Accommodations due to Disabilities: Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation. To request classroom accommodations, contact the Assistant Dean of Students/Director of the Disability Resources Program at P202 Peabody Hall or call 392-1261 (V), 392-3008 (TDD).

Schedule of Topics, activities, and due dates of the assignments: Topics covered will include, but are not limited to:

- Generating composition material
- Strategies and techniques for developing, extending, and manipulating material
- Working within compositional constraints and limitations
- Creating variety and contrast
- Manipulating non-pitched parameters
- Employment of compositional processes
- Contemporary notation

- ✓ The class will not take place on the following days:
 - Monday, **Sept. 3** & Wednesday, **Sept. 26**
 - Monday, **Nov. 12** & Wednesday, **Nov. 21**

Week 1 (Aug. 22): INTRODUCTION

Week 2 (Aug. 25 & 27): BASICS AND THE TONAL LEGACY

Week 3 (Sep. 5): BASICS AND THE TONAL LEGACY CONTINUED

- *Listening report 1 due*

Week 4 (Sep. 10 & 12): NEW ROLES OF MELODY

- *Composition project 1 due*

Week 5 (Sep. 17 & 19): HARMONY, COUNTERPOINT, AND HIERARCHY

Week 6 (Sep. 24): INTERVAL EXPLORATION

- *Analysis project 1 due*

Week 7 (Oct. 1 & 3): SERIALISM

- *Composition project 2 due*

Week 8 (Oct. 8 and 10): PITCH-CLASS SETS

- *Listening report 2 due*

Week 9 (Oct 15 & 17): RHYTHM AND METER

- *Composition project 3 due*

Week 10 (Oct. 22 & 24): TEXTURE AND MODULATIONS

- *Contemporary composer report due*

Week 11 (Oct. 29 & 31): MICROTONES

- *Composition project 4 due*

Week 12 (Nov. 5 & 7): PERCUSSION AND THE PREPARED PIANO

- *Listening report 3 due*

Week 13 (Nov. 14): NEW TECHNIQUES AND INSTRUMENTS

- *Analysis project 2 due*

Week 14 (Nov. 19): NEW NOTATIONS

- *Composition project 5 due*

Week 15 (Nov. 26 & 28): INDETERMINACY

Week 16 (Dec. 3 & 5): CONCLUSIONS

- *Final (6th) composition projects*

Grading Scale and Breakdown:

93-100	A	6 Composition projects	30% (5% per project)
90-92	A-	Composition jury grade	20%
87-89	B+	3 Listening reports	15% (5% per report)
83-86	B	2 Analysis projects	10% (5% per project)
80-82	B-	Contemporary composer report	10%
77-79	C+	In-class Participation	5%
73-76	C	Attendance	5%
70-72	C-	Performance of the final project	5%
67-69	D+	(Extra credit)	6% (2% per concert reports)
63-67	D		
60-62	D-		
0-59	E		

- ✓ Please note that C- and lower count as failing grades.
- ✓ Instructor reserves the right to adapt this syllabus during the semester.

Additional Resources:

1. Campus Writing Center: Students are encouraged to use the Campus Writing Center for extra help with the writing assignments. Students who use the Writing Center must submit all drafts of the paper, including the suggestions and revisions from the center. If you are asked to use the writing center, you will be expected to do so and to submit all drafts of your paper. Information about the center is available at www.at.ufl.edu/r&w/.
2. Other resources are available on campus for students having personal problems that affect academic performance or difficulty defining career and academic goals:
 - University Counseling Center for personal and career counseling; 301 Peabody Hall, 392-1575.
 - Student Mental Health for personal counseling; Student Mental Health Care Center, 392-1171.
 - Center for Sexual Assault/Abuse Recovery Services, Student Health Care Center, 392-1161.
 - Career Resource Center, career development assistance and counseling; Reitz Union, 392-160