

MUC2102**Composition Skills 4**

Class meetings: T/R 10:40-11:30 a.m.

Location: MUB 145

Spring 2023

Instructor: Michael Papa

Email: mpapa@ufl.edu

Office hours: by appointment

Syllabus

Course Description

Fourth semester in a series of courses that focuses on essential skills for music composition. Various musical styles and techniques are explored via a combination of group discussions, lecture, listening to recordings, and score analyses, with an emphasis on the application of proper music notation skills. Students will be expected to have a general prior knowledge of the basic components of music theory and history.

Required Materials

- ❖ Music notation software (Finale, Sibelius, or Dorico preferred)
- ❖ Staff paper and pencils

Textbooks

There is no required textbook for this course. Assigned readings will be provided by the instructor.

Course Objectives

This course is designed for students to build upon the essential skills necessary to have a successful academic career (and beyond) in music composition. To accomplish this, students will be able to:

- ❖ Compose two pieces with musical integrity (4-8 minutes in length)
- ❖ Score music effectively with proper notation skills
- ❖ Compile a portfolio of selected works of their music
- ❖ Prepare for a jury to be held with the School of Music composition faculty

Assessments

In order to achieve the desired course objectives, students will be expected to do the following assignments/projects throughout the semester:

- ❖ Piece 1: a 4-8 minute piece of any instrumentation of their choice
- ❖ Piece 2: another 4-8 minute piece with different musical elements contrasting Piece 1 (instrumentation, style, etc.)
- ❖ Presentations/masterclasses for Pieces 1 and 2, with feedback from the instructor and questions/commentary from classmates
- ❖ Weekly in-class speed exercises focusing on various compositional skills such as transposition (completed attempts will receive full credit, not correct/incorrect answers)
- ❖ A portfolio consisting of the students' best works to be handed in at the end of the semester
- ❖ Weekly participation for listening and music analyses done in class. Students will also be expected to find a recording of any piece(s) of their choice to share with the class (can be from any composer 1950+)

Grading

Students' final grades for the course will be measured as follows:

Piece 1 and 2 - 50% (25% each)

Masterclass for Pieces 1 and 2 - 20% (10% each)

Portfolio - 20%

Speed exercises and listening - 10%

Grading Scale

Final grades for the semester will use the following grading scale:

A	93-100
A	90-92
B+	87-89
B	83-86
B-	80-82
C+	77-79
C	73-76
C-	70-72
D+	67-69
D	64-66
D-	60-63
E	59 and below

Listening List

This is a list of pieces the class will be listening to as a group throughout the semester. Students will also have the opportunity to share pieces they find on their own, so the number of pieces provided by the instructor here will be limited.

Small Ensemble

Giacinto Scelsi - *String Quartet No. 4*

Amy Beach - *Pastorale*

Tōru Takemitsu - *Les Yeux Clos II*

Chaya Czernowin - *Ayre: Towed*

Large Ensemble

György Ligeti - *Chamber Concerto for 13 Instrumentalists*

Franco Donatoni - *Lied*

Christopher Trapani — *Cognitive Consonance*

Vocal Music

Igor Stravinsky - *Requiem Canticles*

Samuel Barber - *Knoxville: Summer of 1915*

Krzysztof Penderecki - *St. Luke Passion*

Orchestral Music

John Corigliano - *Clarinet Concerto*

Luigi Dallapiccola - *Variazioni per Orchestra* (also *Quaderno musicale di Annalibera*)

Michael Tippett - *Suite in D*

Morton Feldman - *Piano and Orchestra*

Electronic Music

Pauline Oliveros - *The Wanderer*

Kaija Saariaho - *NoaNoa*

Paul Lansky - *Mild Und Leise*

Terry Riley - *A Rainbow in Curved Air*

Course Content

*Rubrics will be provided online for each assignment

Piece 1 and 2

You will be expected to write two 4-8 minute pieces, one to be completed about halfway through the semester and then another at the end. Instrumentation, style, and all other elements are completely up to the students' decisions. However, keep in mind that larger instrumentation will naturally take much longer, so put the necessary time aside if a larger ensemble is your choice for one or both pieces. If writing a smaller piece, such as a solo or duet, you will be expected to put in the same amount of effort. Please email your proposed piece (instrumentation, style, etc.) to the instructor by the dates noted in the course outline.

Presentations/Masterclasses

To prepare for the composition program, students will be presenting their two completed pieces to the class shortly after the due date for each. We will simply listen to the piece and look at the score while providing commentary from both the instructor and classmates. While there is no specific format for this presentation, we expect you to have the proper materials compiled and ready to be presented to the class so we can listen to a MIDI recording and look at the score on the projector.

Portfolio

In order to be accepted to the composition program, students are expected to submit a portfolio of their best works. This course will provide the necessary knowledge and skills to do so. By the end of the semester, your portfolio will be due. This will not be presented to the class, but simply provided to the instructor for individual feedback. Scores are expected to look clean and fully completed with a title page, program notes, etc. (Parts are not necessary here, only completed scores).

Attendance

While students will not be graded on attendance, everyone is required to regularly attend class. More than three unexcused absences will automatically withdraw you from the course. Excused absences will be only given for serious occurrences such as medical emergencies, illness, family death, or other events of a similar level. Students will need to provide appropriate documentation to earn an excused absence.

Academic Honesty

Students are expected to maintain academic integrity at University of Florida, and they must follow the UF Honor Pledge as follows:

“We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity. On all work submitted for credit by students at the university, the following pledge is either required or implied: On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.”

Any acts committed with the intent of academic progression that are not bound to the University’s pledge, including cheating and plagiarizing, is strictly prohibited. Failure to abide by these parameters will result in a failed assignment and a possible withdrawal from the course.

University Policy on Accessibility

Students with disabilities who would like to request accommodations should contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) by visiting <https://disability.ufl.edu/students/get-started/>. Students will need to provide their accommodation letter to the instructor and discuss their access needs.

Health and Wellness Resources

- ❖ U Matter, We Care: If you or a friend is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu or 352-392- 1575 so that a team member can reach out to the student.
- ❖ Counseling and Wellness Center <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/Default.aspx>, 352-392-1575;
and the University Police Department: 352-392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies.
- ❖ Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS) Student Health Care Center, 352-392-1161
- ❖ University Police Department
352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies) <http://www.police.ufl.edu/>

Course Evaluations

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

Course Outline

Here is a tentative schedule of the course (if changed, the instructor will send a new one):

Week 1

TUE 1/10: Intro and syllabus

THU 1/12: Individual meetings and date setup for private lessons

Week 2

TUE 1/17: Review of compositional techniques

THU 1/19: Review of compositional techniques

Week 3

TUE 1/24: Small ensemble music (email your proposition for Piece 1 by this date)

THU 1/26: Small ensemble music

Week 4

TUE 1/31: Small ensemble music

THU 2/2: Small ensemble music

Week 5

TUE 2/7: Large ensemble music

THU 2/9: Large ensemble music

Week 6

TUE 2/14: Vocal music

THU 2/16: Vocal music

Week 7

TUE 2/21: Private lessons (NO REGULAR CLASS MEETING)

THU 2/23: Private lessons (NO REGULAR CLASS MEETING)

Week 8

TUE 2/28: Private lessons (NO REGULAR CLASS MEETING)

THU 3/2: Catch-up and preparation for master classes

Week 9

TUE 3/7: Master class 1 **(DUE: PIECE 1)**

THU 3/9: Master class 1

Week 10

TUE 3/14: SPRING BREAK

THU 3/16: SPRING BREAK

Week 11

TUE 3/21: Orchestral music

THU 3/23: Orchestral music (email your proposition for Piece 2 by this date)

Week 12

TUE 3/28: Orchestral music

THU 3/30: Orchestral music

Week 13

TUE 4/4: Electronic music

THU 4/6: Electronic music

Week 14

TUE 4/11: Private lesson 2 (NO REGULAR CLASS MEETING)

THU 4/13: Private lesson 2 (NO REGULAR CLASS MEETING)

Week 15

TUE 4/18: Private lesson 2 (NO REGULAR CLASS MEETING)

THU 4/20: Master class 2 **(DUE: PIECE 2)**

Week 16

TUE 4/25: Master class 2 **(DUE: PORTFOLIO)**

THU 4/20: NO CLASS - Jury TBD