

Composition Skills 1

MUC 1211

University of Florida

Dr. Paul Richards School of Music

MWF 4, MUB144

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

Course Requirements: Students will complete all assigned readings, analyses, and compositions on time. There will be two listening reports (see attached), and (VERY important), students will arrange for an in-class performance of their final project at the end of the semester. 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). Students will present a portfolio of their work for the full composition faculty at composition juries on December 11th. All students studying composition are encouraged to attend the weekly composition forum, Fridays at 12:50pm in room MUB 144.

Required Text: Cope, David. *Techniques of the Contemporary Composer*.

Schirmer, 1997. ISBN: 0028647378

(Important note: this text is out of print, and copies in various formats can be accessed online.)

Schedule of Topics and Activities: (tentative and subject to change)

Week	Cope chapter	Projects/Assignments
1	1: Basics	
2	2: The Tonal Legacy	
3		Analysis 1: Britten movement
4	3: New Roles of Melody	Composition 1 (solo instrument)
5		
6	4: Harmony, Counterpoint, and Hierarchy	Analysis 2: Honegger symphony fragment
7		Composition 2 (small ensemble)
8	5: Interval Exploration	Listening Journal 1
9		
10	6: Serialism	Composition 3 (piano variations)
11		Analysis 3: Dallapiccola movement
12	7: Pitch-Class Sets	
13		Listening Journal 2
14	10: Microtonality	Composition 4 (small ensemble)
15		In-class performances

Note: The above outline is tentative and subject to change. There will be approximately 4 composition projects, 3 analysis projects, 2 listening journals, and in-class reading sessions of compositions. Due dates will be announced throughout the semester.

Listening list

Listen to the following works in conjunction with reading the book chapter to which they are attached. Keep a journal of your personal reactions to the works, and where possible, listen to the works while looking at the score. Additional details about these works and where to access them can be found [here](#).

1 -

John Corigliano - Pied Piper Fantasy

Mason Bates - Alternative Energy

Jessie Montgomery - Banner

2 -

Claude Debussy - Syrinx

Sergei Prokofiev - Classical Symphony

Florent Schmitt - Dionysiaques

George Rochberg - String Quartet #3

3 -

Igor Stravinsky - Le Sacre du Printemps

Alexander Scriabin - Piano Preludes, Op.74

Anoushka Shankar - Raga Desh (Live at Carnegie Hall)

4 -

Bela Bartok - Music for Strings, Percussion, and Celeste

Bela Bartok - String Quartet #4

Benjamin Britten - Serenade for Tenor, Horn, and Strings

5 -

Ruth Crawford Seeger - String Quartet 1931

Paul Hindemith - Fuga Quarta in A, from Ludus Tonalis

Christopher Rouse - Symphony 1

6 -

Anton Webern, String Quartet, opus 28

Alban Berg - Violin Concerto

Bill Evans Trio T.T.T. (Twelve Tone Tune)

7 -

Arnold Schoenberg - Drei Stucke, Op.11

Jacob Druckman - Reflections on the Nature of Water

Thomas Ades - Asyla

10 -

Ben Johnston - String Quartet #4 ("Amazing Grace")

Gérard Grisey - Partiels

Grading: Based on the following scale and formula -

93-100 A

90-92 A-

87-89 B+

83-86 B

80-82 B-

77-79 C+

73-76 C

70-72 C-

67-69 D+

63-67 D

60-62 D- 0-59 E

Analysis projects 10%

Composition jury grade 20%

Composition projects 40%

Listening reports	20%
In-class participation/concerts	10%

More information on UF grading policy may be found at: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/#gradestext>[Links to an external site.](#)

Students Requiring Accommodations

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the disability Resource Center by visiting <https://disability.ufl.edu/students/get-started/>[Links to an external site.](#) It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.

Course Evaluation

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 gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/[Links to an external site.](#) 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 ufl.bluera.com/ufl/. [Links to an external site.](#) Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/ [Links to an external site.](#)

University Honesty Policy

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” The Honor Code (<https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

Software Use

All faculty, staff, and students of the University are required and expected to obey the laws and legal agreements governing software use. Failure to do so can lead to monetary damages and/or criminal penalties for the individual violator. Because such violations are also against University policies and rules, disciplinary action will be taken as appropriate. We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to uphold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity.

Student Privacy

There are federal laws protecting your privacy with regards to grades earned in courses and on individual assignments. For more information, please see: <http://registrar.ufl.edu/catalog0910/policies/regulationferpa.html> [Links to an external site.](#)

Campus Resources: Health and Wellness

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> [Links to an external site.](#), and 392-1575; and the University Police Department: 392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies.

Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS)

Student Health Care Center, 392-1161.

University Police Department at 392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies), or <http://www.police.ufl.edu/Links to an external site.>

Academic Resources

E-learning technical support, 352-392-4357 (select option 2) or e-mail to Learning-support@ufl.edu. <https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml>Links to an external site..

Career Resource Center, Reitz Union, 392-1601. Career assistance and counseling. <https://www.crc.ufl.edu/>Links to an external site..

Library Support, <http://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/ask>Links to an external site.. Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.

Teaching Center, Broward Hall, 392-2010 or 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring. <https://teachingcenter.ufl.edu/>Links to an external site..

Writing Studio, 302 Tigert Hall, 846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers. <https://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/>Links to an external site..

Student Complaints

Campus: https://www.dso.ufl.edu/documents/UF_Complaints_policy.pdfLinks to an external site..

On-Line Students Complaints: <http://www.distance.ufl.edu/student-complaint-process>Links to an external site..