

Composition Skills 1

MUC 1211

University of Florida

Dr. Paul Richards School of Music

MW 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 8th. 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-
59-57	E

Analysis projects	10%
Composition jury grade	20%
Composition projects	40%
Listening reports	20%
In-class participation/concerts	10%

Academic Policies:

- Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in the course are consistent with university policies. [See UF Academic Regulations and Policies for more information regarding the University Attendance Policies.](#)
- Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the Disability Resource Center. [See the “Get Started With the DRC” webpage on the Disability Resource Center 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.

- Information on current UF grading policies for assigning grade points. This may be achieved by including [a link to the University grades and grading policies](#).
- Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online. Students can complete evaluations in three ways:
 1. The email they receive from GatorEvals
 2. Their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals
 3. The central portal at <https://my-ufl.bluer.com>

Guidance on how to provide constructive feedback is available at <https://gatorevals.ua.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.ua.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

- The University's Honesty Policy regarding cheating, plagiarism, etc.:

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 Conduct Code specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. [See the UF Conduct Code website for more information](#). If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

- In-Class Recording:

Students are allowed to record video or audio of class lectures. However, the purposes for which these recordings may be used are strictly controlled. The only allowable purposes are (1) for personal education use, (2) in connection with a complaint to the university, or (3) as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. All other purposes are prohibited. Specifically, students may not publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the instructor. A “class lecture” is an educational presentation intended to inform or teach enrolled students about a particular subject, including any instructor-led discussions that form part of the presentation, and deliver by an instructor hired or appointed by the University, or by a guest instructor, as part of a University of Florida course.

A class lecture does not include lab sessions, student presentations, clinical presentation such as patient history, academic exercises involving solely student participation, assessments (quizzes, tests, exams), field trips, private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the faculty or guest lecturer during a class session.

Publication without permission of the instructor is prohibited. To “publish” means to share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to a recording, regardless, of format or medium, to another person (or persons), including but not limited to another student within the same class section. Additionally, a recording, or transcript of a recording, is considered published if it is posted on or uploaded to, in whole or in part, any media platform, including but not limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper, leaflet, or third-party note/tutoring services. A student who publishes a recording without written consent may be subject to a civil cause of action instituted by a person injured by the publication and/or discipline under UF Regulation 4.040 Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code.

Academic Resources:

- E-learning technical support: Contact the [UF Computing Help Desk](#) at [352-392-4357](tel:352-392-4357) or via e-mail at helpdesk@ufl.edu.
- [Career Connections Center](#): Reitz Union Suite 1300, [352-392-1601](tel:352-392-1601). Career assistance and counseling services.
- [Library Support](#): Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources. Call [866-281-6309](tel:866-281-6309) or email ask@ufl.libanswers.com for more information.
- [Academic Resources](#): 1317 Turlington Hall, Call [352-392-2010](tel:352-392-2010), or to make a private appointment: [352-392-6420](tel:352-392-6420). Email contact: teaching-center@ufl.edu. General study skills and tutoring.
- [Writing Studio](#): Daytime (9:30am-3:30pm): 2215 Turlington Hall, [352-846-1138](tel:352-846-1138) | Evening (5:00pm-7:00pm): 1545 W University Avenue (Library West, Rm. 339). Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers.
- Academic Complaints: Office of the Ombuds; [Visit the Complaint Portal webpage for more information.](#)
- Enrollment Management Complaints (Registrar, Financial Aid, Admissions): [View the Student Complaint Procedure webpage for more information.](#)
- UF Student Success Initiative: Visit <https://studentsuccess.ufl.edu/> for resources that support your success as a UF student.

Campus Health and Wellness Resources:

- UF Whole Gator Resources: Visit <https://one.ufl.edu/whole-gator/discover> for resources that are designed to help you thrive physically, mentally, and emotionally at UF.