

Syllabus - Music 379: Music Composition

Room 290 NFAC T/Th

9:00 – 9:50 a.m.

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OFFICE HOURS: 9:00-11:00 Mon, 1:00 Wed, 10:00 Th and by appointment. Subject to change, but posted on my bulletin board weekly.

Course Information

Course Description: In this class, students will explore the elements of music (color, rhythm, form, melody, harmony) and manipulate them into musical compositions. Students will study techniques used by other composers and use these ideas and aesthetics to help develop a personal methodology of composition.

Course Objectives

- 1.) Become familiar with some key ideas of art music of the last 100 years through listening, score examination, reading, writing and discussion in class.
- 2.) Complete short compositional assignments as generators of new compositional ideas for your pieces.
- 3.) Compose two pieces to be workshopped, performed, and informally recorded using yourself and other class members as performers. These pieces will synthesize key ideas examined in the course.
- 4.) Write effectively about compositional styles and methods.

Credits: 2 (or 4, if granted permission)

Prerequisite: Mus 210 and 212. Concurrent enrollment in Mus 341, 342, 343 or 345 required.

General Education Program: Communication in the Major

Required Materials

- Staff paper and note paper (bring to class every day)
 - Pencil and eraser (do not use pen on your homework)
 - Access to Finale
 - Attendance at October CWSO concert (ticket required)
- Recommended texts and readings and recordings will be assigned throughout the semester. You are encouraged to become a CMC lab assistant.

Academic Professionalism

Attitude: Students will be most successful in this course (and others) if they approach the material with open minds, positive attitudes and diligent work/practice habits.

Attendance is integral for success in this course. Students are allowed three unexcused absences for the semester. Absences are considered excused at the discretion of the instructor. Additional absences will result in one third of a letter grade (e.g. A to A-, A-to B+, etc.) per absence.

Assignments: Assignments are due at the beginning of the hour in which they are due. Late assignments will not be accepted later than one class meeting after the original scheduled due date, and will be penalized one letter grade.

Course Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- Create original notated music for various instruments and voice
- Analyze and describe compositional techniques used by composers of various eras and styles
- Critique their own and others' compositions to provide effective and useful feedback to improve their musical communication

GEP: Communication in the Major Learning Outcomes:

- Students will apply discipline specific standards of written communication to compose an articulate, grammatically correct, and organized piece of writing with properly documented and supported ideas, evidence, and information suitable to the topic, purpose, and audience.
- Students critique their own and others' writing to provide effective and useful feedback to improve their communication.

Activities/Assessment:

Students will meet the outcomes listed above through a combination of the following activities in this course:

- Create original music in a variety of styles for a variety of ensembles (homework/projects). A grading rubric will be used to assess the composition projects.
- Notate and orchestrate music by hand and with a computer (homework/projects)
- Select appropriate musical elements and materials for the aim of the composition (projects)
- Listen/do score study and write or speak about the composition elements in various pieces of music (homework and in-class exercises)
- Participate in class discussions, performances and critique of class compositions (in-class exercises)

GEP Activity/Assessment:

- Students will write a research paper on the compositional practice of a composer, a compositional principle, or the composition techniques of a specific piece of music. The instructor must approve the topic. A writing rubric (Criteria for Evaluation of Papers) will be the tool for assessing the effectiveness of the writing.
- Students will share their paper drafts in small groups within the class and give feedback on the clarity and quality of the writing.

Grades:

Assignments	30%
Composition #1	15%
Composition #2	25%
Class Participation	20%
Written Paper	10%

Grading Scale

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+	60 - 66% = D	Below 60% = F

Academic Integrity:

UW-Stevens Point values a safe, honest, respectful, and inviting learning environment. In order to ensure that each student has the opportunity to succeed, we have developed a set of expectations for all students and instructors. This set of expectations is known as the Community Rights and Responsibilities document, and it is intended to help establish a positive living and learning environment at UWSP. Click here for more information: <http://www.uwsp.edu/dos/Pages/Academic-Misconduct.aspx>

Academic integrity is central to the mission of higher education in general and UWSP in particular. Academic dishonesty (cheating, plagiarism, etc.) is taken very seriously. Don't do it! The minimum penalty for a violation of academic integrity is a failure (zero) for the assignment. For more information, see the Student Academic Standards and Disciplinary Procedures section of the Community Rights and Responsibilities document, UWSP Chapter 14. This can be accessed by viewing page 11 of the document at: <http://www.uwsp.edu/dos/Documents/CommunityRights.pdf#page=11>.

Americans with Disabilities Act:

UWSP is committed to providing reasonable and appropriate accommodations to students with disabilities and temporary impairments. If you have a disability or acquire a condition during the semester where you need assistance, please contact the Disability and Assistive Technology Center on the 6th floor of Albertson Hall (library) as soon as possible. DATC can be reached at 715-346-3365 or DATC@uwsp.edu. You can also find more information here: <http://www.uwsp.edu/disability/Pages/default.aspx>

This syllabus and schedule have the potential to change. If I do make changes to policies, procedures or major due dates I will notify the class verbally and via e-mail.

Mus 379 - Class Schedule
(Subject to change)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Major Due Dates</u>
9/5	Introduction, syllabus	
9/7	Color, Gesture, Free Writing	
9/12	Capturing emotion, Programmatic music	
9/14	Orchestration, Writing for Voice	
9/19	Pre-composition planning and organization, Audience intention	
9/21	Finale lesson – Meet in CMC	
9/26	Rhythmic manipulation/improvisation	
9/28	Rhythmic manipulation	
10/3	VYC – Guest speaker Robert Rosen: teaching composition to children	
10/5	Form, Cadences, Theme and Variation	
10/10	Form, Counterpoint	
10/12	Form, Counterpoint	
10/14 or 15 - CWSO Concert. Attendance required. Theater@1800.		
10/17	Guest composer Roger Nelson	
10/19	Workshop Day	
10/24	Perform Composition 1	Composition #1 Due
10/26	Form, Rhetoric (WSMA)	
10/31	Rhetorical Figures and Communication	
11/2	Scales, Modes	
11/7	Pitch Manipulation (Cells/Motives)	
11/9	Focus on isms and styles/trends in composition	
Monday, 11/13 - Composers Concert - 7:30 p.m. Michelsen Hall. Attendance required.		
11/14	Paper Drafts Due/Discussion	
11/16	Score Study	
11/21	Graphic Notation	GEP paper Due
11/23	No class (Thanksgiving)	
11/28	Harmonic Strategies	
11/30	Harmonic Strategies	
12/5	Workshop Day (in CMC)	
12/7	Workshop Day (possibly in CMC)	
12/12	Workshop Day (in CMC)	
12/14	Workshop Day (in CMC)	
12/19	10:15-12:15 – Final Project performances	Composition #2 Due