MUP 139-030 and 339-030 - SRT Ensemble: Rockin’ Axes
Syllabus
Fall 2018

Instructor: Nicholas Lambson
Email: lambsonnf@sfasu.edu  
(preferred method of contact)
Office: Fine Arts Annex 106
Office Phone: (936) 468-4534
Office Hours: TBA and by appointment

Course times: MW 3:00-4:15
Credits: One
Class Location: Fine Arts Annex 105

This course open to all music majors. This course will focus on influential, popular music of 20th and 21st century music. It will develop the skills necessary to transcribe, rehearse, arrange and perform in an ensemble setting. The students will be able to balance and blend individual parts within their section, develop transcription and arranging ability; improve performance skills and enhanced overall musicianship.

Learning Outcomes:

1. Students will perform works associated with the rock genre.
2. Students will become familiar with the musical and stylistic traits of multiple sub-genres and related genres of rock music.
3. Students will listen critically to relevant examples associated with their pieces and be able to articulate and demonstrate an understanding of those examples.
4. Students will achieve a high level of performance on their respective instruments and parts.
5. Students will work towards becoming a successful professional rock musician after graduation.
6. Students will become members of different bands and be able to work constructively towards a successful performance.
7. Students will be able to interact musically with the different musicians within their group, going beyond the performance of their individual roles.
8. Students may participate in publicity for the groups in a variety of ways, including program design, flyer design, participation with off-campus events and other opportunities announced by the instructor.
9. Students may compose or arrange works related to the rock genre.
Program Learning Outcomes:

1. Students will demonstrate experience and expertise in music technology hardware and software for live sound reinforcement, recording, editing, mixing, producing, MIDI sequencing, and notation.
2. Students will demonstrate broad knowledge of the music industry.
3. Students will have developed and honed their skills as musicians and recording artists.
4. Students will demonstrate a working knowledge of various studio and live sound equipment operations.
5. Students will be prepared to pursue careers in the music industry and/or graduate studies in music and sound technology.

Required Materials:

- Students must have their own instruments, aside from amplifiers and a drum set
- Students must put new strings, reeds, etc. on their instruments one to two weeks prior to the performance.
- Students must have some form of hearing protection. Foam plugs are not ideal. Either Etymotics or full “Musician’s” custom-molded ear plugs are highly recommended
- Access campus email and online resources including MS Office and Brightspace

Evaluations and Assessments:

35% Rehearsals
10% Mid-term Performance
10% Dress Rehearsal
25% Main Performance
10% Listening Assignment
10% Summary

Course Requirements:

Rehearsals

Rehearsal attendance and participation - as well as preparation for rehearsals - is crucial to the progress of each group leading to a successful performance. Students should learn their respective parts as soon as possible. Students are welcome to see the instructor for additional help during office hours. Students must be tuned up and ready to go, with scores or tabs with them, and a pencil for each rehearsal. If a student is ill, please contact the instructor with as much notice as possible; this will allow the instructor and other students an opportunity to reschedule.
Because of the size of the class, students will not necessarily meet with the instructor every class session. A schedule will be posted or emailed no later than the night before each class session. More information will be distributed later in the semester.

Listening Assignment:

Students will listen to or watch two professional recordings of their piece(s) and submit a summary. This will facilitate active listening skills and provide a frame of reference as they progress through in-class recording sessions throughout the semester. Students may include the performers, the venues, etc. including musical traits including tonality, tempo, etc. In 200-300 words, this paper should also compare and contrast the recordings as well as explain how you plan to apply what you heard or watched to your own performance.

Summary:

At the end of the semester, students will summarize their experiences over the semester. Students may include their individual parts, the group(s) they were in, the rehearsals and performances, and whatever else was a significant aspect of their experience in this course.

Extra opportunities:

At the instructor’s discretion, extra opportunities related to this course may take the place of the written assignments or earn extra credit. These may include off-campus performances, publicity, and other opportunities that will be announced throughout the semester. If a student already wishes to participate in those activities, notify the instructor.

Due dates and late submissions:

Unless otherwise stated in class or in writing, all assignments are due by 11:59 pm on the day that they are due.

Late assignments (not presentations) may be submitted late at the instructor’s discretion. If accepted late, a 20 point penalty will be assessed for the first 24 hours that it is late. Afterwards, each assignment will lose 10 points per day for each subsequent 24 hours.
**Tentative Course Calendar:**

Week 1: Syllabus and Introduction to the course and facilities

Week 2: Introduction of works

Week 3: Rehearsals

Week 4: **Listening Assignment Due Thursday, September 20th.** Rehearsals

Week 5: Rehearsals

Week 6: Rehearsals

Week 7: **Midterm Performance**

Week 8: Rehearsals

Week 9: Rehearsals

Week 10: **Dress Rehearsal**

Week 11: Rehearsals

Week 12: **Performance November 16th at 7:30pm in Cole Concert Hall**

Week 13: Watch performance. **Summary Due Thursday, November 22nd**

Week 14: **Group Activity**

Week 15: **Group Activity**

Finals Week: **Selection of pieces for Spring semester**

*All dates subject to change with fair notice.*
Attendance and Participation Policy:

All students at SFA are expected to meet a high standard to reflect the university’s motto, “Striving For Personal Excellence In Everything That We Do.” Therefore, in addition to excellence outside of the classroom with a student’s studies, assignments, and activities, students are expected to excel as students during each class session; this extends to both attendance and participation.

All students must tuned up and ready to play by the time their rehearsal begins. Rehearsal time is valuable and the success of each group depends on all members of each group to be present and prepared. Late students are a disruption to the learning environment of the classroom and lack of attendance will obviously prevent a student from achieving a high level of success in their classes.

Furthermore, being in attendance and on time is not sufficient if a student is not participating. Any student who is on their electronic devices, fails to participate in activities, leaves class frequently, or anything else that inhibits their learning or the learning of others will be at least be marked absent for the day at the instructor’s discretion.

If a student is experiencing hardship, they are encouraged to see the instructor for guidance. If significant absences are due to illness, injury, family emergencies, etc. documentation may be waived at the discretion of the instructor; documentation may be required.

Attendance is taken at the very beginning of class, which means that tardies may be counted as absences at the discretion of the instructor.

If students arrive late and it is convenient for the instructor to adjust the roll sheet, students may be marked present but tardy. Students may have one unexcused tardy at the discretion of the instructor with no effect on their grade. Afterwards, students will lose 5 points of their final grade for each of the next two tardies; then 10 points for each of the next two tardies with a maximum of a 30 point penalty.

Students will lose 15 points of their final grade for an unexcused absence. Another absence will lower the final grade an additional 20 points. A third unexcused absence will result in failing the course.

Classroom Policies:

Our field of study, Sound Recording Technology, is a special field of study and we are fortunate to have such a program here at SFASU. We get to work and learn with specialized, and sometimes very, fragile and expensive equipment. Thus, the SRT program and associated classes have some specialized classroom rules that you may not be accustomed to in other university classes.
1. Wash your hands before entering class. In addition to helping to not spread germs and illness, we will be working on shared computer systems, mixers, and other equipment. Much of the equipment is hard to thoroughly clean and oil build up from your hands can also degrade the equipment. Washing your hands before class is a win-win for everyone and the university’s equipment.

2. Good Hygiene: Unlike a large format lecture class, where your professor is far away from you and only a few students may be in close proximity to you, we will all be working close together. At times, you and I will be side by side learning about materials, components, tools, and techniques used in SRT. For your health and the sake of your colleagues and I, please practice good hygiene.

3. Respect: You should know how to appropriately conduct yourself as a respectful and thoughtful adult. With that being said, demonstrating disrespect toward your colleagues, your instructor, equipment, or this institution will not be tolerated.
   a. Special note: if you ever have hopes of working in the music industry, you will need to know how to get along with all sorts of people(s).

4. No texting in class.

5. Respect the equipment: you will be fortunate enough to work with some really special and expensive equipment. Please handle this equipment with the utmost care. Never drop a microphone. Always be aware of yourself, surroundings, and others while handling the recording equipment.

SRT Lab Policies:

1. Only SRT students are allowed in the lab. School of music students are welcome if permission has been given by the director of the SRT program. Non-school of music students are never allowed in the lab without special permission, arrangement, or the presence of an SRT faculty member.

2. Adhere to your schedule times. Show up on time and leave on time. Our space is limited and we must be courteous to one another. Additionally, this is great practice for the real world or sharing studio and artistic spaces.

3. Never load or install programs on the SRT workstations...EVER.

4. Always bring your own headphones to the lab. You will do most of your lab work on headphones however, if no one else is in the lab, you are welcome to use the loudspeakers.

5. Back up your work on your personal thumb drive. Never expect your session to live on the SRT lab machines.

6. Safety! Never touch exposed wires! Some of our equipment is high powered and if it becomes damaged and unnoticed, exposed wires can pose a hazard to you and others. Report any exposed power wires to your instructor immediately. Do not attempt to deal with it yourself. Safety! Your hearing is extremely important. Do not listen to music or recordings at high levels for extended periods of time.
Recital Attendance:

Frequently throughout the year, students, faculty members and guest artists are presented in recitals by the School of Music and College of Fine Arts. These recitals are open to the public. Because performance and listening experiences constitute an area of major importance in the study of music, all music majors are required to enroll in MUP 100.001 for seven semesters with a minimum of 10 recitals and all convocations attended each semester. Music minors are required to enroll for two semesters in MUP 100.003 with a minimum of 10 recitals and all convocations attended each semester.

Course Evaluations:

Near the conclusion of each semester, students electronically evaluate courses they have taken. Evaluation data is used for a variety of important purposes including: 1. Course and program improvement, planning, and accreditation; 2. Instruction evaluation purposes; and 3. Making decisions on faculty tenure, promotion, pay, and retention. As you evaluate this course, please be thoughtful, thorough, and accurate in completing the evaluation. Therefore, your response is critical.

Student Ethics and Other Policy Information: see http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/

Class Attendance and Excused Absence:

Policy 6.7 Regular, punctual attendance, documented participation, and, if indicated in the syllabus, submission of completed assignments are expected at all classes, laboratories, and other activities for which the student is registered. Based on university policy, failure of students to adhere to these requirements shall influence the course grade, financial assistance, and/or enrollment status. The instructor shall maintain an accurate record of each student’s attendance and participation as well as note this information in required reports (including the first 12 day attendance report) and in determining final grades. Students may be excused from attendance for reasons such as health, family emergencies, or student participation in approved university-sponsored events. However, students are responsible for notifying their instructors in advance, when possible, for excusable absences. Whether absences are excused or unexcused, a student is still responsible for all course content and assignments. Students with accepted excuses may be permitted to make up work for up to three weeks of absences during a semester or one week of a summer term, depending on the nature of the missed work. Make-up work must be completed as soon as possible after returning from an absence.

Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities:

Policy 6.1 and 6.6 To obtain disability related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, and Room 325, 936-468-3004 as early as possible in the semester.
Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/

**Student Academic Dishonesty:**
Policy 4.1 Abiding by university policy on academic integrity is a responsibility of all university faculty and students. Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes, but is not limited to: - using or attempting to use unauthorized materials on any class assignment or exam; - falsifying or inventing of any information, including citations, on an assignment; - helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism. Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were one’s own. Examples of plagiarism include, but are not limited to: - submitting an assignment as one’s own work when it is at least partly the work of another person; - submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from the Internet or another source; - incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one’s paper or presentation without giving the author credit.

Penalties for Academic Dishonesty Penalties may include, but are not limited to, reprimand, no credit for the assignment or exam, resubmission of the work, make-up exam, failure of the course, or expulsion from the university. Student Appeals A student who wishes to appeal decisions related to academic dishonesty should follow procedures outlined in Academic Appeals by Students (6.3).

**Withheld Grades:**
Policy 5.5 At the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic unit head, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F, except as allowed through policy [i.e., Active Military Service (6.14)]. If students register for the same course in future semesters, the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average.

**Student Code of Conduct:**
Policy 10.4 Classroom behavior should not interfere with the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or the ability of other students to learn from the instructional program. Unacceptable or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Students who disrupt the learning environment may be asked to leave class and may be subject to judicial, academic or other penalties. This policy applies to all instructional forums, including electronic, classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The instructor shall have full discretion over what behavior is appropriate/inappropriate in the classroom. Students who do not attend class regularly or who perform poorly on class projects/exams may be referred to the iCare: Early Alert Program at SFA. Information regarding the iCare program is found at http://www.sfasu.edu/judicial/earlyalert.asp or call the office at 936-468-2703.