MUP 139-033 and 339-033 SRT Ensemble: Contemporary Music Ensemble
Syllabus
Fall 2019

Instructor: Lambson
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(email or MS Teams preferred)
Office Phone: x4534
Office: Fine Arts Annex 105
Office Hours: TBD and by appointment

Meeting time: TR 4:30 – 5:45
Credits: 1
Location: Fine Arts Annex 106

Course Description:

This course is open to all music majors including vocalists and all instrumentalists. This course will focus on complex works featuring a variety of genres including popular, academic, and electro-acoustic works of 20th and 21st century music. The students will become adept at participating as an ensemble member and be able to balance and blend individual parts within their groups. Additionally, students may transcribe, rehearse, arrange and perform in an ensemble setting. Optionally, some students may perform off-campus or participate in publicity for the group.

Learning Outcomes:

1. Students will perform a variety popular commercial music.
2. Students will become familiar with the musical and stylistic traits of multiple genres of commercial 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 commercial 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 commercial musical works.
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:

There is no required text for this class, but students must use the sheet music and other materials provided for the class, and bring them to each rehearsal.

Aside from amplifiers and a drum set, students are responsible for bringing their own instruments, which must be in good working order.

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 to MS Teams, Turnitin, campus email and online resources.

Class Turnitin Page:

Class ID:
Enrollment Key: Contemp

Grade Weighting:

35% In-class rehearsals
10% Mid-Term Performance
10% Outside rehearsal, week before performance
10% Dress Rehearsal
25% Main Performance
10% Summary

Due dates and late submissions:

Unless otherwise specified, all assignments are due by 11:59 pm on the day they are due.

Shorter homework assignments will be accepted late for a 10 point-per-day penalty for up to three days. After that, the grade will be a zero.
Course Requirements:

1. 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.

2. In class 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. Students are expected to also have hearing protection at 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.

   A missed Mid-Term or Dress Rehearsal cannot be made up. If a student misses the Dress Rehearsal, the student may either earn a zero or be excluded from the performance and fail the course. Students who do not participate in the final performance will fail the course.

3. Outside of class rehearsals:
   Every student will rehearse outside of class within 10 days of the performance but more is strongly encouraged.

   If any group does not meet, each of the members will lose credit. Since it may be difficult to get every member together, to receive credit, only most of the members must be present; but not all. Students are encouraged to contact the instructor for approval if a significant number of members are not able to be present.

   If an individual does not rehearse with any of the groups they are in, they will lose credit.

   The annex will be available during the instructor’s office hours (TBA). Students may just show up but are encouraged to reserve the space by emailing the instructor. More information will follow.
4. **Performance and Dress Rehearsal:**
   All students will participate in at least one performance. There will be a large concert and the possibility of several gigs and other opportunities.
   All students must attend the dress rehearsal to both run through their songs and also participate in the sound check. Students will be graded on their level of preparedness and participation.

   Students who do not perform without a serious and compelling reason (at the instructor's discretion) will receive an automatic fail for the course.

5. **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.

6. **Time requirement:**
   Per SFA policy, you are expected to spend **at least 2 hours per week**, outside of class time, practicing and working on assignments for this course. There will be weeks throughout the semester in which you will need to put slightly more time into your projects for this course. As SRT coursework in the SOM are a hybrid of artistic and technological studies, you will not only be working on projects and assignments but also regularly practicing. You are expected to practice at least 30 minutes every day in addition to the time you devote to course work.

7. **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.

8. **Setup and tear-down of equipment:**
   All students will help periodically with moving equipment, setting it up, and tearing down for performances and gigs. If you have a medical issue that prevents you from doing so, please let the instructor know, and we may find an alternative for you.

9. **Hearing protection:**
   All musicians and engineers need to protect their hearing. Especially since we are exposed to so much sound, and a lot of loud sound, it is critical that you have some form of hearing protection. Be sure to take breaks as well, even with protection. You should get this immediately, and I will be checking throughout the semester, which will factor into your rehearsal and performance grades.

10. **MS Teams:**
    It is critically-important that you check Teams regularly. The rehearsal schedules are posted there and that is where any announcements will be posted.
Tentative Course Calendar:

Week 1: Syllabus. Introduction to the course and facilities. Auditions
Week 2: Introduction of works. Technical needs
Week 3: Rehearsals
Week 4: Rehearsals
Week 5: Rehearsals
Week 6: Rehearsals
Week 7: Rehearsals
Week 8: Midterm Performance
Week 9: Rehearsals
Week 10: Rehearsals
Week 11: Rehearsals
Week 12: Dress Rehearsals and performance TBD
Week 13: Dress Rehearsals and performance TBD
Week 14: Dress Rehearsals and performance TBD
Week 15: Dress Rehearsals and performance or Video TBD
Finals Week: TBD

* All dates subject to change by the instructor’s discretion.

Attendance 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 be in their seats ready to learn before the start of each class session. 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 sleeps in class, 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 may be marked absent for the day, or more, 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 without just cause - as determined by the instructor - may be counted as absences.

You are allotted 1 unexcused absence. Each subsequent unexcused absence lowers the final grade by 10 points. A fifth unexcused absence will result in a fail for the course per this policy and in accordance with campus policy.
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.

Personal Electronic Devices:

Cellphones, tablets, and personal electronic communication devices are to be turned off or set to silent while in class. You are here because you wish to pursue studies and/or a career in Sound Recording Technology, the Music Industry, etc. A ringing cellphone can ruin a recording session, distract an artist, interrupt a meeting or disrupt a learning environment. You must learn to be aware of the audible status of your devices. Should you be an individual who continually disrupts class because your device(s) beep, ringing, or otherwise distract this learning environment, you will lose participation points and if the offenses continue, you will be asked to leave the class and will have to meet with the director of the SRT program before being allowed back into class.

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.

Email and Correspondence:

Students are encouraged to contact the instructor with questions, etc. as needed. For quick questions, students may use MS Teams. For more lengthy or detailed messages, please email me. If you have a sensitive matter to discuss with me, please make arrangements to meet with me in person. Although I will make every effort to answer your emails as soon as possible, you should never expect an immediate response to your email. If you ever have an emergency, sensitive topic that needs immediate attention, or a time sensitive matter to be address, call my or the school of music office.
Obtaining Help:

If you ever have questions regarding course content, assignments, test, etc., or feel that you require some additional help, please contact me immediately. Please make note of my office hours. If for some reason you are unable to attend my office hours, see me before or after class, or send me an email, to schedule an appointment. My line of communication is always open to you and I urge you to communicate any issues you may be having that may hinder your progress in this class, program, or university.

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.

Your participation in the evaluations of this course are very important and helpful to this class, program, and the university. Near the conclusion of each semester, students in the College of Fine Arts electronically evaluate courses taken with the college. The evaluation 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, and retention.

As you evaluate this course, please be thoughtful, thorough, and accurate in completing the evaluation. Please know that the College of Fine Arts is committed to excellence in teaching and continued improvement. Therefore, your participation is crucial.

The course evaluation process has been simplified and is completed electronically through MySFA. Although the instructor will be able to view the names of students who complete the survey, all rating and comments are confidential and anonymous, and will not be available to the instructor until after final grades are posted.

Lab Time:

Hands on experience and practice are crucial to your learning and development in music technology and the recording arts. The SRT area has dedicated lab and studio facilities equipped with professional and industry standard technologies that you will very likely not have access to at home. To further your learning and growth, you must continually practice, experiment, and work with these special technologies. In support of this: all SRT majors enrolled in MUT 210-360 are required to attend lab hours for at least two hours per week. Lab hours will be logged and tracked for each student. A lab schedule will be posted on the SRT lab door by the second week of classes. Lab time requirements do not take effect until the 3rd week of the semester.

Should you fail to meet the required lab times more than twice, aka two weeks, each following lab miss will result in you receiving an unexcused absence in your 3-credit hour SRT course. You will always have assignments, projects, and needed practice with the various technologies in our facilities. Naturally, should you have a situation arise that will prevent you from participating in lab times and activities, please contact your instructor.
Fine Arts Annex Policies:

1. Students may schedule rehearsal time by contacting the department TA’s and getting on the Google calendar for that space.
2. Only SRT students are allowed in the annex unless permission has been granted by the instructor.
3. Be sure to arrive and leave outside rehearsal sessions on time.
4. Be considerate of our neighbors and keep the volume to a reasonable level.
5. Clean up after yourself.
6. Food and drink are not permitted anywhere near the equipment.
7. 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.
8. 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.
9. 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.
10. 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 alone with all sorts of people(s).
11. No texting in class.
12. 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.

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.
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.

Definition of Academic Dishonesty:

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; and/or;
- 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; and/or,
- 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, re-submission 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).

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 https://www.sfasu.edu/judicial/earlyalert.asp or call the office at 936-468-2703.