APPLIED COMPOSITION SYLLABUS

COURSE:

MUTC 1109
1 semester hour
30-minute weekly lesson and optional weekly studio class (Wednesdays at 3:00)

INSTRUCTOR:

Dr. Ben Morris
McKibben 401
(973) 722-0460
Benjamin.morris@sfasu.edu
Office Hours: TBA or by appointment
School of Music

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

30-minutes of private applied study in composition. Intended for those pursuing composition as an elective. Each semester of composition will take the student on a progressive exploration of the materials, skills, styles, techniques, and aesthetics involved in composing original music. When appropriate, specific content may be included to assist individuals in achieving their creative and/or professional goals, or to rectify a deficiency in their technique. Students are expected to devote approximately 7 hours per week working on their compositions (over a 15-week semester). No prerequisite.

PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES

#1 – Students will demonstrate the ability to hear, identify, and work conceptually with the melodic, harmonic, and rhythmic elements of music, including sight-singing, analysis, and error detection.

#3 – Students will demonstrate proficiency in their degree track by completing projects, preparing performances, creating original content, and mastering skills as appropriate for their field.

#5 – Students will demonstrate a critical thinking and application of knowledge in music history and literature from the Western art tradition, with supporting related studies in non-western traditions, practices, and cultures.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

• Students will compose original works of music in a variety of styles as assigned by instructor. (PLO#1, PLO#5)

• Students will prepare effective musical notation of their original works. (PLO#3)

• When possible, students will work with performers to bring their works to fruition in readings and performances. (PLO#3)
TEXTBOOK/MATERIALS: (optional)

*Essential Dictionary of Orchestration* (Alfred)
*Essential Dictionary of Music Notation* (Alfred)
*Handy Manual Fingering Charts* by Clarence Hendrickson

All other materials will be provided by the instructor, placed online for download, or placed on reserve in the library or in the composition room.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Attend weekly 30-minute lesson with applied instructor and complete composition assignments and any additional exploratory learning as assigned.

GRADING:

All lesson grades will be averaged to produce the final grade. Each lesson grade will be produced with the following rubric:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Level 5</th>
<th>Level 4</th>
<th>Level 3</th>
<th>Level 2</th>
<th>Level 1</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quantity</td>
<td>40 points</td>
<td>35 points</td>
<td>30 points</td>
<td>25 points</td>
<td>20 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Exceeds expectations.</td>
<td>Meets expectations.</td>
<td>Acceptable, but a little less than expected.</td>
<td>Considerably less than expected.</td>
<td>Minimal or none. Falls far below expectations.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quality*</td>
<td>40 points</td>
<td>35 points</td>
<td>30 points</td>
<td>25 points</td>
<td>20 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Excellent for a student at this level.</td>
<td>Admirable for a student at this level.</td>
<td>Average for a student at this level.</td>
<td>Weak for a student at this level.</td>
<td>Unacceptable for a student at this level.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exploratory or Directed Learning</td>
<td>20 points</td>
<td>15 points</td>
<td>10 points</td>
<td>5 points</td>
<td>0 points</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Profound discoveries made during multifaceted self-directed learning. Paradigm shifts in thinking.</td>
<td>Reading and research on multiple planes that led to meaningful discovery.</td>
<td>Acceptable amount of reading and/or listening that represents multiple levels.</td>
<td>Cursory or minimal information gleaned. Tendency to gravitate to what you already know.</td>
<td>Nothing to report.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Each lesson grade (as calculated by this rubric) can be adjusted up or down by the instructor for reasons such as punctuality, attitude, related achievement, etc. Each adjustment will be documented with a rationale.

*Assessment of quality includes the following: creativity, artistic merit, idiomatic use of instruments, correct notation, inclusion of expression and articulation, and how well it fulfills the goals of the assignment.

**Exploratory or Directed Learning:** Many weeks, you will receive a specific assignment – a score, composer, or article to absorb. In these cases, please come to the next lesson prepared to lead a brief discussion about this content. What interested you? What confused you? What questions, comments or objections do you have in response to it? If no other assignment was given, in preparation for their lessons, students should engage in exploratory learning on their own.

**ATTENDANCE:**

Students are expected to attend all lessons. If it is necessary to be absent, you must notify the instructor in advance. When notification occurs the day before the lesson, every effort will be made to reschedule the lesson for an alternate time. When notification happens the same day as the lesson, the lesson may still be rescheduled, but 20 points will be deducted from the grade. Unexcused absences will be counted as a zero and cannot be made up. Students must attend at least 12 lessons and each semester.

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:**

The Code of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity outlines the prohibited conduct by any student enrolled in a course at SFA. It is the responsibility of all members of all faculty, staff, and students to adhere to and uphold this policy.

Articles IV, VI, and VII of the new Code of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity outline the violations and procedures concerning academic conduct, including cheating, plagiarism, collusion, and misrepresentation. Cheating includes, but is not limited to: (1) Copying from the test paper (or other assignment) of another student, (2) Possession and/or use during a test of materials that are not authorized by the person giving the test, (3) Using, obtaining, or attempting to obtain by any means the whole or any part of a non-administered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program, or using a test that has been administered in prior classes or semesters without permission of the Faculty member, (4) Substituting for another person, or permitting another person to substitute for one’s self, to take a test, (5) Falsifying research data, laboratory reports, and/or other records or academic work offered for credit, (6) Using any sort of unauthorized resources or technology in completion of educational activities.

Plagiarism is the appropriation of material that is attributable in whole or in part to another source or the use of one’s own previous work in another context without citing that it was used previously, without any indication of the original source, including words, ideas, illustrations, structure, computer code, and other expression
or media, and presenting that material as one’s own academic work being offered for credit or in conjunction with a program course or degree requirements.

Collusion is the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing academic assignments offered for credit or collaboration with another person to commit a violation of any provision of the rules on academic dishonesty, including disclosing and/or distributing the contents of an exam.

Misrepresentation is providing false grades or résumés; providing false or misleading information in an effort to receive a postponement or an extension on a test, quiz, or other assignment for the purpose of obtaining an academic or financial benefit for oneself or another individual or to injure another student academically or financially.

**Withheld Grades & Semester Grades Policy:**

Ordinarily, at the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the coursework 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. If students register for the same course in future terms the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course to compute the grade point average. For additional information, go to [https://www.sfasu.edu/policies/course-grades-5.5.pdf](https://www.sfasu.edu/policies/course-grades-5.5.pdf).

**Students with Disabilities:**

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, 468-3004 / 468-1004 (TDD) 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 promptly may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to [http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/](http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/).

**Student Wellness and Well-Being:**

SFA values students’ overall well-being, mental health and the role it plays in academic and overall student success. Students may experience stressors that can impact both their academic experience and their personal well-being. These may include academic pressure and challenges associated with relationships, emotional well-being, alcohol and other drugs, identities, finances, etc.

If you are experiencing concerns, seeking help, SFA provides a variety of resources to support students’ mental health and wellness. Many of these resources are free, and all of them are confidential.

**On-campus Resources:**
The Dean of Students Office (Rusk Building, 3rd floor lobby)
www.sfasu.edu/deanofstudents
936.468.7249
dos@sfasu.edu

SFA Human Services Counseling Clinic Human Services, Room 202
www.sfasu.edu/humanservices/139.asp
936.468.1041

The Health and Wellness Hub “The Hub”
Location: comer of E. College and Raguet St.

To support the health and well-being of every Lumberjack, the Health and Wellness Hub offers comprehensive services that treat the whole person – mind, body and spirit. Services include:

- Health Services
- Counseling Services
- Student Outreach and Support
- Food Pantry
- Wellness Coaching
- Alcohol and Other Drug Education

www.sfasu.edu/thehub
936.468.4008
thehub@sfasu.edu

Crisis Resources:

- Burke 24-hour crisis line: 1.800.392.8343
- National Suicide Crisis Prevention: 9-8-8
- Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1.800.273.TALK (8255)
- johCrisis Text Line: Text HELLO to 741-741