

Composition for Non-Composition Majors I

Course Syllabus • Fall 2010

MUCO 221ax (42796)

Class Date/Time: Monday, 4:00-5:50

Class Location: MUS 213

Dr. Brian Shepard, Instructor

Office Location: LPB G110 **Office Phone:** 213.821.4152 **Email:** brian.shepard@usc.edu

Office Hours: Monday 2-4 and by Appointment

Goal: It is the goal of Composition for Non-Composition Majors I that each student—upon successful completion—gains a working knowledge of the basic tools, concepts and practices of art-music composition. The primary means to this goal will be through the creation and performance of student compositions as well as through analysis of other composers' works. To reach this goal, each student must successfully accomplish the objectives described below. Accomplishment will be measured by critique and evaluation of student compositions, assignments, and projects.

Objectives:

- Demonstrate correct notational techniques when writing musical manuscripts
- Properly write for voice and a variety of instruments while demonstrating an idiomatic understanding of the particular voice type or instrument(s)
- Demonstrate an understanding and facility with common compositional concepts such as melody, harmony, rhythm, form, etc.
- Demonstrate an understanding of common compositional techniques in use in the 20th and 21st centuries

Prerequisite: In order to enroll in this course, each student must have a minimum of one year of Music Theory (MUCO 130ab or beyond) or its equivalent.

Required Text: There is no required text for this course. Periodic readings will be assigned throughout the semester from both print and online sources.

Grade Breakdown:	Homework Assignments	10%
	Compositions	50%
	Analyses	30%
	Concert Reports	10%

Attendance: Because so much of this course will be practical in nature, attendance is extremely important. Each student will be allowed two (2) unexcused absences without any direct effect on his/her grade. After the two unexcused absences, however, the student's grade will be lowered 5% for each additional unexcused absence. **The only excused absences are for university sanctioned events and must be approved by me IN ADVANCE of the date to be missed.**

Due Dates: Assignments will be collected at the beginning of class on the date indicated in the course outline. Assignments turned in after they have been collected will be considered late and will be penalized 10% for that day as well as 10% for each additional day or portion of a day that they are late. Due to the importance of hearing what you have written, compositions will not be performed if they are turned in late and will be penalized at a rate of 20% per day.

Academic Dishonesty will not be tolerated in any part of this course (assignments, projects, etc.) If you are not sure what violates the University code, please read the pertinent sections of *SCampus* or see me. Ignorance of the rules will not be an excuse.

Disabilities Policy: Any student requesting academic accommodations based on a disability is required to register with Disability Services and Programs (DSP) each semester. A letter of verification for approved accommodations can be obtained from DSP. Please be sure the letter is delivered to me as early in the semester as possible. DSP (213-740-0776) is located in STU 301 and is open 8:30 am-5:00 pm, Monday through Friday.

Course Outline Fall 2010

Date	Class Topic*	Assignment Due
8/23	Policies, Procedures, and Introduction to Composition	
8/30	Notation and Manuscript	
9/6	No Class – Labor Day	
9/13	Melodic Constructions	
9/20	Harmonic Constructions	
9/27	Compositional Analysis – Melody and Harmony	Analysis Project 1
10/4	Compositional Analysis – Rhythm	
10/11	Compositional Analysis – Form and Structure	Composition 1
10/18	<i>Composition 1 Performances</i>	Concert Report 1
10/25	Writing Accompaniments	
11/1	Writing for Small Ensembles	
11/8	Instrumentation	
11/15	Instrumentation	Analysis Project 2
11/22	Private Meetings TBA	
11/29	Copyright and Intellectual Property	Composition 2
12/6	<i>Composition 2 Performances</i>	Concert Report 2

*Should the needs of the class so dictate, I reserve the right to change this course outline. You will be notified in advance of any substantive schedule changes.