

Composition for Non-Composition Majors

Course Syllabus

MUCO 221bx (42798)

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

Class Locations: PIC 137 and LPB G103

Dr. Brian Shepard, Instructor

Office Location: LPB G103 **Office Phone:** 213.821.4152 **Email:** brian.shepard@usc.edu

Office Hours: Monday 1-3pm and by appointment

Goal: It is the goal of Composition for Non-Composition Majors II that each student—upon successful completion—makes significant progress toward developing his or her own “voice” as a composer. To reach this goal, each student will compose and prepare for performance a pair of works falling under the general rubric of “Art Music.” Additionally, each student will examine and study the works of other composers whose works bear significance toward the student’s personal development. Accomplishment will be measured during personal meetings with the instructor by evaluating the student’s scores and discussing the student’s analysis of other composers’ works.

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

Online Access and Materials: In-class handouts, audio examples and other supplemental materials and readings may be accessed in Blackboard (<https://blackboard.usc.edu/>). I will only use your USC email to contact you and send any notifications, so please check that account regularly.

Grade Breakdown:	Weekly Homework Assignments	20%
	Compositions	50%
	Analyses	20%
	Concert Reports	10%

Attendance: The class will meet the first Monday of each month (1/11, 2/1, 3/1, 4/5, 5/3) for group discussion and to hear each other’s work. The remaining weeks will consist of private lesson meetings in my office (LPB G103). My time is valuable. Please be on time for every lesson. If you must miss or be late for a lesson, please call me at least 24 hours before your scheduled lesson time. Do not assume that I got your email or voice message—actually speak with me! If it is possible, I will make up lessons if I have been given 24-hour notice. Otherwise, the missed lesson will be considered an unexcused absence. Each student will be allowed one (1) unexcused absence without any direct effect on his/her grade. After that one unexcused absence, the student’s grade will be lowered by 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: Weekly homework assignments are due at the next meeting (lesson or class) following the assignment. Composition #1 is due March 1 and Composition #2 is due May 3. The compositions will be performed in our class meeting on those days. Analysis #1 will be due at your lesson the week of February 22 and Analysis #2 will be due the week of April 18. The two Concert Reports may be turned in at any time, but must both be turned in by Friday, April 30.

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.