

CALIFORNIA STATE POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY, POMONA

[CLASS]

[MUSIC]

Expanded Course Outline

Course Subject Area:	MU
Course Number:	1290
Course Title:	Songwriting I
Units:	2
C/S Classification #:	04
Component:	Lecture
Grading Basis: (graded only, CR/NC only, student's choice)	Graded only
Repeat Basis: (may be taken once, taken multiple times, taken multiple times only with different topics)	Taken once
Cross Listed Course: (if offered with another department)	
Dual Listed Course: (if offered as lower/upper division or undergraduate/graduate)	
Major course/Service course/GE Course: (pick all that apply)	Major course
General Education Area/Subarea: (as appropriate)	
Date Prepared:	3/31/15
Prepared by:	Arthur Winer

I. Catalog Description

Introductory study of the thematic, poetic, melodic, structural, rhythmic and harmonic components of a song. Individual projects in songwriting. 2 hours lecture/discussion

II. Required Coursework and Background

Prerequisite(s): MU 100, MU 1000, MU 120, or MU 1201

III. Expected Outcomes

Students will:

1. Examine the history of some of the more prominent forms of songwriting, particularly those of 20th and 21st centuries' popular music.
2. Analyze the elements that make up a song, including its thematic, poetic, melodic, structural, rhythmic and harmonic components.
3. Listen to and analyze recordings of songs.
4. Create and collaborate on original songs and perform them in class.
5. Complete a paper and presentation.

The outcomes of this course relate to the following Music Department Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Perform a variety of music with expression and musical accuracy.
2. Communicate effectively--verbally and in writing--about specific musical works and musicians, about the creative process in music, and about music's role in human culture.
3. Demonstrate musicianship skills (including those involving technology) and conceptual understandings.
4. Demonstrate and articulate personal growth as a musician and student of music in the world.
6. Develop specialized knowledge appropriate to the option or emphasis area.

BA MIS Option:

1. **Interpret** relationships between music and: commerce; technology; media; and audience.

BM General:

1. **demonstrate** a high level of musicianship that facilitates independent preparation of music for performance.
2. **utilize** current/recent technologies appropriate to the musical endeavor
3. **demonstrate** basic keyboard competency as needed for musical analysis and interpretation of intermediate level repertoire.
4. **articulate** the distinguishing characteristics of multiple musical styles, traditions, and historical periods, **and apply** that knowledge to performance.
5. **perform** a wide variety of solo and ensemble repertoire for varied audiences.
8. **promote** musical culture in the community.

BM Composition Option:

1. **apply** knowledge of compositional techniques and musical elements to write original works in new and established styles.
2. **oversee** fully realized public performances of their original compositions, with critical assessments.

IV. Instructional Materials

Citron, Stephen. *Songwriting: A Complete Guide to the Craft*. ISBN 0-87910-137-7
Limelight Editions: Reprint, 2004.

Merriam-Webster's Rhyming Dictionary. ISBN 0-87779-913-X. Merriam-
Webster: 1995.

Perricone, Jack. *Melody in Songwriting: Tools and Techniques for Writing Hit Songs*.
ISBN: 063400638X. Berklee Press: 2000.

Rooksby, Rikky. *The Songwriting Sourcebook: How to Turn Chords Into Great Songs*.
ISBN 0-87930-749-8. Backbeat Books: 2003.

Stolpe, Andrea. *Popular Lyric Writing: 10 Steps to Effective Lyric Writing*. ISBN: 0876390874. Berklee Press: 2007.

Webb, Jimmy. *Tunesmith: Inside the Art of Songwriting*. ISBN: 0786884886. Hyperion: 1999.

V. Minimum Student Material

Rhyming dictionary, thesaurus, quotations dictionary, standard English dictionary, access to a polyphonic instrument (such as guitar or keyboard), stave paper, chord-finder book, hand-held audio recorder.

VI. Minimum College Facilities

Classroom/lecture hall with Internet access, sound playback capabilities, piano or keyboard, and video projection system. Blackboard (or equivalent) on-line site.

VII. Course Outline

1. History of some of the more prominent forms of songwriting, particularly those of 20th and 21st centuries' popular music.
2. Analyze elements of a song
 - a) Thematic elements
 - b) Poetic and rhythmic elements
 - b.1) Similes and metaphors.
 - b.2) Clear vs. opaque meaning
 - b.3) Rhyming & meter schemes and rules
 - b.4) Poetic license
 - b.5) Breaking rules
 - c) Melodic elements
 - d) Structural elements
 - d.1) AABA form
 - d.2) Verse/chorus form
 - d.3) Other forms and variations
 - e) Harmonic components
 - e.1) Major, natural minor and harmonic minor scales
 - e.2) Building chords from scales
 - e.3) Choosing chords to fit melody
 - e.4) Chord substitutions, secondary dominants, and key changes
3. Create and collaborate on original songs and perform them in class
 - a) Song project 1: exploring similes and metaphors
 - b) Song project 2: rhyming rules
 - c) Song project 3: the 12-bar blues form
 - d) Song project 4: the three-chord song
 - e) Song project 5: the four-chord song
 - f) Song project 6: secondary dominants and bVII chords
 - g) Song project 7: the five-chord song
 - h) Song project 8: collaboration

4. Final project: paper and presentation on songwriter.

VIII. Instructional Methods

1. Lectures, student involvement through discussions based on readings, lectures, subjects and hypothetical problems.
2. Projects with in-class presentations.

IX. Evaluation of Outcomes

1. Songwriting projects.
2. Presentations and papers.