

CALIFORNIA STATE POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY, POMONA

CLASS

MUSIC

Expanded Course Outline

Course Subject Area:	MU
Course Number:	2251
Course Title:	Composition 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:	12/16/2014
Prepared by:	Nick Vasallo

I. Catalog Description

Beginning exercises in basic techniques of composition, with an emphasis on imitating the styles of the great composers of art music.

II. Required Coursework and Background

MU 122 or MU 1211 - Music Theory II: Chromatic Harmony (or equivalent), and MU 108 or MU 1080 (or equivalent).

III. Expected Outcomes

1. Achieve a basic skill level in using rhythm, melody, harmony, and simple formal structures to develop a composition from concept to finished product.
2. Demonstrate the ability to hear, identify, and work conceptually with the elements of music.
3. Demonstrate artistic maturity in terms of their craft creativity, clarity of expression on the written page, and efficiency in writing for established deadlines.
4. The student will generate a portfolio of original compositions for various ensembles/media and present them publicly.
5. The student will demonstrate skills related to the practice of composition including pedagogical techniques and skills in composition, basic improvisation

techniques, and effective work with music engraving, synthesis and recording software.

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

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 General:

3. **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.
4. **Demonstrate** creativity, musicianship skills, an understanding of appropriate technology, and conceptual understandings.
5. **Demonstrate and articulate** artistic growth as a musician and student of music in the world.

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.
6. **analyze, interpret, and defend** judgments of various musical works for audiences of scholars and amateurs.

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.
3. **produce** a capstone project that presents an extended work or several shorter works, showing their 'voice' as a composer.

IV. Instructional Materials

Composing Music: A New Approach, by William Russo, ISBN-10: 0226732169,
University Of Chicago Press (February 15, 1988)

V. Minimum Student Material

1. Music manuscript paper.
2. Pencil, eraser.
3. Access to one of the following music notation software programs: Sibelius or MuseScore.

VI. Minimum College Facilities

1. Dry erase board, markers, eraser.
2. Projector w/ screen.
3. Computer connected to stereo speakers and projector.
4. Software installed: Sibelius and MuseScore.

VII. Course Outline

1. The Cell, the Row, and Some Scales
2. Harmony I
3. Transformation
4. The Small Theme and the Large Theme
5. More Scales and the 12-tone Row
6. Isomelody and Isorhythm
7. Ostinato
8. Accompaniment Procedures
9. Harmony II
10. Counterpoint
11. Organum
12. Imitation
13. Minimalism

VIII. Instructional Methods

1. lectures
2. discussions
3. listening and analysis.
4. assignments involving written homework and computer notation.
5. Students will complete projects involving writing music and possibly performing on their instruments.

IX. Evaluation of Outcomes

Students will be evaluated:

1. on their completion of written assignments.
2. on their completion of computer-notated assignments.
3. on their ability to demonstrate a working knowledge of the concepts studied.
4. on their ability to demonstrate basic musical skills related to the concepts studied.
5. on their completed mid-term and final projects.