

CALIFORNIA STATE POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY, POMONA  
**Composition II**  
**MU 3251**  
**Expanded Course Outline**

<b>Course Subject Area:</b>	<b>MU</b>
<b>Course Number:</b>	<b>3251</b>
<b>Course Title:</b>	<b>Composition II</b>
<b>Units:</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>C/S Classification #:</b>	<b>04</b>
<b>Component:</b>	<b>Lecture</b>
<b>Grading Basis:</b> (graded only, CR/NC only, student's choice)	<b>Graded only</b>
<b>Repeat Basis:</b> (may be taken once, taken multiple times, taken multiple times only with different topics)	<b>Taken once</b>
<b>Cross Listed Course:</b> (if offered with another department)	
<b>Dual Listed Course:</b> (if offered as lower/upper division or undergraduate/graduate)	
<b>Major course/Service course/GE Course:</b> (pick all that apply)	<b>Major course</b>
<b>General Education Area/Subarea:</b> (as appropriate)	
<b>Date Prepared:</b>	<b>12/16/2014</b>
<b>Prepared by:</b>	<b>Nick Vasallo</b>

**I. Catalog Description**

Survey of contemporary techniques in composition, music notation and contemporary literature. Students are encouraged to develop music in their own styles while exploring a variety of compositional techniques.

**II. Required Coursework and Background**

Prerequisite: MU 2251

**III. Expected Outcomes**

1. Students will acquire sufficient understanding of musical forms, processes, and structures and use this knowledge in their compositions.
2. Demonstrate the ability to develop and defend musical decisions.
3. The student will experience the professional work of a composer by communicating musical ideas and concepts to professionals and audiences in rehearsal, performance, oral communication, and writing; and by observing the professional work of others.
4. Demonstrate the ability to hear, identify, and work conceptually with the elements of music.

5. Demonstrate artistic maturity in terms of their craft creativity, clarity of expression on the written page, and efficiency in writing for established deadlines.
6. The student will generate a portfolio of original compositions for various ensembles/media and present them publicly.
7. 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.

#5: Articulate a holistic understanding of the many influences on any musical endeavor (e.g., cultural, artistic, technological, economic, etc.).

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.

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**

Kostka, Stefan. *Materials and Techniques of 20th Century Music (3rd Edition)*, NJ: Prentice Hall, 2005.

#### **V. Minimum Student Material**

1. Music manuscript paper.
2. Pencil, eraser.
3. Access to a music notation software program, preferably the notation application that is being taught in MU 1080: Introduction to Music Technology.

#### **VI. Minimum College Facilities**

1. Dry erase board, markers, eraser.
2. Projector w/ screen.
3. Computer connected to stereo speakers and projector.
4. Computer with music notation software installed.

#### **VII. Course Outline**

1. Week 1: THE TWILIGHT OF THE TONAL SYSTEM
2. Week 2: SCALE FORMATIONS IN TWENTIETH-CENTURY MUSIC
3. Week 3: THE VERTICAL DIMENSION: CHORDS AND SIMULTANEITIES
4. Week 4: THE HORIZONTAL DIMENSION: MELODY AND VOICE LEADING
5. Week 5: HARMONIC PROGRESSION AND TONALITY, MIDTERM DETAILS ASSIGNED
6. Week 6: DEVELOPMENTS IN RHYTHM
7. Week 7: FORM IN TWENTIETH-CENTURY MUSIC
8. Week 8: MIDTERMS DUE, WORKSHOP
9. Week 9: IMPORTS AND ALLUSIONS
10. Week 10: TIMBRE AND TEXTURE: ACOUSTIC
11. Week 11: THE ROLES OF CHANCE AND CHOICE IN TWENTIETH-CENTURY MUSIC
12. Week 12: MINIMALISM AND BEYOND, Final Project details assigned
13. Week 13: LARGE-SCALE FORMS
14. Week 14: Workshop
15. Week 15: Workshop

#### **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.