

**MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION**

**DEPARTMENT of MUSIC
COURSE SYLLABUS**

Course Prefix and Number: MUA 1810, 2810, 3810

Course Title: Music Composition

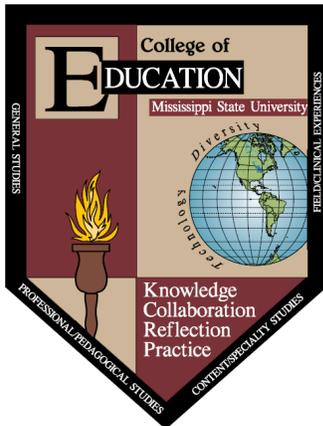
Credit Hours: One (1) or Two (2) semester hours

Course Type: Laboratory

Catalog Description: Variable credit 1 or 2 hours. Individual instruction in musical composition. May be repeated for credit.

Prerequisites: C or better in MU 2613 and MU 2721 and consent of instructor.
Catalog says: "MU 1213 for composition or consent of instructor"

College of Education Conceptual Framework:



The faculty in the College of Education at Mississippi State University are committed to assuring the success of students and graduates by providing superior learning opportunities that are continually improved as society, schools, and technology change. The organizing theme for the conceptual framework for the College of Education at Mississippi State University is educational professionals - dedicated to continual improvement of all students' educational experiences. The beliefs that guide program development are as follows:

1. **KNOWLEDGE** - Educational professionals must have a deep understanding of the organizing concepts, processes, and attitudes that comprise their chosen disciplinary knowledge base, the pedagogical knowledge base, and the pedagogical content knowledge base. They must also know how to complement these knowledge bases with the appropriate use of technology.
2. **COLLABORATION** - Educational professionals must continually seek opportunities to work together, learn from one another, forge partnerships, and assume positions of responsibility.
3. **REFLECTION** - Educational professionals must be willing to assess their own strengths and weaknesses through reflection. They must also possess the skills, behaviors, and attitudes necessary to learn, change, and grow as life-long learners.
4. **PRACTICE** - Educational professionals must have a rich repertoire of research-based strategies for instruction, assessment, and the use of technologies. They must be able to focus that array of skills on promoting authentic learning by all students or clients, while exhibiting an appreciation and commitment to the value and role of diversity.

Course Objectives:

Composition is designed to help you:

- enhance your creativity (CFPO #1, 7, 8; INTASC #5)
- increase your understanding of musical structure and affect (CFPO #3; INTASC #5)
- help you build the discipline needed for success in music (CFPO #1, 11; INTASC #9, 10)

Topics Covered:

- musical creativity (CFPO #1, 7, 8; INTASC #5)
- musical structure and affect (CFPO #3; INTASC #5)
- professionalism in music (CFPO #1, 11; INTASC #9, 10)

Required Texts:

None

Methods of Instruction:

- lecture
- discussion
- audition

Student Activities:

- guided composition projects (CFPO #1, 7, 8; INTASC #5)
- original composition projects (CFPO #3; INTASC #5)
- submit work on time (CFPO #1, 11; INTASC #9, 10)

Honor Code:

Honesty is at the foundation of all intellectual achievement. The pledge within the Mississippi State University Student's Honor Code (<http://www.honorcode.msstate.edu>) asserts:

“As a Mississippi State University student I will conduct myself with honor and integrity at all times. I will not lie, cheat, or steal, nor will I accept the actions of those who do.”

Your signature, affixed to all written material handed in for evaluation, is understood to affirm that your submission represents solely your own work. This means that all assignments and examinations are not to be completed with the knowing or unknowing collaboration of other people, and are to conform to the specific directions given by your professor.

Cheating, plagiarism, and other forms of academic dishonesty will be dealt with in accord with the Mississippi State University Academic Misconduct Policy

(http://www.msstate.edu/web/student_policies.html), and will invoke the formal consequences described therein, including the "XF" or "Dishonesty F" grade as the normal sanction for a first offense. All students should be familiar with the details this policy. **Simply put... DO NOT CHEAT!**

Technology:

Not an integral aspect of this course.

Diversity:

Diversity is welcomed, encouraged, and nurtured in this class, though not explicitly addressed via objectives, topics, or assignments, given its nature and curricular function.

Disability:

If you have a recognized learning disability and need accommodation, you should provide appropriate notification and documentation by the end of the second week of classes. For more information on this subject, contact the Student Support Services Office.

Field Experience:

None

Evaluation of Student Progress:

<u>Components</u>			
	Composition 1	1 @ 100 points	100 points
	Composition 2	1 @ 100 points	100 points
	Composition 3	1 @ 100 points	100 points
			300 points total

<u>Grading Scale</u>		
	270 – 300 points	A
	240 – 269.5 points	B
	210 – 239.5 points	C
	180 – 209.5 points	D
	0 – 179.5 points	F

Finale. *Finale* is available for your use in the Library, but you are encouraged to obtain a personal copy of *Finale NotePad* for home use. Information about this will be available in class and from your professor.

Help. People learn at different rates, have different learning preferences, and may need a little or a lot of direction. However, getting the help you need is *your* responsibility. If you have

questions, want to discuss class material, need advice about assignments or examinations, you are welcome to see me during office hours, e-mail me, or ask for an appointment.

Music Theory Curriculum. Class members should download a copy of the MSU Music Theory Curriculum (<http://www.music.msstate.edu/areas/theory/>) for an overview of Music Theory Area policies and the place of this course in music major studies, as well as specific information regarding all theory and musicianship courses.

Standards. This course is an advanced music major course, designed to prepare serious musicians for the competitive profession they hope to enter. Non-music majors should recognize that course standards, intended to maximize the success of future music professionals, cannot and will not be relaxed for those not pursuing music careers. Similarly, since the majority of students in the Music Department of MSU pursue the BME degree, education-related activities are required of ALL students.

Syllabus. As in any university class, this syllabus represents a contract whose terms are implicitly accepted by all students who remain in the class beyond the first day. Equally important, it specifies what a student can expect and what is expected of them. Details in the syllabus are subject to change by the professor, but will be announced in class in advance.

Course Policies:

Achievement:

According to the Bulletin of Mississippi State University:

“To be eligible for student teaching, the student must have completed a minimum of 18 semester credit hours in the major subject with a minimum of a **2.75 G.P.A.** or higher at the time of application. Final eligibility (**2.75 G.P.A.**) is determined through screening at the end of the semester prior to student teaching. The student must also have completed all professional education and methods courses with a minimum grade of “C” prior to student teaching.”

You are encouraged to request an appointment to discuss your current achievement in this class. Grades are recorded in *myCourses*.

Bibliography:

Persichetti, V. (1961). *Twentieth-century harmony: Creative aspects and practice*. New York, NY: Norton.

Schoenberg, A. (1999). *Fundamentals of musical composition*. London, UK: Faber & Faber.