



KENNESAW STATE
UNIVERSITY

SYLLABUS
COLLEGE OF THE ARTS
BAILEY SCHOOL OF MUSIC
MUSI 3326: CLASS COMPOSITION I
FALL 2021

Course Information

Class meeting time: Monday/Wednesday, 1:25pm – 2:15pm
Modality and Location: Face to Face course; Wilson Building Room 221
Syllabus is posted in D2L

Instructor Information

Name: Mrs. Jennifer Mitchell-Evans
Email: jmitch67@kennesaw.edu
Office Location: Music Building Room 106i
Office phone: n/a
Office Hours: Monday/Wednesday, 3pm – 4:30pm
You can expect your instructor to respond to emailed questions within 24 hours on weekdays, 48 hours on weekends.

Course Description

2 Class Hours 0 Laboratory Hours 2 Credit Hours

Prerequisite: MUSI 2212 or MUSI 1121 or MUSI 1120 with a “B” or higher; or permission of the instructor.

Students develop music composition skills by exploring basic techniques necessary for coherent creative expression. By writing original compositions for various instrumentations, students gain skills in the artistic use of pitch, rhythm, melody, timbre, and harmony. 20th and 21st century styles and techniques are utilized, and students acquire skill in music improvisation. Students gain competency in the basics of music notation utilizing both calligraphy and composition software.

Course Materials

Required Texts:

- Middleton, Jonathan. *Essentials for Composers: Creative Process by Design*. Long Grove: Waveland Press, Inc., 2017. ISBN-13: 978-1-4786-3249-8.
- Adler, Samuel. *The Study of Orchestration*. 4th ed., New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 2016. ISBN-13: 978-0393920659.

Recommended Texts:

- Rabson, Mimi. *Arranging for Strings*. Boston: Berklee Press, 2018. ISBN 978-0-87639-186-0.

Technology requirements:

- Finale 2018 release or newer (NOT Finale notepad)
OR
- Sibelius Ultimate 2018 release or newer

Please note that Finale 26.3.1.643 is accessible in the Music Lab. Your instructor uses Finale, so if you choose to use Sibelius, your instructor will not be able to assist in any technical problems you may have.

Learning Outcomes

The main goal of this course is to develop and refine compositional abilities. A primary component of a multi-faceted approach to achieving this goal will be the feedback given and the questions asked of you and your work during review of your compositions in progress. The instructor will present concepts, techniques, and/or material related to a list of topics relating to the course textbook and listening assignments. The class will also engage in score study and analysis, focused listening with scores, and on specific aspects of instrumentation and orchestration that relate to composition.

Course Requirements and Assignments

BASIC RULES

- This is a paper-free class to help preserve the environment and minimize costs to KSU. If hard copies of handouts are needed, please view/print them online from D2L.
- Official class business will be conducted on D2L, where materials and assignments will be posted.
- Cell phones should be turned off or set to silent in the classroom. Laptops should be closed during student presentations.

Final Grade Distribution

30% Composition Projects (5 in total)

Projects are based on completed Homework Exercises from the textbook. These must be submitted by the due date to receive credit. Projects will be discussed and reviewed by your instructor and peers during class.

20% Composition Exercises (3 – 7 exercises per chapter)

Homework Exercises are all found in the Middleton textbook. These must be submitted by the due date to receive credit. Homework will be discussed and reviewed by your instructor and peers during class.

20% Listening Journals (7 in total)

Students will reflect on composers/pieces assigned. Briefly discuss historical background of the composer, but focus mainly on concepts such as instrumentation, orchestration, form, timbre, etc. and how the composer uses these in the assigned works. If the piece is multi-movement, discuss all movements individually, however brief each movement discussion may be. Discuss what you like/ do not like about the assigned piece and how this music may or may not influence your compositional process. Each journal entry will be submitted as a pdf or Word document and should be minimum 850 words (not including cover page/header/footer/page numbers/works cited if you choose to use any of them), double-spaced. Late entries will not be accepted.

10% Concert Attendance

Students are required to attend (as an audience member) at least 3 concerts with music composed in the late 20th–21st centuries, with at least one performance having music by a living composer. **At least one concert must be attended off campus.** Concert programs (and tickets when applicable) are turned in to the instructor. A short assignment will also be submitted reflecting on each concert experience.

10% Reading Assignments (2 in total)

Students will read chapters in the Adler textbook about the instruments for which they will be composing and answer the list of questions provided by the instructor.

10% Quizzes (5 in total)

Quizzes will be given to confirm students' understanding of materials covered in the Middleton textbook.

THERE IS NO MIDTERM OR FINAL EXAM FOR THIS COURSE.

Evaluation and Grading Policies

Rubrics are provided in D2L for each assignment. Grades and feedback will be provided within 48 hours of due dates unless otherwise announced.

Grading Scale:

A = 90 – 100

B = 80 – 89

C = 70 – 79

D = 60 – 69

F = 0 – 59

Course Policies

Course Delivery: KSU may shift the method of course delivery at any time during the semester in compliance with University System of Georgia health and safety guidelines. In this case, alternate teaching modalities that may be adopted include hyflex, hybrid, synchronous online, or asynchronous online instruction.

Class Attendance: Regular attendance is crucial to your success in this course and is a measure of your commitment. **For each unapproved absence, 5 points will be deducted from your FINAL AVERAGE unless your absence is approved PRIOR to the class.** Automatically approved absences include illness (with doctor's note or proof of Covid test) or court notice (with documentation). In the event you need to miss class, notify your instructor **at least 24 hours in advance** through email or D2L and your absence MAY be approved (this will be determined on a case-by-case basis). Online accommodations will be made for those affected by Covid-19 with proper documentation (see below for more details). Habitual tardiness will affect your grade.

For you to achieve the weekly progress that is expected on their compositions, you should plan to devote at least 1 hour per day, 5–6 days per week, to composing.

You can expect to have 1 – 3 assignments each week. Late submissions are typically not accepted, and extensions are not given (not even for partial credit). If extenuating circumstances arise, external documentation on official letterhead is required to negotiate late submissions and extensions. It is the student's responsibility to contact the instructor within 24 hours of the missed due date if such a case arises.

Institutional Policies

[Federal, BOR, & KSU Required Syllabus Policies](#)

KSU Student Resources

This link contains information on help and resources available to students:

[KSU Student Syllabus Resources](#)

Course Schedule

**TENTATIVE SCHEDULE (schedule and assignments are subject to change).
The following are tentative DUE DATES.**

Week 1 (August 16/18)

Topics covered: Syllabus Discussion
Introductions

Week 2 (August 23/25)

Topics covered: Composing for String Quartet
Chapter 1: Creative Process by Design

Materials to be completed: String Quartet Assignment
Chapter 1 Quiz
Listening Journal 1 (Richter OR Muhly)

Week 3 (August 30/September 1)

Topics covered: Composing for String Quartet
Chapter 1: Creative Process by Design

Materials to be completed: Homework 1A and 1B: Ch. 1 Exercises 3, 4, 8, and 9

Week 4 (September 8)

Topic covered: Chapter 1: Creative Process by Design

Materials to be completed: Listening Journal 2 (Schoenberg OR Singleton)
Project 1

Week 5 (September 13/15)

Topic covered: Chapter 2: Basic Counterpoint

Materials to be completed: Chapter 2 Quiz
Listening Journal 3 (Gandolfi OR Greenstein)

Week 6 (September 20/22)

Topic covered: Chapter 2: Basic Counterpoint

Materials to be completed: Homework 2A and 2B: Ch. 2 Exercises 1 – 4, 5, 7, and 10

Week 7 (September 27/29)	
Topics covered:	Chapter 2: Basic Counterpoint
Materials to be completed:	Listening Journal 4 (Murail OR Reich) Project 2
Week 8 (October 4/6)	
Topics covered:	Composing for Piano
Materials to be completed:	Chapter 3: Harmonic Strategies Chapter 3 Quiz Piano Reading Assignment Concert Assignment 1 deadline
Week 9 (October 11/13)	
Topics covered:	Composing for Piano
Materials to be completed:	Chapter 3: Harmonic Strategies Homework 3A, 3B, and 3C: Piano score study and Ch. 3 Exercises 2, 3, 4, and 6
Week 10 (October 18/20)	
Topic covered:	Chapter 3: Harmonic Strategies
Materials to be completed:	Listening Journal 5 (Adés OR J. Adams) Project 3
Week 11 (October 25/27)	
Topic covered:	Chapter 4: Variations and Principles
Materials to be completed:	Chapter 4 Quiz Listening Journal 6 (Lauridsen OR Higdon)
Week 12 (November 1/3)	
Topic covered:	Chapter 4: Variations and Principles
Materials to be completed:	Homework 4A and 4B: Ch. 4 Exercises 1, 3, 4, 5, and 7
Week 13 (November 8/10)	
Topic covered:	Chapter 4: Variations and Principles
Materials to be completed:	Concert Assignment 2 deadline Project 4
Week 14 (November 15/17)	
Topic covered:	Chapter 5: Analytical Strategies and Creative Methods
Materials to be completed:	Chapter 5 Quiz Listening Journal 7 (Theofanidis OR J.L. Adams)
Week 15 (November 22/24)	FALL BREAK (no class)
Week 16 (November 29/December 1)	
Topic covered:	Chapter 5: Analytical Strategies and Creative Methods
Materials to be completed:	Homework 5A and 5B: Ch. 5 Exercises 1, 3, and 5

Week 17 (December 6)

Topic covered: Chapter 5: Analytical Strategies and Creative Methods
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Materials to be completed: Concert Assignment 3 deadline

FINAL EXAM DAY (December 13, 1pm – 3pm)

Topics covered: Chapter 5: Analytical Strategies and Creative Methods

Materials to be completed: Project 5

Important Dates

Drop/Add ends at 11:45pm on Friday, August 20.

Deadline to withdraw without academic penalty (W): 11:45pm on Thursday, October 21.

Deadline to withdraw with a WF (Withdraw Fail): 11:45pm on Monday, November 29.

Labor Day, no classes: Monday, September 6.

Fall Break, no classes: Monday, November 22 – Sunday, November 28.

Last day of class: Monday, December 6.

Covid-19 Information

If you are feeling ill, please stay home and contact your health professional. In addition, please email your instructor to say you are missing class due to illness. Signs of COVID-19 illness include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Cough
- Fever of 100.4 or higher
- Runny nose or new sinus congestion
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Chills
- Sore Throat
- New loss of taste and/or smell

COVID-19 vaccines are a critical tool in “Protecting the Nest.” If you have not already, you are strongly encouraged to get vaccinated immediately to advance the health and safety of our campus community. As an enrolled KSU student, you are eligible to receive the vaccine on campus. Please call (470) 578-6644 to schedule your vaccination appointment or you may walk into one of our student health clinics.

For more information regarding COVID-19 (including testing, vaccines, extended illness procedures and accommodations), see KSU’s official [Covid-19 website](#).

Face coverings: Based on guidance from the University System of Georgia (USG), all vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals are encouraged to wear a face covering while inside campus facilities. Unvaccinated individuals are also strongly encouraged to continue to socially distance while inside campus facilities, when possible. This is subject to change.