

**MUS 1118.05: New Music Lab**  
Sunday 6.30pm - 9.00, Room 202  
FALL 2016

**Instructor: B. Herrington, Ph.D.**

**Office: GPAC 120**

**Phone: 936.294.3594**

**Office hours: TBA**

**Email: bherrington@shsu.edu**

**REQUIRED TEXTS AND MATERIALS**

Music staff paper; pencils, eraser.

Notebook for collecting projects, assignments, and repertoire.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Ensemble course devoted to developing works in collaboration with student composers, as well as collaborative group improvisation. Performers will give feedback on compositional sketches in-progress, as well as advise students regarding the intricacies of effective instrumental writing.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

Through this course students will gain valuable experience in improvisation and ensemble performance. Students will explore contemporary extended techniques on their instruments (including voice), as well as the intersection of music, visual arts, and spoken word through collaborations with other disciplines at Sam Houston State University.

**CLASS PARTICIPATION**

Students must participate in all in-class experiments with commitment, creativity, and enthusiasm. Students must be willing to contribute to the class with critical thinking, independent thought, and intellectual curiosity.

## **THEORY DEPARTMENT ATTENDANCE AND TARDY POLICIES**

Regular and punctual attendance is expected of you throughout the semester. **University policy permits three classroom hours of unexcused absence without penalty per semester (MWF = 3 absences, TTH = 2 absences, weekly class = 1).** Reserve these for possible emergency or illness. **For each additional unexcused absence, one-third of a letter grade will be deducted from your final grade.** Valid excuses include official university functions or illness with appropriate documentation. If you anticipate a legitimate absence on a test date, contact your instructor at least one week in advance so that a make-up test can be scheduled. You are responsible for all assignments and material covered on the days of your absence.

The instructor will take attendance at the beginning of each class period. Students not arriving by the time roll is completed will need to sign the official tardy sign-in sheet at the front of the classroom in order to be counted present for that class period. Students failing to sign this list when tardy will be counted absent without exception. Every student will be allowed 2 tardies without penalty per semester. **Every third tardy will be counted as equal to one absence. (3 tardies = 1 absence, 6 tardies = 2 absences, etc.)**

**!!! ATTENDANCE IS A SIGNIFICANT FACTOR AFFECTING YOUR SUCCESS IN THIS COURSE !!!**

## **CLASSROOM ETIQUETTE**

Students will **NOT** be allowed to have food or drinks in the classroom; however, water in a closed container is acceptable with instructor's approval. Students may **NOT** use cell phones or other electronic devices such as laptops, iPods, etc. during class. Students will be penalized one tardy for each disruption caused by any of these devices during class. Special needs accommodations for allowing any of the above is allowed, but only through approval of the university and the Counseling Center.

## **FINAL GRADE CALCULATIONS**

Attendance	50%
Independent Projects	25%
Concert	25%

## **GRADING SCALE**

A	=	90 - 100
B	=	80 - 89
C	=	70 - 79
D	=	60 - 69
F	=	0 - 59

*Note: Your instructor will NOT freely give points or extra credit to students to improve their final grade.*

## **SHSU THEORY DEPARTMENT TUTORING POLICY**

Each student has his/her own unique areas of strength and weakness. If you are falling behind in a certain area and are not able to visit your instructor during scheduled office hours, feel free to contact them via email to arrange a time to meet that will fit your schedule. A department tutor aide may also be available for free tutoring for all theory and musicianship students throughout the semester.

## **EARLY WARNING SLIPS / FIRST ALERT**

After the first two exams, the instructor will fill out an “Early Warning Slip” on behalf of any student having problems with grades, attendance, attitude, fundamental skills, etc. These official notifications by the theory department are sent to a student’s applied instructor and/or ensemble director in order to express specific concerns regarding the student’s academic performance.

The Counseling Center on campus also offers a service called “First Alert” which aims to give aid to students identified by their instructors as needing extra help with their coursework. At any time during the semester, instructors may send a “First Alert” warning to the counseling center on campus, if a student seems to be having any kind of difficulty in class. The theory department is committed to working with students, applied instructors, and ensemble directors to ensure each student’s success in the classroom.

### **REQUIREMENTS FOR STUDENTS RECEIVING UNSATISFACTORY GRADES**

Students who have received a final grade of F in any theory or musicianship course the previous semester will be required to drop the next course in the sequence if still enrolled at the beginning of the next semester. Prerequisite courses **MUST be passed with a grade of C or higher for promotion to the next level.**

### **UNIVERSITY POLICY ON ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:**

The Faculty Handbook states that the University expects all students to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. Furthermore, the University and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials.

### **PROPER CLASSROOM DEMEANOR/RULES OF CONDUCT:**

Students will refrain from behavior in the classroom that intentionally or unintentionally disrupts the learning process and, thus, impedes the mission of the university. Please turn off or mute your cellular phone and/or pager before class begins. Students are prohibited from eating in class, using tobacco products, making offensive remarks, reading newspapers, sleeping, talking among each other at inappropriate times, wearing inappropriate clothing, or engaging in any other form of distraction. Inappropriate behavior in the classroom shall result in a, minimally, a directive to leave class or being reported to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action in accordance with university policy.

### **AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT:**

SHSU adheres to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. If you have a disability that may affect adversely your work in this class, then I encourage you to register with the SHSU Counseling Center and to talk with me about how I can best help you. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. NOTE: no accommodation can be made until you register with the Counseling Center. SSD contact information (voice 936-294-3512; TDD 936-294-3786; e-mail [disability@shsu.edu](mailto:disability@shsu.edu); web [www.shsu.edu/disability](http://www.shsu.edu/disability)) Located, at the Lee Drain North Annex location.

**STUDENT ABSENCES ON RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS POLICY:**

Section 51.911(b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence.

University policy 861001 provides the procedures to be followed by the student and instructor. A student desiring to be absent himself/herself from a scheduled class in order to observe (a) religious holy day(s) shall present to each instructor involved a written statement concerning the religious holy day(s). This request must be made in the first fifteen days of the semester or the first seven days of a summer session in which the absence(s) will occur. The instructor will complete a form notifying the student of a reasonable timeframe in which the missed assignments and/or examinations are to be completed.