

# **Applied Composition I: COMP 1101**

## **SPRING 2018**

**Instructor:** Dr. Brian Herrington

**Office:** GPAC 2201

**Office Hours:** by appointment

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### **REQUIRED MATERIALS**

- Music notation software (the music computer lab can be used for this)

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Composition I provides the student with training in the craft of composition through individual instruction and group study. Expectations will increase for the quality and quantity of compositional output in Applied Composition 1, Applied Composition 2, and Graduate Applied Composition respectively.

### **MANDATORY ATTENDANCE**

All students enrolled in composition must attend the Monday composer forum meetings and other events listed in the calendar handed out at the first forum meeting. (Some forums and events may be considered optional for those enrolled in Composition 1...see below.) Each of these meetings/events is worth a portion of the overall semester grade. Points will not be awarded for absences unless an excuse deemed valid by the instructor is given **prior** to the absence.

### **PERFORMANCE REQUIREMENTS**

It is expected that composition students will have at least one performance of their original work during each semester. (Exceptions will be made for Composition I students in their first semester and for nonmajors.) These performances may take place on or off-campus. Off-campus performances must be approved on a case-by-case basis to meet this requirement by your composition instructor. A recital program must be saved and included in the semester portfolio to receive credit for any performance.

### **WEEKLY LESSONS**

You and your instructor will work out a weekly schedule for your lessons. Attendance, punctuality, and preparation for these lessons will be considered each week for your weekly lesson grade. You must cancel and reschedule a lesson by email at some point prior to the beginning of that lesson. Missed lessons will not be made up if not rescheduled before the time of the original lesson and without a valid excuse. The grade for a missed lesson that is not made up will be a zero. You are expected to bring hardcopies of your work to all lessons, unless otherwise instructed.

## **FINAL GRADE CALCULATIONS FOR COMP 1101**

Final grades will be based upon demonstrated achievement in a combination of the following areas:

- Attendance and promptness at lessons and scheduled composers meetings/events
- Quality and amount of newly-sketched material
- Quality and amount of revision to previously-presented material
- Incorporation of instructors' suggestions
- Bringing necessary materials to the lesson
- Completion of any score study/listening assignments given
- Semester Jury/Portfolio
- Completion of or participation in any calls for scores, group compositions, or other activities planned for the semester

## **SEMESTER JURY/PORTFOLIO REQUIREMENTS**

Each student will assemble their composition materials for the semester into a portfolio, to be presented at a semester jury during finals week. It is the student's responsibility to present these materials to their instructor for feedback during lesson times approaching the deadline. **Two identical portfolios should be presented at the time of the jury.** Each portfolio should contain:

1. a completed Jury Cover Sheet (found at the end of this document)
2. a completed Semester Listening Journal (found at the end of this document)
3. sketches (for pieces that have not gotten past sketch phase)
4. incomplete scores (for pieces that aren't yet finished)
5. completed works (must have professional appearance: cover inside cover, etc.)
6. you will need to have a means for playing sound files for your completed works. A computer will be available to pull up e-mailed files or to play files from a thumb drive or you can bring your own playback device

## **CRITERIA FOR PORTFOLIO EVALUATION**

Portfolios will be evaluated by composition faculty and given grades based upon the level of achievement shown in the following areas: amount of complete and/or incomplete materials created, quality of composed materials, presentation of scores, student attitude, work ethic, overall achievement for specific level of study (Composition I, Composition II, Graduate Composition). For Composition I, there will be a general expectation of 5-8 minutes of music that has been appropriately thought through and revised according to instructor input.

<b>POLICY FOR PROMOTION FROM COMPOSITION I TO COMPOSITION II</b>
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## **SOPHOMORE BARRIER**

This is a special jury/portfolio that must be presented by any student in Composition I wishing to be promoted into Composition II. This will typically be done in conjunction with the student's composition jury during the spring semester of the sophomore year. Notify your instructor at the beginning of the semester if you think you will need to take the barrier. You may be given special instructions for items to be added or altered for this specific jury.

The candidate wishing to be promoted will be rated 1-10 (least proficient to most proficient) in the 6 areas described below. A total score of 54 or higher is required to pass the barrier. If a passing score is not earned, the student may attempt the barrier again the following semester:

### GENERAL ACADEMIC SUCCESS

It is expected that graduates of the Bachelor of Music in Composition degree at SHSU will be amongst the most intellectually inquisitive and highest achieving students in all of their coursework, music and otherwise. Success in music composition relies upon, in addition to natural talent, the ability to study and incorporate concepts from all areas of music studies. Students who are struggling academically, failing, or making consistently low passing grades in coursework will likely not score highly in this category.

### ATTITUDE

Professional composers must wear many hats and balance interactions with performers, teachers, peers, students, conductors, publishers, etc. Success in dealing with other musicians and academic coursework will require a positive attitude and a willingness to be confident and humble all at the same time. Composers wishing to be promoted into Composition 2 will be expected to have demonstrated the appropriate attitudes and behavior of a successful professional composer.

### EFFECTIVENESS OF COMPOSITIONS IN VARIOUS STYLES AND INSTRUMENTATIONS

By the time a student composer begins junior level composition studies, he or she must have composed works in at least a few different styles and/or instrumentations that show versatility and potential for growth in musical creativity. Compositions must show logical development of effective musical ideas and forms.

### SCORE APPEARANCE

The visual aspect of musical creations, namely through score and parts, is an important part of the impression a composer makes on performers, judges, and listeners. It is expected that composers wishing to be promoted to Composition 2 constantly make efforts to learn and grow in this area.

### PROGRESS IN THE STUDY OF COMPOSITION

A willingness to learn and to take in new ideas and perspectives is essential for a composer that wishes to maintain and evolve tools for success. It is important to demonstrate the ability to take direction and advice from composition instructors and other sources in the revision of creative works throughout study.

### POTENTIAL FOR SUCCESS IN GRADUATE LEVEL PROGRAMS

The Bachelor of Music in Composition at SHSU is focused toward preparing composers for graduate work in composition, regardless of any individual composer's personal, musical, educational, or professional goals. By the end of sophomore year studies, it is expected that a composition student in this program be able to demonstrate potential for succeeding in graduate level composition studies.

### **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, 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 Counseling Center and to talk with me about how I can best help you. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. No accommodation can be made until you register with the Counseling Center.

### **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 15 days of the semester or the first 7 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.

### **INFORMATION FOR MUSICIANS ABOUT STAYING HEALTHY:**

All students are encouraged to read materials provided by the National Association of Schools of Music and the Performing Arts Medicine Association. These three handouts can be found on the SHSU School of Music website. From the School of Music homepage, click on *Current Students* and then *Current Students Homepage* on the dropdown list. Links to these pdf files will be on this page under *NASM Student Information Sheets*. Below are the links to the three handouts:

#### **Protecting your Neuromusculoskeletal Health**

<http://www.shsu.edu/dotAsset/448de41d-76d6-4ee9-b2f8-b640df504e8a.pdf>

#### **Protecting Your Vocal Health**

<http://www.shsu.edu/dotAsset/2cc99732-e47b-40a7-87f3-e9c9c101660a.pdf>

#### **Protecting Your Hearing Health**

<http://www.shsu.edu/dotAsset/d6f88394-d423-4082-9c12-047b3e762146.pdf>

**JURY COVER SHEET**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Instructor:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Semester (circle one):**    Fall       Spring

**Year:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Level (circle one):**        COMP I                      COMP II                      GRAD COMP

List titles of works completed this semester:

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\_\_\_\_\_

Approximate duration of music completed this semester (in minutes and seconds): \_\_\_\_\_

List titles of incomplete and sketched works this semester:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Approximate duration of music incomplete/sketched music this semester: \_\_\_\_\_

List mandatory concerts, forums, and master classes attended this semester (all of these dates are on the front page of your syllabus). Provide explanations for any EXCUSED absences:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

List performances of original works both on and off campus this semester:

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List any competitions, calls for scores, or festival submissions applied to during the semester:

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\_\_\_\_\_

## SEMESTER LISTENING JOURNAL

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**Semester (circle one):**    Fall       Spring                      **Year:** \_\_\_\_\_

*For each week, list the title and composer of a piece you have listened to and/or score studied and provide a short entry with your thoughts and reactions.*

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**Week 1:**

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**Week 2:**

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