

MUSI 4375.01: Film Scoring
Spring 2018

Instructor: Kyle Kindred, DMA
Office: Music Building 322
Office Hours: MW 10-11am, TTH 9:30-10:30am, and by appointment

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Required Texts and Materials:

- 1) *On the Track: A Guide to Contemporary Film Scoring*, 2nd edition. (Routledge: 2004)
- 2) Staff paper, notebook paper, pencils and erasers (Work done in ink will not be accepted.)

Course Description:

A study of traditional and computer-based film scoring techniques, this course will provide opportunities for the student to learn to think critically about the role of the musical score in film by way of the text, classroom discussion, homework assignments and film scoring composition and transcription projects.

Prerequisite Requirements:

Each student enrolled in this course must have completed MUSI 3362 (Structure and Analysis) and be classified as a junior unless specific permission has been granted by the instructor.

Theory Department Attendance and Tardy Policy:

Your instructor will take classroom attendance at the beginning of every class. Regular and punctual attendance is expected throughout the semester. University policy permits 3 classroom hours of unexcused absence without penalty per semester (TTH = 2 absences). For each additional unexcused absence, 3 points will be deducted from your final grade. Arriving late to class twice = 1 unexcused absence; once roll has been taken, you are officially late to class. Excused absences 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 plans can be coordinated for any quizzes or exams. Make-up exams and quizzes for legitimately excused absences only are at the discretion of the instructor. You are responsible for all assignments and material covered on the days of your absence.

Class Participation:

When you come to class, be prepared to participate in discussions and other activities involving the assigned readings, exercises, etc. Bring your questions to class! Students who have not brought their materials, are sleeping in class, are not paying attention, or are disrupting the learning environment in any way may be asked to leave class and will be counted absent for that class period.

Homework Policy:

Homework should be turned in before class starts. Your instructor will give you specific procedural information. Late assignments will not be accepted unless you have received advanced permission from your instructor.

Neatness:

All work to be graded should be neat, legible, and done in pencil. Any work the instructor considers to be illegible or done in ink will not be graded and you will not receive credit. If you have a question about the quality of your work, ask your instructor before you turn it in to be graded.

Classroom Etiquette:

Students will not be allowed to have food or drinks in the classroom or computer lab, except for water in a clear and sealed container. Students may not use cell phones or other electronic devices such as laptops, etc., during class unless with express permission from the instructor. Students may not use offensive language or be disrespectful to other members in the class. Disruptive students may be asked to leave the class for that day and will be counted absent. It is essential to have a *positive learning environment* so that you and your colleagues can do your best in the class.

Semester Projects:

Five small composition/transcription/diagramming projects will be assigned during the semester.

Project #1: Composing a sentimental melody with harmonization

Project #2: Scoring a short commercial

Project #3: Transcribing an action sequence

Project #4: Diagramming a soundtrack

Project #5: Rescoring a trailer

Final Grade Calculation for Course:

Homework Assignments	20%
Semester Projects (5 @ 8% each)	40%
Exam #1 (Midterm)	20%
Exam #2 (Final)	20%

Exam Dates (subject to change):

Exam #1 **Thursday, February 15
(8-9:20am)**

Exam #2 **Tuesday, May 8 (8-
10am)**

Grading Scale:

A = 90 – 100

B = 80 – 89

C = 70 – 79

D = 60 – 69

F = 0 – 59

Requirements for Students Receiving Unsatisfactory Grades:

Students who have received a final grade of D or lower 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. In sum: do your own work! Working on homework assignments with your friends and classmates is *not* acceptable; this is an example of collusion.

More on Classroom Demeanor and Rules of Conduct:

Students will refrain from behavior in the classroom that intentionally or unintentionally disrupts the learning process and, thus, the mission of the University. Students are prohibited from using tobacco products in class, making offensive remarks, texting, sleeping, talking amongst 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, directive to leave class, or being reported to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action in accordance with the University policy.

American 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 adversely affect your work in the class, you are encouraged to register with the SHSU Counseling Center and to talk with your instructor how best we can serve 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) 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.

Please re-read this syllabus and feel free to ask your instructor if you need clarification regarding anything discussed in these pages. It is assumed that, by receiving this syllabus, you accept and will adhere to policies and procedures contained therein.