

San José State University
School of Music and Dance
Music 38B-E, 138B-E, Applied Instruction in Music Composition
SPRING 2016

Instructor:	Dr. Brian Belet
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Office Hours:	Monday: 2:30 – 3:30 pm // Thursday: 1:30 – 2:30 pm
Class Days/Time:	(Arranged)
Classroom:	Music 104
Course Website:	www.beletmusic.com/SJSU_Courses.html (see 'MUSC 038/138 - Applied Composition lessons' files)
Prerequisites:	See below
Course Fees:	Music Use Fee: Music majors and minors must pay a music equipment use fee of \$30 each semester. The fee must be paid directly to the Cashier's Office, and you must bring the receipt to the Music Office before completing registration. Applied music instruction will not be authorized until this fee is paid. Music 10B students, or students enrolled in any sound recording course, must pay a fee of \$22 each semester that they are enrolled in one or more of these classes. The fees are included in the student's bill, with other registration fees.

IMPORTANT Message for Students

The California Faculty Association is in the midst of a difficult contract dispute with management over salary issues. Higher pay for faculty is crucial to attracting and keeping excellent professors and improving the quality of your education.

It is possible that the faculty union will picket, hold rallies, or perform other job actions during this semester, up to and including a strike. If the faculty are forced into any of these activities we will do our best to keep you informed and to minimize any disruption to your education.

For more current information you can visit the California Faculty Association website at: <http://www.calfac.org/>

Course Description

The course is an intensive study of the materials of art music composition. Pop, rock, jazz, electronica (as opposed to classical electro-acoustic) genres are not a part of this course. Works are created incorporating common practice and twentieth- /twenty-first-century procedures.

Instruction is set up as follows:

- 1) Weekly lessons, structured in a seminar-like fashion as well as online. The day and time will be agreed upon by the student and the instructor at the beginning of each semester.
- 2) Forum: All composition students must attend the weekly **Composition Forum**. Time and place arranged at the beginning of each term.
- 3) Concerts: Students are required to attend and participate in Composition Area concerts and events.

Course Goals and Student Learning Objectives

LOWER DIVISION

Students will learn how to construct motives and phrases of varied length. Students will learn how to develop harmony, texture, overall structure, and appropriate use of instruments. Lower Division students will be assigned compositional exercises of varying duration and degree of difficulty dealing with phrase construction and extension of musical material. Compositions will be assigned in imitation of period pieces such as chorales, piano sonatas, variation form, and works for small ensembles of diverse instrumentation. This will lead to the development of musical vocabulary, syntax, and typical stylistic practices of composition, including those from the twentieth century.

Students will analyze representative works from the literature including Baroque, Classical, Romantic, and Twentieth century (modern), and may be required to produce weekly analysis assignments in preparation for the compositional work. The importance of familiarity with pieces from the music literature cannot be over emphasized. It is imperative that students conduct their own research and study of the literature every week of each semester. The best way to do this is to have a small notebook with you each time you listen to a recording or study a score. In the notebook, write any comment or thoughts concerning the pieces you listen to.

UPPER DIVISION

A main goal of upper division studies is to develop a personal compositional style. Upper Division students will learn how to expand their musical vocabulary, syntax, and will develop skills necessary to handle compositional materials and techniques of contemporary music. Students will analyze representative works from the modern period in preparation of the compositional work.

LOWER DIVISION

Semester 1 – MUSC 038B

Co-requisite: MUSC 1A+B

Small structures including design of motives and phrases, sections. Short compositions or movements.

Semester 2 – MUSC 038C

Pre-requisite: MUSC 1A+B (grade of B or higher).

Co-requisite: MUSC 2A+B

Small structure design with more complex harmonic elements. Imitation of simple models from the literature.

Semester 3 – MUSC 038D

Pre-requisite: MUSC 2A+B (grade of B or higher).

Co-requisite: MUSC 3A+B

Medium length structure design. Simple chromatic harmonic elements. Imitation of models from the literature.

Semester 4 – MUSC 038D

Pre-requisite: MUSC 3A+B (grade of B or higher).

Co-requisite: MUSC 4A+B

Medium-large structure design. Chromatic and modal harmony. Imitation of models from the literature.

Must pass the Junior Qualifying jury Exam at the end of semester 4.

UPPER DIVISION

Semester 5 – MUSC 138B

Prerequisite: MUSC 4A+B (grade of B or higher). Must have passed Piano Proficiency.

Co-requisites: MUSC 103, MUSC 104, and/or MUSC 102 (grade of B or higher must be earned in all of these courses).

Semester 6 – MUSC 138C

Pre-/Co-requisites: MUSC 103, MUSC 104, and/or MUSC 102 (grade of B or higher must be earned in all of these courses).

Large structure compositions or movements, including multi movement pieces.

Chromatic and modal harmonies of higher complexity than in lower division.

Junior Recital: Must have performed about 30 minutes of original music (pieces from levels 1-5). Program must be approved by instructor and area coordinator.

Semester 7 – MUSC 138D

Prerequisite: Successful Junior Recital.

Pre-/Co-requisites: See Level 6 list.

Development or original style but based on materials learned in lessons and models from the literature. Compose a large or multi-movement piece for small chamber ensemble in chromatic or modal harmonic style, or synthetic scales or modes.

Semester 8 – MUSC 138E

Pre-/Co-requisites: See Level 6 list.

Large or multi-movement piece of high harmonic and structural complexity for large ensemble.

Senior Recital: 1 hour of original music (pieces from levels 5-8). Program must be approved by instructor and/or area coordinator. A hearing one month before recital is required (see recitals guidelines).

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Students will be guided in the elements of traditional and modern procedures including electronic media. During the course of the semester the following may be assigned on a weekly basis:

- A. Analysis of works from the literature, including electronic music.
- B. Lower Division: Short exercises in two and four parts for diverse media including electronic music.
- C. Upper Division: Medium length exercises for diverse media including electronic music.
- D. Studies in traditional and modern counterpoint and rhythm.
- E. Concerts (TBA)

Required:

- D. Two compositions (completed by the end of the semester) of substantial duration, for small and large ensembles whose forces and style will be determined at the appropriate time by the instructor.

Students are expected to invest several hours of work on their assignments every week in order to achieve the expected level of mastery by the end of the term.

Recommended Texts/Readings

1. *Materials and Techniques of Twentieth Century Music*, by Stefan Kostka.
2. *Harmony*, by Roger Sessions.

Required

Scores and recordings for analysis (assigned by the instructor). May be found in the SJSU library.

READING SESSION

When possible, at the end of the Spring semester students will have the opportunity to have a short composition or excerpt read by an ensemble of professional musicians from the San José Chamber Orchestra. The day and time will be announced with ample time in order to have scores and parts submitted in advance. These have to be of the highest professional quality. Any score or part that does not meet these standards will be rejected and a failing grade will be given to this assignment. If in doubt as to how to produce

professional quality scores and parts, please consult the instructor ahead of time. Only compositions or excerpts approved by the instructor are eligible for this assignment.

PERFORMANCE OPPORTUNITIES

Each semester students have the chance to have their compositions performed by ensembles and soloists during regularly scheduled noon (Listening Hour) or evening concerts. It is the responsibility of each student to actively pursue these opportunities and to reach out to fellow students who will be willing to perform their pieces.

JURY EXAM

Students are required to present their completed works and exercises to a composition jury at the end of each semester. The jury grade is your final exam grade, and is based on work done in lessons and approved by your instructor. Only works and assignments worked on during lessons are accepted, unless the instructor has approved them to be part of this course. The jury will assess, grade the student's work and recommend his/her placement for the next academic term.

Students need to provide recordings of presented works along with legible, "clean," and presentable scores. Score reading at the piano of representative excerpts may substitute a recording in case the latter may not be obtained. Obviously, compositions for electronic media will be in digital media, with the addition of parts if traditional instruments are used.

JUNIOR QUALIFYING JURY EXAM

At the end of the 4th semester of lessons students must pass a "Junior Qualifying Exam" which will determine their readiness for upper division studies. In composition, this exam entails the presentation of several works, two of which must be from the last semester of applied studies. These works must demonstrate the student's understanding of larger structures and complex harmonic vocabulary commensurate with 4th semesters of private studies (students can refer to concepts learned in levels three and four of music theory/systems, Music 167 and 170a). There should be a solid grasp of chromatic harmony and principles of technology as it applies to music composition.

JUNIOR AND SENIOR RECITALS

Permission to fulfill the recital requirements will be given at the appropriate Jury meeting the semester before the recital is planned for. Required forms are in the main Music office and must be completed and turned in advance.

PERFORMING ENSEMBLE REQUIREMENT

Composition and electro-acoustic music students are required to enroll in a major ensemble each semester.

CONCERT ATTENDANCE

All music majors must fulfill the concert attendance requirement. Make sure you familiarize yourself with this requirement and document each attended concert through the use of a punch card (pick up in main office). This will be verified at Juries.

E-MAIL and email list

You must have an e-mail account. SJSU provides an account to all students. Please contact the Telecommunications Office for details. Messages will be posted to all composition and electro-acoustic music students on a regular basis. You can set up an account through the university or use a commercial on line service if you prefer. The Composition Area Coordinator will add new students to the list. You will start receiving messages when someone posts them.

You must use a permanent email address. If you change your email address you will have to be deleted, then added again as the email list system recognizes only the original address.

Assignments and Grading Policy

1. Weekly lesson grades will be assessed on participation, completed assignments and projects including compositions, exercises, Reading Session music (when applicable), and score analyses. Compositions will be graded on structural, melodic, harmonic, textural parameters, and how well instruments are utilized. Only work assigned by the instructor will count towards a grade. In other words, projects done in other classes or for extracurricular activities will not count for a grade in this class (unless provision for this have been made with the instructor). **Each week's assignment is graded.** Therefore, if students fail to bring an assignment as required by the instructor an "F" will be recorded. The Jury examination, at the end of the semester will serve as the final exam grade for applied lessons and overall program participation. All assignments must be completed as required by the instructor and be presentable (computer notated when required and bound unless the instructor states otherwise).
2. **Forum participation** is part of this applied lesson course and will be factored into the overall grade. Absences can be approved by the composition faculty only. Unexcused absences will result in an "F" for that week. If a student misses his or her Forum presentation, an "F" will be recorded.
3. **Required Event Participation.** There are several events that all composition students must participate in: faculty composer concerts, student concerts organized by the Composition area faculty (e.g., group recitals), Junior and Senior recitals of fellow composition students, reading sessions, guest artist master classes and recitals, and others. The events will be announced at the beginning of each term, usually two or three per semester. All students are required to participate unless explicitly excused by the composition area faculty because of compelling reasons. Failure to participate fully in any required event will earn an "F" for that week (arriving at the start of a required event, or leaving immediately after, is not participating fully and an "F" will be recorded. Attending other events, going out of town, forgetting about a required activities and scheduling others in its place, etc., are not compelling reasons).
 - a. **Faculty concerts:** All composition students must help in set up, stage organization, and break down including electronic/audio equipment.

Students who fail to show up or arrive late will receive an “F” for that event unless excused by area faculty. Therefore, be ready to help in set-up and teardown – don’t wait to be told what to do. Think of the essential things we always need when producing a concert: stage hands such as moving chairs, stands, pianos, before, during, and after concerts. Put up and fold back background panels. If you are authorized: set-up, operate and teardown electronic equipment, and anything else that needs to be done before an event and after, until the hall is completely cleared. If you don’t know what to do, ask. Your job is not over until everything is finished. So don’t leave the venue, chat with friends, or otherwise be idle until the concert hall is closed, regardless of whether you performed, conducted, or did anything else during the concert: Area faculty define what is or is not “participation.”

- b. Student concerts:** same as above.
- c. Junior and Senior recitals:** same as above. However, the student doing the recital will be responsible for all the planning and organization. All other students will assist in any capacity as requested.
- d. Concert attendance:** All music majors must fulfill the School of Music & Dance concert attendance requirement. Make sure you familiarize yourself with this requirement and document this with the use of a punch card (pick up in main office). This will be verified at Juries. A partial letter grade will be deducted from the final course grade for two or more missed concerts.

Grading Weights:

The course final grade is calculated with the following weighted sub-grades:

Lessons	70%
Forum	10%
Jury grade	10%
Concerts	10%

Grading System:

Letter grades are assigned on a 10-point scale, with “+” and “-” used as appropriate. All assignments, quizzes, and exams are graded on a normalized 100-point basis, so that letter grades correspond to the following GPA and percentage points:

Letter Grade	GPA	%
A+	4.0	99 - 100
A	4.0	93 - 98
A-	3.7	90 - 92
B+	3.3	88 - 89
B	3.0	84 - 87
B-	2.7	80 - 83

C+	2.3	78 - 79
C	2.0	74 - 77
C-	1.7	70 - 73
D+	1.3	69 - 69
D	1.0	64 - 67
D-	0.7	60 - 63
F	0.0	0 - 59

Impact on Course Grade:

Six or more weekly ‘F’ grades during the semester (from either the weekly lesson, Forum, or assigned concert) will result in a student failing the course and subsequent probation (read the Probation policy in the Handbook).

University Policies

Dropping and Adding

Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drop, grade forgiveness, etc. Refer to the current semester’s [Catalog Policies](http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html) section at <http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html>. Add/drop deadlines can be found on the [current academic calendar](http://www.sjsu.edu/academic_programs/calendars/academic_calendar/) web page located at http://www.sjsu.edu/academic_programs/calendars/academic_calendar/. The [Late Drop Policy](http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/policy/) is available at <http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/policy/>. Students should be aware of the current deadlines and penalties for dropping classes.

Information about the latest changes and news is available at the [Advising Hub](http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/>.

Academic integrity

The [University Academic Integrity Policy S07-2](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S07-2.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S07-2.pdf> requires you to be honest in all your academic course work. Faculty members are required to report all infractions to the office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development. The [Student Conduct and Ethical Development website](http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/) is available at <http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/>.

Instances of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Cheating on exams or plagiarism (presenting the work of another as your own, or the use of another person’s ideas without giving proper credit) will result in a failing grade and sanctions by the University. For this class, all assignments are to be completed by the individual student unless otherwise specified. If you would like to include your assignment or any material you have submitted, or plan to submit for another class, please note that SJSU’s Academic Integrity Policy S07-2 requires approval of instructors.

Campus Policy in Compliance with the American Disabilities Act

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you need to make special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible, or see me during office hours. Presidential Directive 97-03 requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with the [Disability Resource Center](http://www.drc.sjsu.edu/) (DRC) at <http://www.drc.sjsu.edu/> to establish a record of their disability.