

Spring 2009
Applied Graduate Composition Studies
MUCP 5308/9 and all MM, DMA, and PhD Composition

Instructor: Peter Fischer
Office: 233
Office Hours: 8:00-9:00 on MWF, and by appointment
Office Phone: 263; email peter.fischer@ttu.edu
Texts: Analysis as assigned (will vary by person and semester)

The course is designed for students to explore the creative side of music by writing original works for a variety of instruments and ensembles in a variety of styles. Students are required to put all projects on a notation graphics program (the one we currently support is *Finale*).

Composition projects vary by individual and are determined in the structure of the lesson. In addition, there are smaller weekly or biweekly exercises of three types: 1) exercises in composition fundamentals; 2) short advanced harmonic, melodic, rhythmic, and timbral exercises, and 3) counterpoint exercises.

All compositions must be computer notated unless an ink score is prepared because the notation program will not accommodate the style. All compositions must be spiral bound (or other type of binding) back-to-back page formats with a heavy (at least card stock) cover.

Required attendance at new music concerts and events.

Composers Forum Concert (Friday, February 6 at 5pm in Hemmle
Peter Fischer Faculty Recital, Sunday, March 29 at 7pm in Hemmle
Composers Forum Concert (April, TBA)
Others to be announced.

Course Content:

The study of knowledge and techniques leading to composition mastery, including the study of works from all eras, but especially contemporary music. This includes the study of music theory, form, counterpoint, compositional methods, style, orchestration, historical perspective, and analytical methods. The work in these courses will result in the completion and performance of creative projects.

Course Purpose:

These courses will prepare the student to compose at a level appropriate to a variety of compositional settings (vocal and instrumental, art music, solo, small and large ensembles, as well as other mediums and genres). Each sequential course will bring a student closer to this goal. These courses are required for the Masters and Doctoral degrees in Music Composition.

Expected Outcomes:

Upon completion of these courses, students should have:

Mastered a variety of compositional techniques, leading to an ability to compose with competence in a variety of styles and mediums.

Gained knowledge of orchestration.

Gained knowledge of theory, form and structure and integration into their creative projects.

Gained knowledge in a variety of contemporary musical languages.

Gained knowledge of a variety of works in the repertoire of contemporary music.
Gained experience in arranging for live performances of creative projects.

Methods for Assessing the Expected Learning Outcomes:

The expected learning outcomes for the course will be assessed through:

Weekly private lessons

Completion of scores in a professional format

Performances (dependent on availability and project)

Course Outline:

Every week students will have a private lesson. All composers will meet for scheduled composers forums. Students will compose every day, for a minimum amount of time determined by their credit enrollment. Over the course of the semester or school year, the student will move through the stages of mastering a particular compositional style and musical language.

Course Requirements:

Students must participate in all required lessons and forum classes.

Students must compose regularly.

Students must attend other performances, especially new music and recitals by TTU composers.

Required concerts are posted.

Grading Statements:

Grades are determined by a qualitative assessment of the student's progress and effort throughout the semester. Students will be evaluated weekly in their lessons, as well as in individual analysis projects. Performance is the ultimate goal for any composition and students should have at least one performance per semester. The music written must be at least 10 minutes and not all at slow tempos. Students may ask their instructor at any time what kind of grade their current work merits. Absence from more than one class will result in 1/2 letter grade lower for each absence.

Attendance: Attendance is required. If you are unable to attend a lesson, please leave an email or phone message for the instructor indicating the reason for your absence. If you anticipate missing class, you should inform the instructor in advance.

ADA Compliance <http://www.depts.ttu.edu/opmanual/OP34.22.pdf>

Any student who, because of a disability, may require special arrangements in order to meet the course requirements should contact the instructor as soon as possible to make any necessary arrangements. Students should present appropriate verification from Student Disability Services during the instructor's office hours. Please note instructors are not allowed to provide classroom accommodations to a student until appropriate verification from Student Disability Services has been provided. For additional information, you may contact the Student Disability Services office at 335 West Hall or 806-742-2405.

Academic Integrity <http://www.depts.ttu.edu/opmanual/OP34.12.pdf>

It is the aim of the faculty of Texas Tech University to foster a spirit of complete honesty and high standard of integrity. The attempt of students to present as their own any work not honestly performed is regarded by the faculty and administration as a most serious offense and renders the offenders liable to serious consequences, possibly suspension.

“Scholastic dishonesty” includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion, falsifying academic records, misrepresenting facts, and any act designed to give unfair academic advantage to the student (such as, but not limited to, submission of essentially the same written assignment for two courses without the prior permission of the instructor) or the attempt to commit such an act.

a. “Cheating” includes, but is not limited to:

- (1) Copying from another student’s test paper;
- (2) Using during a test materials not authorized by the person giving the test;
- (3) Failing to comply with instructions given by the person administering the test;
- (4) Possession during a test of materials that are not authorized by the person giving the test, such as class notes or specifically designed “crib notes.” The presence of textbooks constitutes a violation only if they have been specifically prohibited by the person administering the test.
- (5) Using, buying, stealing, transporting, or soliciting in whole or in part the contents of an unadministered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program;
- (6) Collaborating with or seeking aid or receiving assistance from another student or individual during a test or in conjunction with other assignment without authority;
- (7) Discussing the contents of an examination with another student who will take the examination;
- (8) Divulging the contents of an examination for the purpose of preserving questions for use by another when the instructor has designated that the examination is not to be removed from the examination room or not to be returned to or kept by the student;
- (9) Substituting for another person or permitting another person to substitute for oneself to take a course, a test, or any course-related assignment;
- (10) Paying or offering money or other valuable thing to or coercing another person to obtain an unadministered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program, or information about an unadministered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program;
- (11) Falsifying research data, laboratory reports, and/or other academic work offered for credit; and
- (12) Taking, keeping, misplacing, or damaging the property of the university or of another if the student knows or reasonably should know that an unfair academic advantage would be gained by such conduct.

b. “Plagiarism” includes, but is not limited to, the appropriation of, buying, receiving as a gift, or obtaining by any means material that is attributable in whole or in part to another source, including words, ideas, illustrations, structure, computer code, other expression and media, and presenting that material as one’s own academic work being offered for credit.

c. “Collusion” includes, but is not limited to, the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing academic assignments offered for credit or collaboration with another person to commit a violation of any section of the rules on scholastic dishonesty.

d. “Falsifying academic records” includes, but is not limited to, altering or assisting in the altering of any official record of the university and/or submitting false information or omitting requested information that is required for or related to any academic record of the university. Academic records include, but are not limited to, applications for admission, the awarding of a degree, grade reports, test papers, registration materials, grade change forms, and reporting forms used by the Office of the Registrar. A former student who engages in such conduct is subject to a bar against readmission, revocation of a degree, and withdrawal of a diploma.

e. “Misrepresenting facts” to the university or an agent of the university includes, but is not limited to, providing false grades or resumes; providing false or misleading information in an

effort to receive a postponement or an extension on a test, quiz, or other assignment for the purpose of obtaining an academic or financial benefit for oneself or another individual; or providing false or misleading information in an effort to injure another student academically or financially.

Last Day to drop a course: The 45th class day is the last day to drop a course.

Student Absence for Observance of Religious Holy Day

<http://www.depts.ttu.edu/opmanual/OP34.19.pdf>

"Religious holy day" means a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under Texas Tax Code §11.20.

A student who intends to observe a religious holy day should make that intention known in writing to the instructor prior to the absence. A student who is absent from classes for the observance of a religious holy day shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment scheduled for that day within a reasonable time after the absence.

Absence due to officially approved trips – The Texas Tech University Catalog states that the person responsible for a student missing class due to a trip should notify the instructors of the departure and return schedule in advance of the trip. The student may not be penalized and is responsible for the material missed.

Civility in the Classroom

<http://www.depts.ttu.edu/studentaffairs/CampusCrime/documents/CivilityInTheClassroom.pdf>

Students are expected to assist in maintaining a classroom environment that is conducive to learning. In order to assure that all students have the opportunity to gain from time spent in class, unless otherwise approved by the instructor, students are prohibited from engaging in any other form of distraction. Inappropriate behavior in the classroom shall result, minimally, in a request to leave class.

Student Handbook and Code of Conduct

http://www.depts.ttu.edu/studentaffairs/publications/2008_2009_Handbook_and_Code.pdf

Incompletes: The grade of incomplete is granted only in cases of documented emergencies or illness, and then only when permission has been obtained from the instructor, no later than one week before the final class meeting.