

## **MUS 365: Beginning Orchestration**

Text: *The Study of Orchestration* (Fourth Edition) by Samuel Adler (ISBN 978-0-393-92065-9)

### **General Overview**

This class will provide a technical overview to the different families of instruments from the modern symphony orchestra.

### **Learning Outcomes:**

- Student will identify the range, registral characteristics, and techniques in writing for strings, percussion, harp, brass, and woodwinds, in addition to the full orchestra.
- Student will analyze examples of instrumental writing from chosen repertoire.
- Student will prepare and play orchestration projects from piano scores and professionally notate scores and parts.
- Students will orchestrate music from piano scores.

**Project 1** – [Source works TBA] for String Quartet (2 Violins, Viola, and Cello)

**Project 2** – [Source works TBA] for Brass Quintet (2 Trumpets, Horn, Trombone, Tuba or Bass Trombone)

**Project 3** - [Source works TBA] for Woodwind Quintet (Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, Horn, & Bassoon)

**Project 4** – [Source works TBA] for Unpitched Percussion (3 – 4 percussionists)

**Final Project** – [Source works TBA] for Full Orchestra (Woodwinds, Brass, Percussion, Harp & Strings)

### **Required Materials**

- *The Study of Orchestration* (Fourth Edition) by Samuel Adler (ISBN 978-0-393-92065-9)  
LINK TO ACCESS AUDIO EXAMPLES: <https://digital.wwnorton.com/orchestration4>
- Selected works:  
TBA, but free online at IMSLP.org or via some other link.
- Music Notation Software (Finale, Sibelius, or MuseScore)
- Manuscript paper. Pencil & Eraser. (NO WRITTEN WORK COMPLETED WITH PEN!)

**Grading:**

Your grade for this course will be based on the following:

Assignments/Quizzes: **35%**

Projects 1-4: **40%** (10% each)

Final Project: **25%**

**ATTENDANCE/ASSIGNMENT POLICY:**

Attendance is mandatory. Promptness is highly encouraged. You are allowed only 3 unexcused absences before it affects your grade. **After the 3<sup>rd</sup> unexcused absence, your final overall grade percentage will be lowered by 5 for each additional absence.** For example, if your final grade after all assignments, quizzes, etc. are complete is an 80%, but you had 6 unexcused absences, your final grade will be lowered to 65% (80 - 5 - 5 - 5 = 65). Also, **3 late arrivals = 1 unexcused absence.**

**Absences may only be excused for official UNLV reasons (subject to my approval), or with a valid doctor's note.** Assignments, quizzes, exams, etc. may be turned in or taken late **for excused absences only.**

Facebook/Social Media Policy: If you friend me on Facebook, I won't accept your request until you graduate from UNLV (if I still like you, that is). In the meantime, feel free to follow me on Twitter, request to be a contact on LinkedIn, etc.

**TENTATIVE Weekly Schedule**

(This will almost certainly change, given our visiting musicians' availability throughout the semester. Additional scheduled or pop quizzes are possible throughout the semester.)

**Week 1:**

Mon. Aug. 29 – Syllabus/Writing for Orchestra/Bowed String Instruments – Chapters 1 & 2

Wed. Aug. 31 – Chapters 2 & 3 – Bowed String Instruments and Indiv. Bowed String Instr.

**Week 2:**

Mon. Sept. 5 – **[LABOR DAY – NO CLASS]**

Wed. Sept. 7 – Strings Demonstration 1 (Violin/Viola) – Chapter 3: Indiv. Bowed String Instr.

**[DEMO DAY]**

**Week 3:**

Mon. Sept. 12 – Strings Demonstration 2 (Cello/Bass) – Chapter 3 (Continued) – **[DEMO DAY]**

Wed. Sept. 14 – **\*QUIZ: String Harmonics\***, Strings (continued)

**Week 4:**

Mon. Sept. 19 – Chapter 9 – Introduction to Brass Instruments

Wed. Sept. 21 – Chapter 10 – Individual Brass Instruments (Trumpet and Trombone)

**[DEMO DAY]**

**Week 5:**

Mon. Sept. 26 – Chapter 10 – Individual Brass Instruments (Continued – Horn and Tuba)  
[DEMO DAY]

Wed. Sept. 28 – Chapter 6 – The Woodwind Choir, **\*\*Project 1 Due\*\***

**Week 6:**

Mon. Oct. 3 – Go over Project 1

Wed. Oct. 5 – Chapter 7 – Individual Woodwinds (Flute and Oboe) – [DEMO DAY]

**Week 7:**

Mon. Oct. 10 – Chapter 7 (Continued) – Individual Woodwinds (Clarinet and Bassoon)

[DEMO DAY]

Wed. Oct. 12 – Chapter 12 – Percussion Ensemble, **\*\*Project 2 Due\*\***

**Week 8:**

Mon. Oct. 17 – Chapter 12 (Continued) – [DEMO DAY – IN PERCUSSION COMPLEX]

Wed. Oct. 19 – [PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE – NO PARKING, NO CLASS... Alternate activity TBA]

**Week 9:**

Mon. Oct. 24 – **\*QUIZ: Instrument ranges, transpositions, characteristics, etc.\***  
– Go over Project 2

Wed. Oct. 26 – Chapter 13 – Keyboard Instruments; Chapter 4 – Harp, **\*\*Project 3 Due\*\***

**Week 10:**

Mon. Oct. 31 – Chapter 4 Harp (continued) – [DEMO DAY]

Wed. Nov. 2 – **\*QUIZ: Harp Writing\***  
– Go over Project 3

**Week 11:**

Mon. Nov. 7 – Chapter 15 – Scoring for Orchestra

Wed. Nov. 9 – Chapter 17 – Transcribing for Orchestra

**Week 12:**

Mon. Nov. 14 – Chapter 18 – The Preparation of Score and Parts, Assign Final Project

Wed. Nov. 16 – Reading, **\*\*Project 4 Due\*\***

**Week 13:**

Mon. Nov. 21 – Go over Project 4

Wed. Nov. 23 – Reading

**Week 14:**

Mon. Nov. 28 – Reading

Wed. Nov. 30 – **\*\*Turn in draft of Final Project\*\***

**Week 15:**

Mon. Dec. 5 – Go over draft of Final Project

Wed. Dec. 7 – [Reading](#)

**(Final Project Due on Wednesday, December 14 at NOON)**

**There will be NO Final Exam.**

**Academic Misconduct**—Academic integrity is a legitimate concern for every member of the campus community; all share in upholding the fundamental values of honesty, trust, respect, fairness, responsibility and professionalism. By choosing to join the UNLV community, students accept the expectations of the Student Academic Misconduct Policy and are encouraged when faced with choices to always take the ethical path. Students enrolling in UNLV assume the obligation to conduct themselves in a manner compatible with UNLV's function as an educational institution.

An example of academic misconduct is plagiarism. Plagiarism is using the words or ideas of another, from the Internet or any source, without proper citation of the sources. See the *Student Academic Misconduct Policy* (approved December 9, 2005) located at: <https://www.unlv.edu/studentconduct/student-conduct>.

**Copyright**—The University requires all members of the University Community to familiarize themselves with and to follow copyright and fair use requirements. **You are individually and solely responsible for violations of copyright and fair use laws. The university will neither protect nor defend you nor assume any responsibility for employee or student violations of fair use laws.** Violations of copyright laws could subject you to federal and state civil penalties and criminal liability, as well as disciplinary action under University policies. Additional information can be found at: <http://www.unlv.edu/provost/copyright>.

**Disability Resource Center (DRC)**—The UNLV Disability Resource Center (SSC-A 143, <http://drc.unlv.edu/>, 702-895-0866) provides resources for students with disabilities. If you feel that you have a disability, please make an appointment with a Disabilities Specialist at the DRC to discuss what options may be available to you. If you are registered with the UNLV Disability Resource Center, bring your Academic Accommodation Plan from the DRC to the instructor during office hours so that you may work together to develop strategies for implementing the accommodations to meet both your needs and the requirements of the course. Any information you provide is private and will be treated as such. To maintain the confidentiality of your request, please do not approach the instructor in front of others to discuss your accommodation needs.

**Religious Holidays Policy**—Any student missing class quizzes, examinations, or any other class or lab work because of observance of religious holidays shall be given an opportunity during that semester to make up missed work. The make-up will apply to the religious holiday absence only. It shall be the responsibility of the student to notify the instructor **within** the first 14 calendar days of the course for fall and spring courses (excepting modular courses), or **within** the first 7 calendar days of the course for summer and modular courses, of his or her intention to participate in religious holidays which do not fall on state holidays or periods of class recess. For additional information, please visit: <http://catalog.unlv.edu/content.php?catoid=6&navoid=531>.

**Transparency in Learning and Teaching**—The University encourages application of the transparency method of constructing assignments for student success. Please see these two links for further information:

<https://www.unlv.edu/provost/teachingandlearning>

<https://www.unlv.edu/provost/transparency>

**Incomplete Grades**—The grade of I—Incomplete—can be granted when a student has satisfactorily completed three-fourths of course work for that semester/session but for reason(s) beyond the student's control, and acceptable to the instructor, cannot complete the last part of the course, and the instructor believes that the student can finish the course without repeating it. The incomplete work must be made up before the end of the following regular semester for undergraduate courses. Graduate students receiving "I" grades in 500-, 600-, or 700-level courses have up to one calendar year to complete the work, at the discretion of the instructor. If course requirements are not completed within the time indicated, a grade of F will be recorded and the GPA will be adjusted accordingly. Students who are fulfilling an Incomplete do not register for the course but make individual arrangements with the instructor who assigned the I grade.

### Library Resources

Students may consult with a librarian on research needs. For this class, the subject librarian is

[https://www.library.unlv.edu/contact/librarians\\_by\\_subject](https://www.library.unlv.edu/contact/librarians_by_subject). UNLV Libraries provides resources to support students' access to information. Discovery, access, and use of information are vital skills for academic work and for successful post-college life. Access library resources and ask questions at <https://www.library.unlv.edu/>.

**Tutoring and Coaching**—The Academic Success Center (ASC) provides tutoring, academic success coaching and other academic assistance for all UNLV undergraduate students. For information regarding tutoring subjects, tutoring times, and other ASC programs and services, visit <http://www.unlv.edu/asc> or call 702-895-3177. The ASC building is located across from the Student Services Complex (SSC). Academic success coaching is located on the second floor of the SSC (ASC Coaching Spot). Drop-in tutoring is located on the second floor of the Lied Library and College of Engineering TEB second floor.

**UNLV Writing Center**—One-on-one or small group assistance with writing is available free of charge to UNLV students at the Writing Center, located in CDC-3-301. Although walk-in consultations are sometimes available, students with appointments will receive priority assistance. Appointments may be made in person or by calling 702-895-3908. The student's Rebel ID Card, a copy of the assignment (if possible), and two copies of any writing to be reviewed are requested for the consultation. More information can be found at: <http://writingcenter.unlv.edu/>.

**Rebelmail**—By policy, faculty and staff should e-mail students' Rebelmail accounts only. Rebelmail is UNLV's official e-mail system for students. It is one of the primary ways students receive official university communication such as information about deadlines, major campus events, and announcements. All UNLV students receive a Rebelmail account after they have been admitted to the university. Students' e-mail prefixes are listed on class rosters. The suffix is always [@unlv.nevada.edu](mailto:@unlv.nevada.edu). **Emailing within WebCampus is acceptable.**

**Final Examinations**—The University requires that final exams given at the end of a course occur at the time and on the day specified in the final exam schedule. See the schedule at: <http://www.unlv.edu/registrar/calendars>.

**Any other class specific information**—(e.g., absences, make-up exams, status reporting, extra credit policies, plagiarism/cheating consequences, policy on electronic devices, specialized department or college tutoring programs, bringing children to class, policy on recording classroom lectures, etc.)