

**MUS 706,  
Techniques of 20<sup>th</sup> / 21<sup>st</sup> Century Music**

Prof. \_\_\_\_\_ Office hours: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact info: \_\_\_\_\_ Office Location: \_\_\_\_\_  
Class hours: M 4-6:45 PM  
Class location: HFA 224

**Learning Outcomes: The student will:**

- Analyze 20<sup>th</sup> / 21<sup>st</sup> century music
- Compose short exercises based on 20<sup>th</sup> / 21<sup>st</sup> century techniques
- Respond to readings involving composers' perspectives, techniques, and/or aesthetic views
- Aurally differentiate various approaches in 20<sup>th</sup> / 21<sup>st</sup> century music
- Develop career skills by presenting / performing / writing program notes for a "public audience"

**Types of Assignments:**

**Short compositions, presentation, and performance.** These assignments challenge you to learn 20<sup>th</sup> / 21<sup>st</sup> century techniques by using them. These 'pieces' should be at least 20 measures. You will be expected to introduce your work and perform them. Don't worry if your 'piece' sounds incomplete. Think of this as a way to explore your creativity and present / perform in front of your colleagues.

**Program notes.** This is geared to developing practical skills. How can you write about new music so it's understood by a general audience member?

**Short essays.** In these 1-2 page essays, you may respond to any aspect of the assigned reading for the week. Essays may take the form of a critical summary of one reading, a critical comparison of several readings, or any other serious engagement with the ideas presented in the reading. **Due via email by 12 PM on the Sunday before class. Email me and your classmates.**

**Commentaries** (a few sentences to each essay of members in your the study group). These commentaries are your response to the essays written by your classmates. These can take the form of (1) requesting clarification (not understanding your classmate's argument), (2) objection (disagreeing with your classmate's argument and giving reasons why), and/or (3) assistance (agreeing with your classmate's argument and providing additional support).

These should be addressed directly the author and **emailed to your classmates and to me by 10 PM on the Sunday night before class.**

**Final Presentation.** A 20-minute in-class presentation of your final paper or composition in-progress. Think of it as a teaching situation or composition presentation, not a formal event. An outline of your presentation will be due in advance. The time limit will be strictly enforced, so plan accordingly.

**Final Paper.** An 8-10-page essay on a topic of your choice or a 2-5 minute music composition using any of the techniques we've studied in class. Modeled for a specialized, professional audience. Not just a summary, but an essay with a point of view. You should take into account published reviews of the works you are reviewing. You should submit a preliminary draft the day of your presentation. I will return it with comments in a few days.

**Grading:**

- |   |     |
|---|-----|
| 1. Assignments: analysis, papers, short compositions, program notes | 40% |
| 2. Attendance and participation: presentations and discussion       | 20% |
| 3. Final presentation and projects                                  | 40% |

After 3 unexcused absences, each additional absence will lower your grade by one letter grade (i.e. A to B). For example, if you have 5 unexcused absences and you have an A, your grade will go from an A to C for the 2 additional unexcused absences.

**Schedule of Topics:**

|                                   |   |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| 8/29                              | Harmonic and formal ambiguity. Mediant relationships, non-functional harmonies, and symmetry. Debussy, “La flûte de Pan” and “La Chevelure” from <i>Trois chansons de Bilitis</i> . |
| 9/5 – Labor Day / <b>No class</b> |   |
| 9/12                              | Ostinato and stasis. New rhythms. Stravinsky, <i>Rite of Spring</i> .   |
| 9/19                              | 12-tone music and the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Viennese School. Schoenberg, Webern, Berg.  |
| 9/26                              | Neoclassicism   |
| 10/3                              | Messiaen and his modes of limited transposition   |
| 10/10                             | Serialism   |
| 10/17 – debates / <b>No class</b> |   |
| 10/24                             | Chance and aleatory music: Cage   |
| 10/31                             | Texture and timbre: Penderecki, Ligeti  |
| 11/7                              | Extramusical influences: math / science in music. Ligeti (cont.)  |
| 11/14                             | New ways of composing rhythm  |
| 11/21                             | Electronic music. <b>*Final topics due.</b>   |
| 11/28                             | Minimalism and Postminimalism   |
| 12/5                              | TBA   |
| 12/12                             | <b>Final presentations / projects</b>   |

**Nextet:**

Nextet is UNLV's new music ensemble. You're encouraged to attend these concerts as part of the seminar:

Fall 2016

**Monday, September 26**  
**Wednesday, November 2**  
**Thursday, December 8**

Spring 2017

**Wednesday, January 25, 2017**  
**Wednesday, March 15, 2017**  
**Wednesday, April 19, 2017**

All concerts will be at **Doc Rando Recital Hall at 7:30 PM.**

If you are a composer, you (along with your teacher) can submit your music for consideration to be programmed on any of these concerts. If you are a performer, you (along with your teacher) can request performing on these concerts. Please email me and Charles Halka (charles.halka@unlv.edu) at least 6 weeks in advance of the preferred concert date(s).

**Books on reserve at the Music Library**

Suggested books on 20<sup>th</sup> / 21<sup>st</sup> century music theory include:

Stefan Kostka, *Materials and Techniques of 20<sup>th</sup> Century Music*  
Joseph Straus, *Introduction to Post-Tonal Theory*

**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.)