

UNLV
MUS 113 Fundamentals of Music Composition

COURSE SYLLABUS

Text and Class Materials:

Handouts and Scores sent via email/drop box/blackboard
Staff Paper, Notebook, and access to a computer with notation software

Student Learning Outcomes

- 1) The student will display an understanding of compositional and theoretical concepts and skills of composition through analysis, listening, and score study.
- 2) The student will create, organize and develop musical ideas with a clear structural and expressive goal.
- 3) The student will compose music in a coherent and organized manner by learning the tools and techniques necessary to create compositions of a specific style.

Evaluation

Weekly writing Assignments/Projects Class/Participation: 50%
Midterm Composition: 25% Final Composition: 25%

Grades:

Please see Grading Rubric Guidelines for more information.

A 95 - 100	B+ 88- 89	C+ 78 - 79	D+ 68 - 69
A- 90 - 94	B 84-87	C 74- 77	D 64 - 67
F 59 and below	B- 80 - 83	C- 70 - 73	D- 60 - 63

Assignments

Writing Assignments are due at the beginning of class, and to receive full credit, must abide by the rules of that particular writing assignment. Late assignments will *not* be accepted. If there is an assignment due the day you will be missing class, you must give that assignment to me in advance, or it will not be accepted. If you are sick the day of and have to miss class, then you must give your assignment to another peer, or attach the assignment in an email to me by the beginning of class. If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to find out what homework was assigned.

Major Projects

The Midterm and Final projects are due in class on the date specified. Copies of the score and parts must be ready to be distributed on or before the class date:

MIDTERM Composition: Due Tuesday, March 7: Composition must be read during class and it is your responsibility to find performers

FINAL Composition: Due Tuesday, May 2: Composition must be read during class and it is your responsibility to find performers

General Class Rules

1. Attendance is mandatory. No exceptions, unless you have a legitimate excuse. If you email/text me immediately before class that you are sick or it's an emergency, your assignments that day will not be accepted unless you email me with the assignment attached or give it to someone else in class.
2. Electronic devices (cell phone, ipad, laptop, etc.) must be placed on silent mode or turned off during class time, unless otherwise state (i.e., looking at scores).
3. You must provide a hard copy of your notated score PLUS drafts of your assignment to class.

Classroom Conduct

Class discussion and interaction is an important part of my composition classes, and I will always encourage this interaction by providing time in each class for questions, discussion, activities, etc. However, disrupting the flow of class with discussions with your neighbor that are either not relevant to music theory or distracting to what I am teaching, cell phone usage, and any other activity that may distract another student in class is disrespectful and will negatively impact your assignment/Class Participation grade if this behavior becomes a repeated problem. The first time you interrupt class with this type of behavior, I will address it immediately in class or speak with you at the end. If this is repeated behavior, I will contact your advisor.

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. 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. **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.)

Class Schedule

SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Any additional changes will be communicated in class and via email.

Every week, we will discuss melodic, harmonic, and rhythm construction with regard to the specified topic.

Week 1: January 17

Introductions – Share your music/ideas
Discussion of syllabus
In-class Exercise and Analysis
Discussion of Model Composition Weekly exercises

Week 2: January 24

Tuesday: Due: Composition Exercise #1
In-class Exercise and Analysis
“Drop-the-Needle” Listening Quiz #1

Week 3: January 31

Tuesday: Due: Composition Exercise #2
In-class Exercise and Analysis
“Drop-the-Needle” Listening Quiz #2

Week 4: February 7

Tuesday: Due: Composition Exercise #3
In-class Exercise and Analysis
“Drop-the-Needle” Listening Quiz #3

Week 5: February 14

Tuesday: Due: Composition Exercise #4
In-class Exercise and Analysis
“Drop-the-Needle” Listening Quiz #4

Week 6: February 21

Tuesday: Due: Composition Exercise #5
In-class Exercise and Analysis
“Drop-the-Needle” Listening Quiz #5

Week 7: February 28

Individual Meetings on Midterm Compositions (Scheduled Feb. 22, 23, 24)
Spend the week working on your compositions.

Week 8: March 7

Tuesday: MIDTERM READINGS of Composition (Recruit performers!)

Week 9: March 14

Tuesday: Due: Composition Exercise #6
In-class Exercise and Analysis
“Drop-the-Needle” Listening Quiz #6

Week 10: March 21

Tuesday: Due: Composition Exercise #7
In-class Exercise and Analysis
“Drop-the-Needle” Listening Quiz #7

Week 11: March 28

Tuesday: Due: Composition Exercise #8
In-class Exercise and Analysis
“Drop-the-Needle” Listening Quiz #8

Week 12: April 4

Tuesday: Due: Composition Exercise #9
In-class Exercise and Analysis
“Drop-the-Needle” Listening Quiz #9

Week 13: April 11 (Spring Break)

Week 14: April 18

Tuesday: Individual Meetings

Week 15: April 25

Tuesday: Individual Meetings

Week 16: May 2

Tuesday: FINAL COMPOSITION READINGS
You must recruit your own performers.

There is No Final Exam.