

**Course Syllabus**  
**CMP311X, CMPX 331: Applied Composition, Credit: 3 hrs.**  
**Spring 2008**

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Office hours: Tues. 12:30-1:30, Wed. 12-1 and 4-4:30 and by appointment.

**Required Texts and Materials**

Heussenstamm, George. *The Norton Manual of Music Notation*.  
Cope, David. *Techniques of the Contemporary Composer*.  
Manuscript paper and pencils.  
Notation software (Finale, Sibelius, etc.) is not required, but is a highly recommended tool needed as a composer

**Course Description and Objectives**

Applied music composition lessons are designed to help students better hone their skills as composers. In order to satisfy recital requirements, composition majors are expected to produce as much music as possible during a semester. Eight to ten minutes of music composed is considered to be a minimum amount of work for a semester, depending on several factors to be agreed upon with your instructor. 3 hours of composition a day is expected. Do not come to your lessons unprepared. Composition forum will meet once a week, and focus on specific compositional skills, techniques, etc.

**Attendance**

You are allowed one forum absence. If you are unprepared for a lesson, please notify your instructor well in advance so that he may cancel your lesson.

**Forum Participation**

Each student will be required to present at forum at least once a school year. This can be a discussion of your own work, or of another composer's. Audio examples are more than welcome, but you should be prepared to talk extensively about the music and answer questions.

### **Listening**

Listening will be asked of you throughout the semester. This will be required listening, and will effect your grade.

### **Journal**

You will be required to keep a detailed daily journal recording the amount of time you composed each day and what you worked on. The journal should also include information such as where you were having trouble, where you'd like to begin the following day, etc., and be used for taking notes on the required listening.

### **Jury**

At the end of each semester, all students except those students who have given a degree recital must appear before a jury of the Composition Faculty. The jury session will last approximately 30 minutes during which the student will present his or her work and answer any questions the jury may ask concerning it.

You should have 5 (five) copies of legible, bound, two-sided score(s) available. You will need to present your piece either by performing it, bringing an audio or midi CD recording, or flash drive (no other media will be accepted).

Factors the jury and your instructor considers when determining the final grade include: the quality and quantity of the music written during the semester, the difficulty of the medium composed for, the number of performances of original music during the semester, growth and improvement, the quality and quantity of work relative to other students' work at the same level, and participation in the life of the division (attendance at composition forums, composer recitals, etc.).

### **Grading**

Attendance, Preparation, Progress, and Forum Participation: 30%  
Journal 20%  
Final Project(s) 50%

### **Grading Scale**

For the final grade, the following grading scale will be used:

90 - 100%	A
80 - 89%	B
70 - 79%	C
60 - 69%	D

0 - 59%

F

**Student Syllabus Guidelines:** You may find online a more detailed description of the following policies. These guidelines will also provide you with a link to the specific university policy or procedure:

<http://www.shsu.edu/syllabus/>

**Academic Dishonesty:** Students are expected to maintain honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. See Student Syllabus Guidelines.

**Classroom Rules of Conduct:** Students are expected to assist in maintaining a classroom environment that is conducive to learning. Students are to treat faculty and students with respect. Students are to turn off all cell phones while in the classroom. Under no circumstances are cell phones or any electronic devices to be used or seen during times of examination. Students may tape record lectures provided they do not disturb other students in the process.

**Student Absences on Religious Holy Days:** Students are allowed to miss class and other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. Students remain responsible for all work. See Student Syllabus Guidelines.

**Students with Disabilities Policy:** It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that individuals otherwise qualified shall not be excluded, solely by reason of their disability, from participation in any academic program of the university. Further, they shall not be denied the benefits of these programs nor shall they be subjected to discrimination. Students with disabilities that might affect their academic performance should visit with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities located in the Counseling Center. See Student Syllabus Guidelines.

**Visitors in the Classroom:** Only registered students may attend class. Exceptions can be made on a case-by-case basis by the professor. In all cases, visitors must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. Students wishing to audit a class must apply to do so through the Registrar's Office.