

HUMA2103
INTRODUCTION TO MUSIC COMPOSITION
Spring 2019

INSTRUCTOR

Prof. Matthew Tommasini
DMA, MA Music Composition (University of Michigan)
BA Music Composition (UCLA)

CONTACT AND OFFICE LOCATION

mtommasini@ust.hk
Room 2360 (in Office in Rm2359, near lift 3)

OFFICE HOURS

Monday 10:30 – 11:50
Wednesday 10:30 – 11:50

MUSIC INSTRUCTIONAL ASSISTANT

Galison Lau (galisonlau@ust.hk) CYT G/F Classroom 005

LECTURE AND TUTORIAL MEETING TIMES/LOCATIONS

L1	Monday	13:00 – 14:50	CYT G005
T1	Wednesday	16:30 – 17:20	CYT G005
T2	Thursday	14:00 – 14:50	CYT G005
T3	Wednesday	17:30 – 18:20	CYT G005

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Through a progressive series of composition projects, students learn the organizational skill of musical composition and performances, focusing on the basics of unity and variety; promoting students' understanding of humanistic experiences, creativities and emotions. Weekly listening, reading, and composition assignments draw on a broad range of musical styles and intellectual traditions, from various cultures and historical periods. Advice on the background of Students: Students are required to have the ability to sing or to play one or more musical instruments (e.g. Grade 3 in Royal Schools Music Exam or equivalent).

The ability to read music and the knowledge to music notation are preferable, but not required.

INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. developed your overall creative thinking;
2. gained the ability to express yourself through writing music;
3. a deeper appreciation and understanding of music, regardless of style;
4. stronger musicianship skills; and a wider and practical understanding of music theory

INTIMACY OF CREATIVITY 2019

HKUST's annual, internationally-acclaimed composers and performers festival, the Intimacy of Creativity: The Bright Sheng Partnership: Composers Meet Performers in Hong Kong (www.ic.shss.ust.hk), will take place **from 22 April to 5 May, 2019** and serve as centerpiece of the course.

Examples from featured compositions from the 2019 season will be provide the foundation of this course. During the festival, students are asked to attend events in lieu of regular lecture and tutorial meetings and engage in dialogue with Prof. Bright Sheng and featured composers and performers. The complete schedule and registration for events will be provided later in the term.

Students are asked to write a paper about their experience attending events demonstrating use of course concepts to discuss works, composers, and/or performers presented. Further guidelines, thesis-writing and other writing skills will be discussed in class. A grading rubric for the assignment can be found below.

Reports are to be handed in by 5pm on 10 May, 2019 to CYT G005. Hard copies with name and student ID clearly marked will only be accepted.

Concert Report Writing Assignment Grading Rubric

Score	Criteria
15.0	Well-articulated thesis statement demonstrating insight into the works featured; supporting paragraphs successfully and correctly apply course concepts/vocabulary to support the thesis statement
13.5 – 14.99	Focused thesis statement; supporting paragraphs mostly successfully and correctly apply course concepts/vocabulary to support the thesis statement
12.0 – 13.49	Thesis statement is somewhat focused; supporting paragraphs somewhat apply course concepts/vocabulary to support the thesis statement
10.5 – 11.99	Thesis statement is vague or too broad; supporting paragraphs don't always apply course concepts/vocabulary to support the thesis statement or don't support the thesis at all
9.0 – 10.49	Unfocused overall with no distinguishable thesis statement and concepts/terms consistently used incorrectly

MID-TERM PROJECT

Students will be asked to compose and present an in-class performance of a new composition for 1-2 performers with a duration of 1-2 minutes. The project should demonstrate creative application of course concepts and professional-level presentation of their new composition. Compositions **MUST HAVE BEEN COMPOSED DURING THE TIME OF TAKING THE COURSE.**

Students will be expected to treat this project assignment **AS IF HAVING BEEN COMMISSIONED BY A PROFESSIONAL ENSEMBLE**, with clearly-prepared performance materials, and necessary rehearsal time following the schedule outlined below. Further logistics will be discussed in class.

FINAL PROJECT

Students are asked to compose and present at the Spring 2019 HUMA Music Course Showcase a new composition for at least 2 performers with a duration of at least 3 minutes. The work should demonstrate creative application of course concepts on a larger scale and professional-level presentation of their new composition.

This work may be build on their mid-term project or be a new composition. Compositions **MUST HAVE BEEN COMPOSED DURING THE TIME OF TAKING THE COURSE.**

Students will be expected to treat this project assignment **AS IF HAVING BEEN COMMISSIONED BY A PROFESSIONAL ENSEMBLE**, with clearly-prepared performance materials, and necessary rehearsal time following the schedule outlined below. Assistance will be provided in securing available performers for larger works. Further logistics will be discussed in class.

There will be no formal final exam.

QUIZZES

Two quizzes will be held in lecture session as outlined below covering basic course concepts to demonstrate comprehension of those topics covered in discussion.

ASSIGNMENTS

Students will be given regular assignments to assess understanding of core concepts to be applied in mid-term and final projects.

Exercises will include preparing a program note for your Final Project.

ATTENDANCE

Lecture and tutorial attendance will be taken **ten (10) times** each at lecture and tutorial sessions randomly throughout the semester after the add/drop period (each time at a different point during a given class meeting) and at all IC2019 events. For each additional absence, students will have 1% deducted from their attendance grade (10% maximum deduction).

Exemptions to the attendance policy will be handled as follows:

1. Excused absences: students must submit the appropriate form (found on CANVAS) with a copy of documented proof directly to IA Galison Lau
2. Sick leave: students should hand the appropriate form (found on CANVAS) with a copy of any medical documentation (i.e. doctor's note) directly to IA Galison Lau

GRADING

Final Project	35%
Mid-Term Project	20%
Quizzes	10%
Exercise Portfolio	15%
IC2019 Report	10%
Attendance/participation	10%

Final letter grades are determined by absolute grading scale.

A+	97 – 100%
A	93 – 96.99%
A-	90 – 92.99%
B+	87 – 89.99%
B	83 – 86.99%
B-	80 – 82.99%
C+	77 – 79.99%
C	73 – 76.99%
C-	70 – 72.99%
D	60 – 69.99%
F	0 – 59.99%

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week	Session	Date	Topic	Exercise Deadlines (in-class unless otherwise noted)
Week 1	L1	4-Feb-19	Introduction; Basic Music Concepts	
Week 2	L1	11-Feb-19	Melody, Scales	Basic music concepts assignment
Week 3	L1	18-Feb-19	Rhythm	Melody composition assignment
Week 4	L1	25-Feb-19	Counterpoint I	Rhythm assignment; Quiz 1
Week 5	L1	4-Mar-19	Instrumentation I, Notation, Preparing score and parts I	Counterpoint assignment

Week 6	L1	11-Mar-19	Form	Score preparation assignment
Week 7	L1	18-Mar-19	Functional Harmony	Submit Mid-Term Project draft score and parts
Week 8	L1	25-Mar-19	PRESENTATION OF MID-TERM PROJECT (during regularly scheduled lecture time)	
Week 9	L1	1-Apr-19	Timbre, Articulation, and Dynamics	
Week 10	L1	8-Apr-19	Advanced Harmony	Quiz 2
Week 11	L1	15-Apr-19	Instrumentation II, Notation, Preparing score and parts II	Submit Final Project draft 1 score
Week 11	IC2019	22 - 26 April, 2019	IC2019 Open Discussions; Lunchtime Lecture (CYT LTL)	REGULAR CLASS SESSIONS DO NOT MEET: Select Open Discussion or Lunchtime Lecture Sessions
	IC2019	27-Apr-19	IC2019 Preview Concert 1 (CYT LTL)	Select 1 concert to attend
Week 12	IC2019	28-Apr-19	IC2019 World Premiere Concert 1 (HKAPA)	Select 1 concert to attend
	IC2019	29 April - 3 May, 2019	IC2019 Open Discussions; Lunchtime Lecture (CYT LTL)	REGULAR CLASS SESSIONS DO NOT MEET: Select Open Discussion or Lunchtime Lecture Sessions
	IC2019	4-May-19	IC2019 Preview Concert 2 (CYT LTL)	Select 1 concert to attend
Week 13	IC2019	5-May-19	IC2019 World Premiere Concert 2 (HKAPA)	Select 1 concert to attend
	L1	6-May-19	Counterpoint II	Submit Final Project draft 2 score and parts
		9-May-19	PRESENTATION OF FINAL PROJECT (Spring 2019 HUMA Music Course Showcase in CYT LTL; event begins at 6:30pm; hold all afternoon for dress rehearsals)	
		10-May-19		Submit IC2019 report