

COMPOSITION SEMINAR I MUC 2221 Section U01
(revised 3-11 to accommodate attendance at 3-30 NWSO dress rehearsal)
Dr. Orlando Jacinto Garcia, FIU School of Music
Spring 2018, MBUS 439 Thursdays 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM

Course Description:

This course is designed to introduce students to a variety of 20th and 21st-century compositional techniques. The class is open to all music students after the successful completion of Theory and Ear Training/Sight singing II/ permission of the instructor.

Objectives:

Students will develop their composition skills by composing and performing their works (as applicable) based on the techniques and works being studied in class.

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of the semester students will have completed 3 works that demonstrate their knowledge of the aesthetics and techniques being studied and be able to identify at least 80% of the works on the listening list for the course.

Required Texts: None

Suggested Texts:

David Cope, *Techniques of the Contemporary Composer*; Additional books and articles will be provided as necessary. In addition, there may be internet sites and YouTube and Vimeo links provided for additional information.

Prerequisites: Theory and Sight Singing II and/or permission of the instructor – should be taken concurrently with Theory and Sight Singing III

Materials to be covered:

Unit I Impressionism

Unit II Atonality, Serial Techniques and Pointillism

Unit III Extended Techniques Expanded Resources

Course Format:

Private sessions 1:00 per week with additional private meetings optional. Tutoring available M and W 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM with GA Melissa Iverson in WPAC 146C

Grading:

1. three large-scale compositions 30%
2. assignments (1 per lecture in 2 parts) 20%
3. three listening exams (pass fail) 30%
4. class lesson participation and preparation 20%

NOTE: Listening Exams are pass/fail tests and will consist of musical examples which will be available on line/in the library which the student must identify. Students *must* pass all three exams with a B or higher on each exam to pass the course. Listening exams can be retaken generally once if the student does not achieve the minimum grade required. In addition, late assignments/compositions will not be accepted and result in a 0 or F grade for the assignment/composition.

FIU Grading Scale

Grade	Points Per Credit Hour
A	4.00
A-	3.67
B+	3.33
B	3.00
B-	2.67
C+	2.33
C	2.00
D	1.00
F	0.00

Compositions in each unit need to be performed in class. Additionally, notation and calligraphy will be stressed and count up to 20% of each project/assignment. As a result, scores should be completed in either Finale or Sibelius notation software. Failure to do so will result in lower assignment/project grades. An accompanying analysis is generally required with each assignment/project and will count 25% of the grade. Definitions and terminology will also make up part of some of the assignments.

In addition to the class meetings, attendance at the following Wednesday Composition Forums and the concerts that follow is required: 1/17, 2/7, 2/28, 3/7, 4/11. The Forums meet on selected Wednesdays at 6:30 PM in the main gallery of the FIU Miami Beach Urban Studios and in the case of the 1/17 and 4/11 forums in the concert hall in the Betsy Hotel on Miami Beach. The concerts follow the forums at 7:30 PM. Other related events occur at different dates and times and locations throughout the semester. Attendance at the 5 dates listed above is required of all students in the Composition I Class. Please see the attached schedule for forum meetings/events

throughout the semester and note that you are invited to all of the events beyond the 5 required dates shown above.

As announced in late February, all composition students have been invited to the New World Symphony Orchestra's dress rehearsal on Friday, March 30 taking place between 9:30 AM and 12:00 noon. As a result, all composition classes are cancelled that week and instead the attendance requirement is to be present for the dress rehearsal.

On time attendance in the class and at the forums/concerts is mandatory. Failure to attend class/forum/concert sessions without an acceptable excuse may result in the lowering of the final grade by one full letter grade per session missed at the discretion of the instructor. Only verifiable documented excused absences (e.g. medical, etc.) will be considered.

The FIU Student Handbook: This official university document contains policies, procedures, and other items of importance to FIU students. It is available on line at <http://www.fiu.edu/student.htm> Music students should also consult the School of Music Handbook available at the School of Music home page <http://carta.fiu.edu/music/>

The Naxos Music Library: As an FIU student, you have access to the Naxos Music Library, a digital online music collection, with 100,000+ classical, jazz, and world music tracks. To access either on-campus, or from home If you are connecting directly to the FIU computer network, no login is required: <http://FIU.NaxosMusicLibrary.com>

IMPORTANT: If you are accessing the system from home by any of the commercial providers, Naxos has to validate you as an FIU user. Go to the library home page at: library.fiu.edu and click on "Connect from Home" and follow the instructions.

Ethical Conduct & Plagiarism: Student must follow the Standards of Conduct described in the student handbook (http://www.fiu.edu/~sccr/standards_of_conduct.htm). In addition, students are expected to use all resources, including books, journals, and computers only in legal and authorized ways. Participants are expected to perform individual assignments without consulting each other. Participants in this course are also reminded that materials may not be pasted or paraphrased from printed, electronic or any other sources without appropriate citations and credits. Failure to do so constitutes plagiarism and will result in penalties as set forth by University policies.

Cell Phone Policy: Please note that as a courtesy to the student(s) in the class and the instructor, cell phones are to be kept turned off and put away during class. Failure to comply with this policy will result in a warning followed by a half a letter grade reduction in the final course grade for each subsequent offense.

Please note that per the Academic Calendar the last day to drop classes with a DR or a WI grade is March 19.

My office hours are Wednesday 3:00 PM – 4:30 PM and Thursday 2:00 PM – 2:30 PM or by appointment.

Office: Miami Beach Urban Studios 439; phone: 305 535-2617;

email: garciao@fiu.edu

web: <http://www.orlandojacintogarcia.com>

Please feel free to see me if you have any questions.

COMPOSITION I COURSE SCHEDULE SPRING 2018

1/11 Introduction to course - Melodic writing and developmental tools review; Unit I Impressionism: Terminology, techniques, aesthetics - Listening List Review; Part I: Scalar Resources – Debussy *Sunken Cathedral*;

1/18 Unit I Impressionism Part II: Vertical Models – Debussy *Jeux*;

1/25 Unit I Impressionism Part III: Linear Approaches – Debussy *Sarabande*;

2/1 Unit I Impressionism Part IV: Meter vs Rhythm and Related Devices – Debussy *Afternoon of a Faun* - Listening Test I;

2/8 Project I due – in class performance;

2/22 Unit II Atonality and Serialism: Terminology, techniques, aesthetics – Listening List Review; Part I: Atonality - Schoenberg *Pierrot Lunaire*;

3/1 Unit II Atonality and Serialism Part II: Serialism 12 tone technique – Webern *Wie bin ich froh*;

3/8 Unit II Atonality and Serialism Part III: Rhythmic and pitch complexity and Total Serialism - Webern *Concerto for 9 Instruments*, Babbitt *Semi Simple Variations*, Boulez *Le Marteau* - Listening Test II;

3/15 No Class Spring Break

3/22 Project II due – in class performance on Friday 3/23 in GL 535 at 1:00 PM; Unit III Extended Techniques and Expanded Resources: Terminology, techniques, aesthetics – Listening List Review; Part I: Timbre Resources and Extended Techniques for piano/percussion – Cage *Sonatas and Interludes*; Crumb *Apparitions*; Stockhausen *Zyklus*;

3/29 Regular class cancelled instead Dress Rehearsal Friday, March 30 with the New World Symphony Orchestra at the New World Center with composer conductor John Adams; arrive between 9:30 AM and 9:45 AM rehearsal is 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM – attendance mandatory;

4/5 Unit III Extended Techniques Expanded Resources Part II: Extended Techniques for Strings – Penderecki Threnody; Crumb Black Angels;

4/12 Unit III Extended Techniques Expanded Resources Part III Extended techniques for winds – Berio Sequenza V for trombone, Garcia Conversations; Varese density 21.5; Listening Test III;

4/19 Unit III Extended Techniques Expanded Resources Part IV: Extended techniques for voice – Berio Sequenza III for voice, Oliveros Sound Patterns; student evaluations due;

4/26 Project III due – no class meeting just be present for the final in class performance
4/27 in GL 535 - Listening tests makeups as needed on 4/27 (last opportunity);