

**Dr. Orlando Jacinto García**  
**Fall 2019**

**MUC 3231**  
**Music Composition Seminar III**  
**Section I**  
**MBUS 439**  
**Thursdays 1:00 – 2:00 PM**

**Description/Objectives/Learning Outcomes:**

This course is designed to provide the students with continued opportunities to further develop and refine their compositional craft and aesthetic concerns. *Upper level composition (III-VI) is a continuation of the composition sequence and can only be taken by students who have been accepted into the composition program.* It is expected that students will gain additional compositional tools and techniques as they create new works with the guidance of the instructor in each of these upper level courses. Each semester students will continue to develop and augment their upper level portfolio of compositions as they work towards their senior recital. It is expected that the student's works will demonstrate additional skills as they move through the sequence of courses.

**Recommended Texts:**

Cope, David. *Techniques of the Contemporary Composer*. New York: Schirmer Books.  
Additional texts and/or anthologies may be suggested during each semester; In addition, there may be internet sites and YouTube and Vimeo links provided for additional information. All students are expected to use appropriate notation software (Sibelius, Finale) for their work in the course.

**Materials to be covered will include:**

- (1) the continued analysis of the techniques utilized in 21st century Art music (which may include everything from the language of Gregorian Chant to 19th century Romantic works);
- (2) the implications of different aesthetic viewpoints in composition and the syntax of music;
- (3) additional topics which will arise as each student works on developing their musical craft and personal compositional approach;

**Projects and Assignments:**

The format of the class is private lessons with a one 1 hour meeting per week. Students are expected to complete 10 minutes of acceptable music during the semester as approved by the instructor as they work towards their Senior Music Composition recital. The 10-minutes can be in the form of one composition or multiple shorter compositions to be discussed and decided with the instructor and should be completed before final exam week. The acceptability/approval of the work will be made by the instructor based on the appropriate use of compositional techniques, aesthetic considerations, innovation and craftsmanship, and calligraphy and notation as exhibited by the work being created by the student.

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From time to time additional short writing/analysis exercises may also be required. Compositions will count 100% of the grade however unexcused absences and/or lateness from private lessons may result in a lowering of the final grade at the discretion of the instructor.

Please note that students at this level are expected to do A work. Less than A work may result in probation and possible expulsion from the program at the discretion of the composition faculty. Two consecutive semesters of less than B work will result in an automatic expulsion from the composition area.

**Composition Juries:**

All composition students must present their works to the composition faculty at a composition jury to be held at the end of the semester during finals week. The faculty will critique the student's works from the semester making recommendations suggestions, etc., at that time and may make adjustments to the final composition grade if needed. The juries for this semester are scheduled for Friday, April 26 between 1:00 and 3:00 in GL 535.

**Grading for the course is as follows:**

Completion of satisfactory work as listed above under the projects and assignments section will result in a grade of A. Completion of less than the required work and/or unsatisfactory compositions, as determined by the instructor, will result in a lower grade based on the amount of work completed. Less than 5 minutes of acceptable music will result in a grade lower than a B (course will not count towards the comp major). On time attendance at all lessons is required. In addition, students should demonstrate that they are spending an appropriate amount of time on the materials, etc., discussed at each lesson so as to insure the completion of the required composition(s). Failure to do either may result in the lowering of the final grade at the discretion of the instructor.

**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

The point/percentage breakdown is as follows:

93-100	A	73-76	C
90-92	A-	70-72	C-
87-89	B+	67-69	D+
83-86	B	63-66	D
80-82	B-	60-62	D-
77-79	C+	59-below	F

The FIU Student Handbooks

This official university document contains policies, procedures, and other items of importance to FIU students available on line at <https://studentaffairs.fiu.edu/about/student-handbook/index.php>

Music students should also consult the School of Music Handbook available here <http://carta.fiu.edu/music/students/current/resources/forms-handbooks/>

Please note that per the Academic Calendar the last day to drop classes with a DR grade is March 18.

**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](http://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](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.

## **FIU STUDENTS AND FACULTY "STAYING SAFE AND HEALTHY"**

In collaboration with the Health, Safety, and Welfare Committee of the FIU Faculty Senate and the Healthy Panthers Council, the Provost encourages each faculty and student to take a proactive role in their safety, personal health, and well-being.

Through viewing the "Staying Safe and Healthy" video series, you will learn:

- How to respond to an active shooter situation
- Care of an unconscious person
- Care of the bleeding person
- Panther's Care Initiative
- How to enhance your personal health and well being

These 3-5 minute videos and related resources can be found for:

- On Campus Students in the Student Starter Kit in Canvas
- 2.0 Fully Online Students in Panther Den in Canvas
- Faculty in the Faculty Starter Kit in Canvas

This video series and related resources can make a difference in promoting the safety and protecting the health of all members of the FIU community. These resources are available any time you have a few minutes to watch them and you can refresh your memory about their content at any point in time. STAYING SAFE AND HEALTHY requires the commitment of each of us as Panthers.

My office is at our FIU Miami Beach Urban Studios 439 same as the course. My office hours are Wednesday 1:00 PM – 2:00 PM and Thursday 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM at MBUS other times by appointment; I will also have some times on Friday afternoons at the MMC in GL 535 by appointment only.

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Please see me if you should have the slightest questions.