



MUSC 3560

Division: Fine Arts

Department: Music

Course: MUSC 3560

Title: Songwriting I

Catalog Description:

This course focuses on the practical application and technique of the working songwriter. Melody, lyrics, hooks, points of view and song logic will be covered. Solo writing is introduced, as well as the concept of collaboration. Participants will work individually and in small groups.

General Education Requirements: N/A

Semesters Offered: Fall

Credit/Time Requirement: Credit: 3; Lecture: 3; Lab: 0

Clock/Hour Requirements: 0

Offered for Non-Credit: No

Prerequisites: MUSC 3120

Justification:

This course provides students with the opportunity to apply their theoretical understanding of music to the processes involved in the creation of original songs.

Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Students will demonstrate an understanding of common song forms
2. Students will demonstrate competence in writing lyrics appropriate to several different styles of popular song.
3. Students will demonstrate competence in writing effective melodies for popular song.
4. Students will demonstrate an ability to both harmonize melodies, and construct melodies from existing chord progressions.
5. Students will produce works individually and in collaborative partnerships.

Content:

This course functions as an introduction to content that is further developed in Songwriting II. Content includes common popular song form, melody, harmony, rhythm, and lyric writing. In addition to the text, students will transcribe and analyze assigned songs in their study of course content.

General Education Outcomes:**Key Performance Indicators:**

Student's mastery of course material will be assessed through:

- (1) the submission and evaluation of assigned songs and compositions;
- (2) the submission of transcriptions and analysis of assigned popular songs; and
- (3) the submission of a final portfolio.

Representative Text and/or Supplies:

Webb, Jimmy. (1998). *Tunesmith: Inside the art of songwriting*. New York: Hyperion.

Optimum Class Size: 20

Maximum Class Size: 0

Signatures:

I hereby submit this course syllabus:

Vance Larsen, MM, Associate Professor

I hereby find this course consistent with the goals and resources of the Music Department:

Steve Meredith, DMA, Associate Professor, Chair

I hereby find this course consistent with the goals and resources of the Fine Arts Division:

Vance Larsen, MM, Associate Professor, Dean

I have discussed the need for library resources related to this class with the person submitting the syllabus:

Lynn Anderson, MLIS, Technical Services Librarian (Main Campus)

Michelle Olsen, MLS, Campus Librarian (Richfield Campus)