



## MUSC 4130

**Division:** Fine Arts

**Department:** Music

**Course:** MUSC 4130

**Title:** Commercial Arranging

**Catalog Description:**

This course focuses on the practical application of composition skills learned in Music Theory I-IV. Emphasis will be placed on the creation of musical arrangements for a wide variety of instrumental and vocal ensembles. Topics of study will include the ranges and colors of instruments and voices and their idiomatic styles. Additional topics will include an emphasis on commercial arranging, alteration, and other forms of musical adaptation and their relation to copyright laws and licensing.

**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:** Music Theory IV (MUSC 3120)

**Justification:**

Arranging courses are typically required of music composition majors throughout the state of Utah and are a standard part of music major degrees at most colleges and universities accredited by the National Association of Schools of Music. Courses in commercial arranging are also typically found in commercial music programs throughout the United States.

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

Students will be able to write idiomatic and appropriate arrangements for a variety of instrumental and vocal combinations, especially those commonly encountered in commercial music. Students will demonstrate an understanding of contemporary instrumental and vocal styles as well as all musical terms associated with these styles. Using a variety of compositional techniques, students will compose short works that are easily understood and playable by other musicians.

**Content:**

Course topics will include instrumental and vocal ranges, idiomatic instrumental styles, melodic interpretation and variation, harmonic and rhythmic backgrounds, music color and texture, copyright law, and commercial music styles and historical practices.

## **General Education Outcomes:**

9) Respond with informed sensitivity to an artistic work or experience.

Learning the art of composition and music arranging is the primary goal of this course. In order to accomplish this goal, students will be expected to listen to and understand specific influential compositions and musical styles. These compositions will serve as a reference for composing short musical works as assigned in class.

## **Key Performance Indicators:**

Students in this course will be evaluated using the following methods:

- Presentations: Students will compose short arrangements for a variety of instrumental and vocal combinations that are technically correct, playable by other students in the course, and written in a proper range for each instrument/voice in the ensemble.
- Exams: Through written exams students will define specific musical terms associated with commercial arranging styles, music theory, traditional arranging practices, and copyright law.

## **Representative Text and/or Supplies:**

Modern Arranging Technique by Gordon Delamont. Kendor Music, Inc. Current Edition.

**Optimum Class Size:** 12

**Maximum Class Size:** 18

**Signatures:**

I hereby submit this course syllabus:

---

Brent Smith, D.A., 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)