



MUSC 4140

Division: Fine Arts

Department: Music

Course: MUSC 4140

Title: Contemporary Orchestration

Catalog Description:

This course focuses on the study of instruments in a large, performing ensemble such as full orchestra or band, and how the combination of these instruments are commonly used in contemporary music. An extensive focus will be placed on techniques of composition, music notation, and scoring for large ensembles. Students will be expected to compose short works in various styles that will be performed in class. This course is required for students pursuing the Bachelor of Music degree in Commercial Music - Songwriting/Composition track.

General Education Requirements: N/A

Semesters Offered: Spring

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:

Orchestration 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 contemporary orchestration are also typically found in commercial music programs throughout the US.

Student Learning Outcomes:

Students will be able to write clear and correct orchestrations for a variety of instruments and instrument combinations, especially those commonly encountered in contemporary music. Using a variety of compositional techniques, students will compose short works that are easily understood and playable for other musicians. Students will demonstrate an understanding of instrument transposition as well as musical terms associated with each family of instruments including strings, woodwinds, brass, keyboards, and percussion.

Content:

Course topics will include instrument transposition and ranges, bowed string instruments, plucked string instruments, woodwinds, brass, percussion of definite pitch, percussion of indefinite pitch, and keyboard instruments. A focus will also be placed on scoring for both full and string orchestras as well as co

ncert band.

General Education Outcomes:

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

Learning the art of composition 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 orchestrations for orchestra and band that are technically correct, playable by other students in the course, and written in a proper range for each instrument in the ensemble.
- Exams: Through written exams students will define specific musical terms, transpositions and techniques associated with string, woodwind, brass, keyboard, and percussion instruments.

Representative Text and/or Supplies:

The Study of Orchestration by Samuel Adler. 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)