



MUSC 4400

Division: Fine Arts

Department: Music

Course: MUSC 4400

Title: Survey of Contemporary Musical Styles

Catalog Description:

This course supplements study in the private lesson and in MUSC 4147 (Commercial Music Ensemble) in the study of contemporary musical styles. Students will learn performance techniques used by contemporary musicians, in a variety of stylistic genres. Students will also study the role of technology in achieving certain contemporary musical styles. This course is required for students pursuing the Bachelor of Music degree in Commercial Music - Performance and Songwriting/Composition tracks.

General Education Requirements: N/A

Semesters Offered: TBA

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

Clock/Hour Requirements: 0

Offered for Non-Credit: No

Prerequisites: MUSC 3XXX Private Instruction (3rd year) or permission of instructor

Corequisites: MUSC 4147 Contemporary Music Ensemble

Justification:

Students completing a performance or composition degree in commercial music need to understand the properties of sound and stylistic techniques that comprise commercial music. In addition, students need to understand the role played by technology, including emerging technologies in music (such as the tablet computer) in the production and presentation of commercial music. Courses of the type are taught as a part of similar degree programs at colleges throughout the US.

Student Learning Outcomes:

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- aurally recognize and define in writing a wide variety of genres in commercial/popular music;
- perform on their instrument in a wide variety of styles, patterned after examples from class;
- understand and apply the notation and other symbols used in commercial music;
- understand and apply the technology used in commercial music;
- create a piece of commercial music for performance by the Commercial Music Ensemble.

Content:

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- A brief history of American Commercial Music;
- An overview of current styles/genres and likely applications;
- Performance practices related to specific genres;
- Composition and arranging practices associated with specific genres;
- Notation and other symbols associated with specific genres;
- The role of technology in achieving sounds commonly found in various genres;
- Writing for the commercial music ensemble.

General Education Outcomes:

Applied Education Outcomes:

1) Students will acquire entry-level skills specific to and appropriate for employment in their chosen field of study.

The ability to write and perform in the widest possible array of styles is critical for any musician seeking employment. This course provides students with the basic understanding of genres and techniques necessary to make authentic musical sounds in a variety of styles. Students will receive feedback from the instructor during each class session.

Key Performance Indicators:

Students will be assessed using the following means:

- Exams: written examinations on terminology and symbols;
- Exams: aural examinations on elements of commercial music style and technique;
- Written assignments: composition assignments for Commercial Music Ensemble
- Performance: presentation of written compositions.

Representative Text and/or Supplies:

Musical study samples for this course will be provided by the instructor from the music library.

Optimum Class Size: 20

Maximum Class Size: 35

Signatures:

I hereby submit this course syllabus:

Steve Meredith, DMA, 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)