

Vocal and Instrumental Scoring Music 338

Time: MWF 10:00-10:50

Room: BSS 162

Instructor: Dan Aldag

Office: MUS 213

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Office Hours: Thursday, January 19, from 11 a.m. to noon and Friday, January 20 from 8:45 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. My office hours for the rest of the semester will be posted on Moodle at the beginning of the second week of classes.

Pre-requisite: You must have passed MUS 215 (Theory II) to enroll in MUS 338.

Required Materials:

The Study of Orchestration, 4th edition, by Samuel Adler. (W.W. Norton, 2016) and the accompanying workbook

Purchase of the textbook will give you access to an extensive library of audio and video recordings on the W.W. Norton website. (<https://digital.wwnorton.com/orchestration4>)

manuscript paper
pencil

Course Description:

"Techniques of arranging music for vocal and instrumental performing groups (large and small). Score layout and legibility, part copying, transpositions, and ranges of instruments and voices"

The format of this course is a combination of lecture, discussion, and in-class listening and scoring exercises.

The first two thirds of the semester will focus on the individual families: strings, winds, brass, percussion, and keyboards. We will study the ranges, registral characteristics, transpositions, playing techniques, and typical roles of the most common instruments in each family. We will listen to recordings of each instrument alone and in ensembles, and will occasionally have in-class demonstrations. We will also study the characteristics and typical roles of each family as a whole, to include discussions of articulation, balance, doubling, etc. Exercises will include scoring for both individual families and their combinations. The last third of the course will focus on larger ensembles. We will study works for symphonic orchestra, concert band, choir with orchestra, etc.

Attendance Policy: Regular class attendance and participation is essential if you wish to get the most out of this class. You are allowed three excused absences. An absence is excused if it is for illness, family emergency, or university-related travel and the instructor is notified before class. Each additional absence will lower your final grade one level (A to A-, A- to B+, etc.) Any unexcused absence will lower your final grade by one letter. Extraordinary situations that cause an extended absence will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis. If such a situation should arise for you, please communicate with the instructor right away.

Course Requirements and Grading:

Homework

Over the course of the semester you will read the entire textbook. I urge you to read at least 10 pages every day, rather than cram in hundreds of pages before the exam. You will retain much more information this way. Also, please study and listen to each music example as you read. We will review some of these examples in class. This is not a read-and-shelf-forever kind of book; you may never read it from cover to cover again, but you are likely to use it as a reference every time you compose or arrange for a large ensemble. Take lots of notes in the book to aide your future self!

Most of your written homework is from the workbook. See Calender below for the specific assignments. I encourage you to use notation software (except on the clef and transposition assignments); otherwise, please use a ruler, and ink. I will not accept illegible assignments. Also, please review the university's academic integrity policy. Cheating will be especially obvious in this class, since many assignments will have multiple correct solutions.

I will accept two assignments up to one class period late. After that I will not accept any late homework.

Quizzes

I will give occasional quizzes based on the reading. These will be worth roughly the same as one homework assignment.

Exams

The midterm is on Tuesday, March 2. It will focus on string and wind ranges, techniques, transpositions, etc.

The final exam is on Thursday, May 4. It is essentially cumulative, but will focus on brass, percussion, and voices, as well as broader aspects of scoring.

Projects

You will have two final scoring projects. You will transcribe two piano pieces (TBA); one for an HSU ensemble (TBA), and the other for the instruments available in class (excluding your own instrument). Both projects will be performed on their respective due dates.

Due dates:

Project 1 (HSU Ensemble) –TBA

Project 2 (Class Ensemble) – Tuesday, May 9 from 12:40 to 2:30

I will grade both projects as follows:

Accuracy and quality of transcription: 50%

Score layout and legibility: 30%

Parts: 20%

Concert Reports

You are required to attend and write concert reports on three of the following concerts:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Concert</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>
Tue., Jan. 17	Curtis Chamber Orchestra	8 p.m.	JVD
Sat., Feb. 18	Maria Schneider Orchestra	8 p.m.	JVD
Thu., Feb. 23	Venice Baroque Orchestra	8 p.m.	JVD
Sat., Feb. 25	HSU Symphonic Band and Jazz Orchestra	8 p.m.	FRH
Fri., Mar. 3 <i>or</i>	Eureka Symphony Orchestra	8 p.m.	Arkley
Sat., Mar. 4	Eureka Symphony Orchestra	8 p.m.	Arkley
Mon., Mar. 20	National Symphony Orchestra of Ukraine	7 p.m.	JVD
Fri., Apr. 7 <i>or</i>	Eureka Symphony Orchestra	8 p.m.	Arkley
Sat., Apr. 8	Eureka Symphony Orchestra	8 p.m.	Arkley
Fri., Apr. 21	HSU Symphonic Band	8 p.m.	FRH
Sun., May 7	Humboldt Symphony	3 p.m.	FRH

Concert reports should be approximately one page in length and focus specifically on the scoring of the music. Concert reports are due at the first class meeting after the concert. Additional concert reports can be written for extra credit.

Final Grade Calculation

Homework and Quizzes: 45%

Midterm Exam: 10%

Final Exam: 10%

Projects: 15% each

Concert reports: 5%

Letter Grades are calculated as follows:

A = 93%-100% A- = 90%-92.5% B+ = 87%-89.5% B = 83%-86.5% B- = 80%-82.5%

C+ = 77%-79.5% C = 73%-76.5% C- = 70%-72.5% D+ = 67%-69.5% D = 60%-66.5%

F = below 60%

This course explicitly contributes to students' acquisition of skills and knowledge relevant to:

HSU Student Learning Outcomes

- 1) Effective communication through written and oral modes.
- 2) Critical and creative thinking skills in acquiring a broad base of knowledge and applying it to complex issues.
- 3) Competence in a major area of study.
- 4) Appreciation for and understanding of an expanded world perspective by engaging respectfully with a diverse range of individuals, communities and viewpoints.

Music Major Student Learning Outcomes

- 1) Students will demonstrate the ability to hear, identify, and work conceptually with the elements of music – rhythm, melody, harmony, and structure.
- 2) Students will demonstrate familiarity with, and an ability to perform a wide selection of musical literature representing principal eras, genres, and cultural sources.
- 4) Students will demonstrate effective English writing skills.

Campus Policies and Resources: <http://www2.humboldt.edu/academicprograms/syllabus-addendum-campus-resources-policies>

Calendar, Spring 2017

Jan. 17	Read Chapters 1 and 2
Jan. 19	Worksheet 1 - parts 1, 2
Jan. 24	Read Chapters 3 and 4, Worksheet 1 - parts 7, 8, 9a
Jan. 26	Worksheet 2 - parts 3, 5
Jan. 31	Read Chapter 5, Test Yourself I
Feb. 2	Worksheet 4 – part 4a
Feb. 7	Read Chapter 6, Listen and Score 1
Feb. 9	Worksheet 7 – part 1(all)
Feb. 14	Read Chapter 7, Worksheet 7 – part 2
Feb. 16	Listen and Score 7
Feb. 21	Read Chapter 8, Test Yourself II
Feb. 23	Worksheet 10 – part I
Feb. 28	Catch-up and review
Mar. 2	Midterm Exam
Mar. 7	Read Chapters 9 and 10, Worksheet 11 – part 1, a-f
Mar. 9	Worksheet 11 – part 1, g-k
Mar. 14	No class—Spring Break
Mar. 16	No class—Spring Break
Mar. 21	Read Chapter 11 , Test yourself III
Mar. 23	Worksheet 13 – part 3
Mar. 28	Read Chapters 12, 13, and 14
Mar. 30	Listen and Score 18
Apr. 4	Read Chapters 15 and 16, Test Yourself IV
Apr. 6	
Apr. 11	Read Chapter 17, Worksheet 22 – part 1
Apr. 13	
Apr. 18	Read Chapters 18 and 19, Worksheet 22 – part 2
Apr. 20	
Apr. 25	Worksheet 22 – part 5
Apr. 27	No class—Jazz Orchestra on tour
May 2	
May 4	Final Exam
May 9	Project 2 due and performed
12:40-	
2:30	

All of the above is subject to change (with fair warning) depending on the needs of the class.