

Humboldt State University
Department of Music

Course Syllabus

MUS 453 Career Skills for Musicians
Fall, 2017 2 units CRN: 42626
TR 1:00-1:50 p.m. Rm. 203A
Office hours: by appointment

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Required Text

Cutler, D. (2010). *The savvy musician: building a career, earning a living, & making a difference*. Pittsburgh, PA: Helius Press.

Recommended Text

Beeching, A. M., (2010). *Beyond talent: creating a successful career in music* (2nd ed). New York: Oxford University Press.

Course Description

This course prepares students to use the skills, knowledge and experience acquired through their undergraduate music degree in occupations that value those skills. Students will identify skill sets needed for various musical and non-musical career paths, develop a plan for building needed competencies, and create documents that complement career goals. Emphasis will be placed on identifying opportunities in which music skills and music-related attributes may be used in gainful employment, including jobs indirectly related to music. These opportunities include musical performance, teaching, composing and arranging, recording, retail music sales, music repair, audio production, arts management, producing, and internet commerce. Students will also gain an understanding of the transferability of music skills to other fields.

Student Learning Outcomes

- Students will identify skills and knowledge they have acquired through education and training
- Students will identify skills and knowledge they have acquired through work experience
- Students will identify their character traits and personal attributes that have contributed to significant achievements in various pursuits
- Students will draw connections between skills, knowledge, and prior experience on the one hand, and careers and other work opportunities on the other hand
- Students will create resumes, cover letters, contracts, and other documents that will enhance their job search success
- Students will develop a business plan for a musical product or skill
- Students will document a step-by-step process for applying to graduate school, including preparing for an audition, communicating with prospective teachers, and obtaining an assistantship or other form of financial aid
- Students will identify and/or create publicity and promotional materials, including a press release, a performance flyer, business cards, and appropriate posts to social media sites.

HSU Learning Outcomes

This course explicitly contributes to your acquisition of skills and knowledge relevant to these HSU Learning Outcomes:

HSU graduates will have demonstrated:

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

HSU graduates will be prepared to:

- Succeed in their chosen careers.
- Take responsibility for identifying personal goals and practicing lifelong learning.

Music Department Goals and Outcomes

Goal 1: Students will demonstrate the ability to hear, identify, and work conceptually with the elements of music – rhythm, melody, harmony, and structure.

Outcome 1D: Students can sight-sing diatonic melodies with leaps from I, IV, and V7 chords.

Goal 2: Students will demonstrate familiarity with, and an ability to perform a wide selection of musical literature representing principal eras, genres, and cultural sources.

Outcome 2B: When listening to a musical composition, students can identify its historical era, cultural sources, genre, texture, instrumentation, and possible composer when appropriate.

Outcome 2C: Over the course of four years, music majors will perform a wide variety of music – in solos, large and small ensembles, from different eras, in different styles.

Goal 3: Students will demonstrate ability in performing areas appropriate to the student's needs, interests, and degree path.

Outcome 3: Students will demonstrate improvement in their performing skills – both in the quality of their performance and the difficulty of the repertoire that they can perform.

Grading Point Values

Attendance, punctuality, and participation	10
Quizzes and homework.....4 @5 each =	20
Written and oral assignments.....	55
Course Notebook.....	5
Final exam.....	10
Total.....	100

Assignments: See separate sheet with complete details, including due dates and point values.

Letter Grade Values

A = 90+

B = 80-89

C = 70-79

D = 60-69

F = Below 60

Incomplete (I) Grades

Students should not assume that there is an option to receive a grade of “I” (Incomplete) due to unfinished work or other extenuating circumstances. A grade of “I” may be requested of the instructor, but there is no assurance that it will be granted. If the instructor agrees to grant a grade of “I”, late penalties still apply to all work submitted after the original due date. Therefore, it is very difficult to earn a grade above a C once the “I” grade is changed. Students are given one year to complete work in a course where the “I” grade was received.

Attendance

A total of three absences is allowed for the semester without any grade penalty. I do not discriminate between excused and unexcused absences. Therefore, beginning with the fourth absence, and for every absence thereafter, the course grade is lowered by 5 points (half of one letter grade). For example, if a student’s final point total before attendance is calculated were 83, a grade of “B,” having four absences for the semester would result in a point total of 78, yielding a final grade of “C.” Exceptions to this policy are considered on a case-by-case basis.

Late Assignments

Late work is defined as anything submitted after the designated class session at which the assignment is due. Assignments turned in late will be penalized by 10% per class session. The maximum penalty for late work is 40%.

Format of Written Work

With the exception of notes taken in class and while observing lessons taught by mentor teachers, all written work must be word-processed. Use a standard font such as Times, New Times Roman, Courier, or Helvetica, in size 12, and print out in black ink.

Cell Phones

Please do not use cell phones in class for any purpose. This includes texting and other silent forms of communication. It’s best not to bring your phone to class.

Style Manual

For all written work, follow the guidelines for formatting, punctuation, and grammar as indicated in a particular style manual of your choice. The preferred manual for this class is APA, 5th or 6th edition. If you choose not to use APA, you must specify which style manual you are using for each assignment.

Add/Drop Deadline: Monday, September 4 at 11:59 p.m.

Note this early deadline for adding or dropping a class.

More detailed information about policies and procedures related to HSU courses may be found here:

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