



COMPOSITION LESSONS

COURSE: MUS 491

Composition Private Lessons

Section: 0HE
Music Building, Room 224
Scheduled weekly meeting online via ZOOM

INSTRUCTOR:

Dr. Judy Bozone
Music Building, Office 224

Email (preferred) julia.bozone@tamuc.edu
Office Hours: MWF 8-9 AM, T/TH 11AM or by
appointment.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

One hour of private instruction in composition each week. Each semester of composition will take the student on a progressive exploration of the materials, skills, styles, techniques, and aesthetics involved in composing original music. When appropriate, specific content may be included to assist individuals in achieving their creative and/or professional goals, or to rectify a deficiency in their technique. Students are expected to devote approximately 10 hours per week working on their compositions (over a 15-week semester). Prerequisite: none.

TEXTBOOK/MATERIALS/SOFTWARE:

Computer
Sibelius software (can be purchased online)
D2L access
Zoom

All other materials will be provided by the instructor, placed online in D2L for perusal or download, or placed on reserve in the library.

GRADING:

50% - Lesson Average
25% - Finished Works (2 or more)
10% - Opportunity Submission (at least one)
5% - Professional Membership and/or Activity (at least one)

Detailed Descriptions:

Lesson Average – Grading Rubric for Composition Lessons

Criteria	Level 5	Level 4	Level 3	Level 2	Level 1
Quantity	25 points Exceeds expectations.	20 points Meets expectations.	15 points Acceptable, but a little less than expected.	10 points Considerably less than expected.	5 points Minimal or none. Falls far below expectations.
Quality*	25 points Excellent for a student at this level.	20 points Admirable for a student at this level.	15 points Average for a student at this level.	10 points Weak for a student at this level.	5 points Unacceptable for a student at this level.
Exploratory or Directed Learning	20 points Profound discoveries made during multifaceted self-directed learning. Paradigm shifts in thinking.	18 points Reading and research on multiple planes that led to meaningful discovery.	16 points Acceptable amount of reading and/or listening that represents multiple levels.	13 points Cursory or minimal information gleaned. Tendency to gravitate to what you already know.	10 points Nothing to report.
Attitude and Teachability	20 points Student was receptive and eager to learn. The lesson was very productive.	17 points Lesson was productive and the student was interested.	14 points Lesson was generally positive, but student could have been more engaged.	10 points Student was apathetic or distracted and did not benefit a great deal from lesson.	5 points Student seemed uninterested in learning. Lesson was unproductive.
Punctuality	10 points Student was on time.	5 points Student was up to 5 minutes late.	2 points Student was between 5 and 10 minutes late.	1 point Student was between 10 and 20 minutes late.	0 points No show (zero for lesson).

**Assessment of quality includes the following: creativity, artistic merit, idiomatic use of instruments, correct notation, inclusion of expression and articulation, and how well it fulfills the goals of the assignment.*

Completed Works – This requirement is designed to emulate the expectations that a publisher or competition would have in terms of the quality and content of a finished work. All students will be provided with an in-house style guide which clearly establishes expectations regarding layout, notation, and all editorial matters. This will include:

- Single PDF file of score including:
 - Professional-looking cover page
 - Program notes & any necessary explanatory notes to the performers
 - Complete score which conforms to our area style guide
- Single PDF file containing all necessary parts for the work. These will also be carefully edited to conform to the area style guide.
- MP3 file with recording/mockup of composition. This must be better than merely an audio export from Sibelius. It can be a recording with live players, done in a concert hall or studio, a mixture of live performers and samples (done in a DAW), or entirely done with samples in a DAW. In all cases, though, great care should be given to make the recording be the best possible representation of the piece.

Opportunity Submission – All applied composition students enrolled in lessons are required to apply at least once per semester to one of the following:

- A competition
- A publisher
- A call for scores
- An ensemble or performer seeking new works
- A residency or summer program

You must provide EVIDENCE that this has occurred in the form of copies of the forms you submitted, or email confirmation of your submission. Once you have shown this evidence, your grade will be entered immediately. It is always wise to keep a copy of your submission materials for your own records.

Professional Membership – All composition majors are required to maintain a membership in some professional organization for composers. Options include SCI, NACUSA, ACF, ASCAP, BMI, etc. Once proof of membership is provided to your professor, the grade for this requirement will be entered immediately.

ATTENDANCE:

Students are expected to attend all lessons and studio classes (when they occur). If it is necessary to be absent, you must notify the instructor in advance. When notification occurs the day before the lesson, every effort will be made to reschedule the lesson for an alternate time. When notification happens the same day as the lesson, the lesson may still be rescheduled, but 20 points will be deducted from the grade. Unexcused absences will be counted as a zero and cannot be made up. Students must attend at least 12 lessons and each semester.