

MUS 4735 (F2023)

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ADVANCED SONGWRITING – ITERATIVE PROCESS/ELECTRONIC DANCE MUSIC

Prerequisites

MUS 3735a. Unless you have either the requisites for this course (MUS 3735) or written special permission from your Dean to enrol in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Learning Outcomes

Students in MUS 4735a (Advanced Songwriting – Iterative Process) will create a dependable and iterative songwriting process, incorporating various professional methods and techniques. Special emphasis will be placed on songwriting modalities current in electronic dance music, though we study and practice whichever idioms students are interested in learning.

Course Materials

Materials for this course will be distributed each week by OWL.

Evaluation

Songwriting Notebook (20%): collected on an ongoing basis.

Midterm project (20%). Due Friday 27 October by 1.30 pm. More information in class.

Final Project (60%). Due Wednesday 6 December by 1.30pm. More information in class.

Grading Scale

A+ = 90-100%, A = 80-89%, B = 70-79%, C = 60-69%, D = 50-59%, F = 0-49%.

Office Hours

I am available for consultation outside class by appointment. Please contact me to arrange a time for a Zoom session. I prefer not to conduct course business by email, and I do not answer questions about course content by email. On the rare occasion that a student misses a lecture for legitimate and medically documented reasons, I will provide assistance with course material, but please be advised that I do not give private summaries of lectures. Students should rely on their peers to gather, and understand, material from classes they miss. See me only to clarify what you and your peers cannot grasp independently

Topics Covered In Class: Course Schedule

Friday 8 September
Introduction to the Course & Course Materials

Unit One.A: Orientation to Process

Monday 11 September
Why Process? (Or: How To Finally Get Over Yourself)
Iterative vs. Inspired Process
Good/Bad vs. Expedience
Wednesday 13 September
Songwriting Notebooks
Studying Work You Like
Steal Like A Pro
Friday 15 September
Professional vs. Passion Projects
Define Your Genre/Market
A Few Words On "Success"

Unit One.B: Creating A Process

Monday 18 September
EDM Manual: 1. Kick; 3. Clap or Snare; 4. Hi Hats; 5 Percussion; 6. Rides
Wednesday 20 September
EDM Manual: 2. Melody
Melodic Contour
Tone Tendencies
Friday 22 September
All About That Bass
EDM Manual: 8. More Elements

Monday 25 September
Harmony: The Formulas
Wednesday 27 September
Harmony: Substitutions
Friday 29 September
"Dig Day" (a.k.a. Beg Borrow & Steal)

Monday 2 October
Guest Lecture for National Truth & Reconciliation Day
Wednesday 4 October
Structure (Strophic/AABA/EDM)
Friday 6 October
"Dig Day" (a.k.a. Beg Borrow & Steal)

Unit Two: Lyrics

Monday 9 October: NO CLASS (Thanksgiving)

Wednesday 11 October

Lyric Writing: Rhyme Kinds

Rhyme As Structure

Rhyme And Momentum

Friday 13 October

Lyric Writing: Action Words & Rhyme Schemes

Balanced And Unbalanced

Increasing and Decreasing Momentum

Monday 16 October

Midterm Project Discussion

Scansion & Meter

Wednesday 18 October

Putting It All Together: Writing To Existing Melodies

Friday 20 October

Exchange EDM Tracks

23 October - 25 October: Songwriting & Workshopping Exercises

Friday 27 October: Midterm Projects Due

30 October - 3 November: Fall Reading Week

UNIT THREE: PUTTING THE PROCESS INTO PRACTICE

6 - 10 November: Collaborative Process To Brief

13 - 17 November: Motion Media Scoring

20 November - 4 December: Workshopping Final Projects

Wednesday 6 December: Final Projects Due

Additional Statements

Academic Consideration for Student Absence and Missed Work (≥10%)

Students are responsible for making up any missed classes or assignments as soon as possible. The University recognizes that a student's ability to meet their academic responsibilities may, on occasion, be impaired by medical illness. Illness may be acute (short term), or it may be chronic (long term), or chronic with acute episodes. The University further recognizes that medical situations are deeply personal and respects the need for privacy and confidentiality in these matters. However, in order to ensure fairness and consistency for all students, academic accommodation for work representing 10% or more of the student's overall grade in the course shall be granted only in those cases where there is documentation indicating that the student was seriously affected by illness and could not reasonably be expected to meet their academic responsibilities.

Documentation shall be submitted, as soon as possible, to the Office of the Associate Dean, Undergraduate (TC210), together with a request for relief specifying the nature of the accommodation being requested. Students are directed to read the Senate policy on

accommodation for medical illness at the following website for further details regarding requirements and procedures for the supporting documentation:
https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf

Whenever possible, students who require academic accommodation should provide notification and documentation in advance of due dates, examinations, etc. Students must follow up with their professors and their Academic Counselling office in a timely manner.

Academic Consideration for Student Absence and Missed Work (<10%)

In cases where students miss work that is worth less than 10% of the total course grade (ie. two or fewer assignments) due to medical illness or compassionate grounds, if documentation is voluntarily submitted to the Associate Dean's office and the Associate Dean grants an accommodation, then the missed assignment(s) or quiz(zes) will be discounted in the calculation of the final grade for the course. If documentation is not voluntarily submitted then the missed assignment(s) will receive a grade of zero. Students who have been denied accommodation by an instructor may appeal this decision to the Associate Dean's office but will be required to present appropriate documentation.

Academic Offences

Submission of work with which you have received help from someone else (other than the course instructor or TA) is an example of plagiarism, which is considered a major academic offence. Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, as found at: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

MENTAL HEALTH & WELLNESS

Students that are in emotional/mental distress should refer to the Health and Wellness at Western page (<https://www.uwo.ca/health/>) for a complete list of options about how to obtain help or to go to the Wellness Education Centre located in UCC room 76. **Students in crisis in need of immediate care are directed to go directly to Student Health Services in UC11 or to click on the green “I Need Help Now” button on the Health and Wellness page above.**

ACCOMMODATION FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Students work with Accessible Education Western (AEW, formerly SSD) which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. The accommodation policy can be found here: https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/Academic%20Accommodation_disabilities.pdf

RELIGIOUS ACCOMMODATION

Students should consult the University’s list of recognized religious holidays, and should give reasonable notice in writing, prior to the holiday, to the Instructor and an Academic Counsellor if their course requirements will be affected by a religious observance. Additional information is given in the Western Multicultural Calendar.

<http://multiculturalcalendar.com/ecal/index.php?s=c-univwo>

CONTINGENCY PLAN

Although the intent is for this course to be delivered in-person, the changing COVID-19 restrictions may necessitate some or all of the course to be delivered online, either synchronously (i.e., at the times indicated in the timetable) or asynchronously (e.g., posted on OWL for students to view at their convenience). The grading scheme will **not** change. Any assessments affected will be conducted online as determined by the course instructor.

GENDER-BASED AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE

Western is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence and providing compassionate support to anyone who has gone through these traumatic events. If you have experienced sexual or gender-based violence, either recently or in the past, you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at

https://www.uwo.ca/health/student_support/survivor_support/get-help.html. To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact support@uwo.ca or call 519 661-3568.

EXAMINATIONS & ATTENDANCE

Any student who, in the opinion of the instructor, is absent too frequently from class or laboratory periods in any course will be reported to the Dean of the Faculty offering the course (after due warning has been given). On the recommendation of the department concerned, and with the permission of the Dean of that Faculty, the student will be debarred from taking the regular examination in the course. The Dean of the Faculty offering the course will communicate that decision to the Dean of the Faculty of registration.