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MUSI 180.01: Composition I

Emilie LeBel

University of Montana, Missoula, emilie.lebel@umontana.edu

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Composition I MUSI 180
University of Montana

Dr. Emilie LeBel

emilie.lebel@umontana.edu

Office: Room 203

Office hours: Mondays 9am to 10am; Wednesday and Friday mornings, by appointment

Class times: TR 12:00 - 12:50 PM, Room 205

Course description:

This course explores the craft of contemporary art music composition through the original musical works, and the study of composition techniques and repertoire from the past century. Students will gain knowledge of a broad range of repertoire, aesthetics, and compositional techniques.

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Course Objectives:

- To understand the fundamentals of contemporary art music composition
- To develop one's own compositional voice and artistic interests
- To develop knowledge of a broad range of contemporary art music repertoire
- To gain experience thinking critically about contemporary music
- To gain experience effectively communicating about contemporary music

Required materials:

- Manuscript paper, pencils, eraser, and a ruler
- Listening assignments, readings, and additional materials will be posted on-line or handed out during class

Additional / suggested resources:

- Adler, Samuel. *The Study of Orchestration*
- Heussenstamm, George. *The Norton Manual of Music Notation*

General expectations:

- Regular attendance and active participation in weekly class activities
- All assignments are to be handed-in on their due date at the beginning of class
- Reviewing any listening and reading assignments that are assigned, so that you are able to participate in class discussions and activities
- You are responsible for checking your email regularly for updates / communications
- Attendance at concerts and special events related to the composition program is ***mandatory***
- Any late assignments for the term will not be accepted after Friday December 15, 2017. No exceptions.

Assignments:

- Written descriptions for each project will be distributed and discussed during class in the coming weeks

Evaluation:

- 21%: composition project progress work (3 @ 7%)
- 3 composition projects:
 - 19%: Nocturne
 - 20%: Invention
 - 30%: Final Composition Project
- 10%: Participation and professionalism

Grading:

Compositions will be graded taking into account effort to incorporate knowledge acquired from course materials, and instructor feedback. Grading for composition assignments will be assessed taking into account:

Work /effort /ambition
Creativity / risk-taking
Technical / mechanics / notation
Structure

Assignment submission:

- All assignments are due at the beginning of class on their due date, or they are considered late. No exceptions.
- Late projects will be subject to a penalty of 2% per day (or partial day) of the week (including weekends)
- All compositions are to be neatly hand written using a ruler and a sharp pencil on manuscript paper, single-sided
- All written components of assignments are to be typed
- Any late assignments for the term will not be accepted after Friday December 15, 2017. No exceptions.

Attendance, professionalism and participation:

Attendance and participation in all classes is required, and excessive absences will be reflected in your final grade. Attendance at concerts and special events related to the composition program is **mandatory** (see course outline for important dates). The following rubric gives a general indication of expectations:

- 9-10% - No problems with attendance; Very strong evidence of professionalism and participation
- 7-8.99% - No problems with attendance; Strong evidence of professionalism and participation
- 5-6.99% - Minor problems with attendance, lack of professionalism and/or participation
- below 5% - Major problems with attendance, lack of professionalism and/or participation

Laptop policy:

I do not permit the use of laptop computers, cell phones, tablets, etc. during the lecture and discussion portions of the class. Our department is very interested in technology and its artistic and academic applications, but laptops are not appropriate for taking notes in this class, and we wish to avoid the potential for distraction to both laptop users and nearby students. Additionally, students may not use cellular phones during class. If you disrupt class by using these devices, you will be asked to leave class for the day.

Academic honesty:

All work submitted in this course must be your own and produced exclusively for this course. The use of sources (ideas, quotations, paraphrases) must be properly acknowledged and documented. For the consequences of academic dishonesty, refer to the “Student Conduct Code” available here: http://life.umt.edu/vpsa/student_conduct.php.

We take violations very seriously and they will be noted on student disciplinary records. We will not tolerate any dishonesty or plagiarism. If you are in doubt regarding any aspect of these issues as they pertain to this course, please consult with me before you complete any relevant requirements of the course.

Disability services:

If you are a student with a disability who will require reasonable program modifications in this course, please meet with Disability Services for Students in Lommasson 154 for assistance in developing a plan to address program modifications. If you are already working with Disability Services arrange to meet with me during my office hours to discuss reasonable modifications that may be necessary. For more information, visit the Disability Services website at <http://www.umt.edu/disability>.

Course Schedule & Important Dates:

Part I: Introduction & Nocturne

- Week 1: September 4

Labour Day - no classes on September 4

Composers Forum - Thursday September 7th, 1-2pm

- Week 2: September 11

- Week 3: September 18

Nocturne progress work due in class on Thursday September 21

- Week 4: September 25

- Week 5: October 2

Composers Forum - Thursday October 5th, 1-2pm

Nocturne due Thursday October 5

Part II: Invention

- Week 6: October 9

- Week 7: October 16

Invention progress work due Tuesday October 19

- Week 8: October 23

- Week 9: October 30

Composers Forum - Thursday November 2nd, 1-2pm

Invention due Thursday November 2

Part III: Final Composition Project

- Week 10: November 6

Veterans Day - no classes November 10

****New Music Missoula Concert – Thursday November 9th**

- Week 11: November 20

American Thanksgiving - no classes November 22-26

Final Composition Project progress work due Tuesday November 21

- Week 12: November 27

- Week 13: December 4

Last full week of classes!

Composers Forum - Thursday December 7th, 1-2pm

Final Composition Project due Thursday December 7

- Week 14: December 11

Last two days of classes!

- Week 15: December 18

No classes or exams for this class!