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MUSI 559.01: Composition

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Composition III, MUSI 380
Composition IV, MUSI 480
Composition, MUSI 559
University of Montana

Dr. Emilie LeBel
emilie.lebel@umontana.edu
Office: Room 203
Office hours: By appointment
Class times: By appointment

Course description:

MUS 380, 480, and 559 are weekly private lessons in composition, and project-based studies that cover the theory and realization of various compositional techniques and concepts. Students will explore the craft of musical composition through the creation of original musical works, and also study techniques and repertoire of composers from the past century.

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

Required materials:

- Manuscript paper, pencils, eraser, and a ruler
- Listening assignments, readings, and additional materials may be assigned

General expectations:

- Active participation in weekly class activities by showing up prepared with composition work, or other materials to review
- Provide printed / paper scores for each of your weekly lessons, not scores on your laptop
- Reviewing assigned listening and reading, so that you are able to actively participate discussions and activities
- Attendance at concerts and special events related to the composition program is **mandatory**
- Please check your email regularly for updates / communications
- If you are unable to attend a lesson, please advise Dr. LeBel at least 24 hours in advance via email

Schedule:

Lessons will be scheduled by appointment, in my office, room 203.

Evaluation and assignments:

Students will design and outline in writing a work-plan that outlines their projects and goals for the semester. This should be prepared for the first lesson of the semester. This will include composition work, and may also include repertoire study, theory, and other supplementary work that will support one's learning goals.

A grade will be assigned based on adhering to the general expectations of the course (outlined above), and also: attendance, creative effort/growth, commitment to developing new skills,

consistent and continual progress throughout the semester, incorporating feedback from lessons into one's composition work, and the completion of all tasks outlined in one's work-plan.

Attendance is mandatory, and *excessive absences will be reflected in your final grade.*

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:

- Week 1: January 25

No lessons this week

- Week 2: February 1

Lessons start

- Week 3: February 8

Guest Mitch Renaud visiting Thursday and Friday (February 11 & 12)

Thursday February 11, 2pm special guest lecture with Mitch Renaud

Friday February 12, 5pm composer concert in recital hall

- Week 4: February 15

- Week 5: February 22

- Week 6: February 29

- Week 7: March 7

- Week 8: March 14

- Week 9: March 21

- Week 10: March 28

- Week 11: April 4

**Spring Break!*

- Week 12: April 11

- Week 13: April 18

- Week 14: April 25

No classes this week!

Guest Adam Vidiksis visiting Monday and Tuesday (April 25 & 26)

April 25 and 26 – Composers Showcase – concerts at 2 pm and 7:30 pm each day

- Week 15: May 3

**Last week of classes!*