

**UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT TYLER**  
**School of Performing Arts**

*course syllabus for*

**MUAP xx87 (3287, 3387, 4287, 4387):**  
**Undergraduated Composition (2-3 credit hours)**  
**Fall 2017**

**By appointment, scheduled during Week 1 – FAC 2220**

**Professor:** Dr. Kyle Gullings

**Office:** FAC 2220

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**Office Phone:** 903.566.7478

**Office Hours:** (subject to change)

Mondays 1:25 - 2:20 p.m.

Thursdays 2:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Fridays 1:25 - 2:20 p.m.

(other times by appointment)

**Course Description:** MUAP 3287, 3387, 4287, and 4387 consist of private, weekly applied lessons in Composition at the Junior/Senior grade levels. All lessons will be taught in the instructor's university studio. Permission to enroll and appropriate computer call number may be obtained by contacting the music office. A fee of \$100 will be charged for each two credit hour course, and a fee of \$125 will be charged for each three credit hour course. (fees are subject to change) Applied lessons may be repeated twice for credit.

**Prerequisite:** MUSI 2312 (Music Theory IV), equivalent, or instructor approval. Students not possessing the prerequisite will be administratively removed from the class unless otherwise approved by the department.

**Course Learning Objectives:** Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Understand, discuss, and creatively utilize a variety of compositional techniques, with an emphasis on the canon of Western art music – particularly that of twentieth- and twenty-first-century models.
2. Deploy the above techniques through solo, chamber, vocal, large ensemble, and electronic mediums.
3. Show the clear beginnings of a unique, contemporary compositional style, balancing creativity and craft.
4. Articulate the aesthetic and practical relevance of their output within the artistic landscape they occupy.
5. Engrave, edit, and distribute their compositions through proficient use of music notation software.
6. Present a public recital, during their senior year, of original compositions.

**Required Materials:** No textbook is required. Students must have regular access to manuscript paper and a pencil, and music notation software.

**Assessment:**

<b>Grade Weighting</b>	Weekly Logs / Composition Progress	80%
	Final Jury / Portfolio	20%

<b>Grading Scale</b>	90-100%	A
	80-89%	B
	70-79%	C
	60-69%	D
	Below 60%	F

**Methods for Assessing Outcomes:** The final grade will reflect the degree of significant progress made by the student each week, as well as the scope and quality of the final Jury.

**Methods of Instruction:** Enrolled students will meet weekly with the instructor to receive critiques of their compositions, discuss progress and techniques, assess and develop composer-specific proficiencies, and set specific goals and directions for the following week. Outside listening and score study may also be assigned to serve as creative models.

**\*\* Attendance Policy:** Weekly attendance is essential and expected. Make-up lessons may not be rescheduled for unexcused absences or due to lack of preparation or progress on compositions. Weekly grades are given for each

lesson, and absences without advance notice will result in a grade of 0% for that week's lesson. Four (4) unexcused lessons (including those assigned for lack of progress) within a semester will result in an automatic semester grade of "F", and no further lessons will be scheduled for the remainder of the semester.

At the instructor's discretion, absences may be considered excused only for legitimate, documented reasons (serious illness, family emergency, etc.). In cases of excused absences, the weekly lesson grade will not be impacted, and all attempts will be made to make up the missed lesson. In all cases, students who must miss a lesson should inform the instructor, with as much advance notice as possible.

- \*\* Composer Readings:** Once each semester, as funds and circumstances allow, the Music Department will hire regional professional musicians to present student compositions in a workshop/performance format. Instruments used will be announced near the beginning of each semester. All students enrolled in Applied Composition Lessons are required to participate in these Readings to avoid a reduction of the final semester grade. Students not enrolled in lessons are still highly encouraged to participate, with the approval of the instructor. The performers will generally conduct open rehearsal workshop sessions with time for discussion and revisions, followed by a public recital concluding with a talkback session featuring the performers, composers, and audience members.
- \*\* Other Composition Events:** From time to time, special events of interest to composers will be held, such as guest speakers/master classes, performances, and sessions on entering competitions, resume writing, and marketing. These events will be clearly posted in advance. When offered, these sessions are required for all Composition Majors, and all students enrolled in Applied Composition Lessons. Composers unable to attend for excused reasons must communicate their absence in advance to the instructor. Unexcused absences from Composition events will count against the semester grade in private lessons.
- \*\* Lesson Format/Expectations:** At the start of each semester, the instructor and the student will jointly create a contract of pieces to be composed and specific skills to be improved during the semester. Student progress and grading will be evaluated based on fulfillment of this contract. Students in MUAP 3287 and 4287 are expected to create at least one original work of approximately five minutes of music each semester. Students in 3387 and 4387 are expected to create at least one or two original works of approximately ten minutes of music each semester. Failure to meet these requirements will result in a lowering of the final semester grade, at the instructor's discretion.

Progress will be tracked using a Weekly Log, submitted online at least *24 hours prior* to each lesson. See Canvas for details. The lowest Weekly Log score is dropped.

We spend the majority of our lesson time discussing your compositions in progress, which are the most direct demonstration of your ideas and skills. Just as with any other private music lesson, improvement and success will come only with regular practice. As a composer, time spent composing IS your practice. This activity is the primary focus for the successful Composition Major.

While school work, family and job concerns, and writer's block will occasionally hinder the well-meaning composer, regular production of new music is essential to earning and maintaining the title "composer." Therefore, occurrences of no or unsatisfactory weekly progress within a semester will be handled as follows:

1. First time – No grade penalty. (The lowest Weekly Log score is dropped.) The hour will be spent on idea generation strategies, composer proficiency etudes, score study, and future goals.
2. Second and third times – 0% for the weekly lesson grade, and the lesson will be canceled. The composer will be encouraged to spend this time composing for the following week.
3. Fourth time – Automatic semester grade of "F", and no further lessons will be scheduled for the remainder of the semester.

All composition assignments must ultimately be notated using computer software such as Finale or Sibelius. Hand-written drafts are acceptable for weekly lessons, but not the final Jury portfolio. Notation software on a laptop or manuscript paper and a pencil are required at each lesson.

- \*\* Juries:** At the end of each semester (during final exam week), the student will schedule and present a Composition Jury attended by a committee of faculty members. For the Jury, the student will prepare and present a portfolio of compositions completed, representing his/her work over that semester only. The student's compositions will be graded

by the faculty jury, and the student must provide three (3) copies of the score(s) plus a suitable audio rendition for the committee (synthesized, recorded, or live). The Jury will factor into the final semester grade for Applied Composition Lessons. Note: Students completing a Senior Recital in Composition in the same semester as Applied Composition

Lessons are exempt from the Jury requirement, but may participate in Juries at their discretion. If not taking a Jury, the final Senior Recital grade will serve as the 20% "Jury" component of the Applied Composition Lesson grade.

**\*\* Grading Requirement – Public Performance of Compositions:** Every student enrolled in Applied Composition Lessons must arrange for a public performance of at least one original composition each semester. The piece chosen needn't be written during the current semester of study. Both acoustic and electronic compositions (though not mere MIDI realizations of acoustic works) satisfy this requirement. End-of-semester Jury performances do not satisfy this requirement.

Suitable opportunities for public performance include Departmental Student Recitals, Degree Recitals (the composer's or others'), Composer Readings Recitals (detailed above), and any other student- or Department-organized events recognized on the official Music Department calendar. Students may perform their own works or enlist the help of colleagues. While the Department strives to arrange a number of performance opportunities each semester, it is ultimately the student's responsibility to secure performances. Failure to complete this requirement by the end of each semester will result in a lowering of that semester's grade by one letter grade.

**\*\* Senior Recital:** During the last year of study, students majoring in Composition must present a 50+ minute recital of original works. While every effort will be made by the Department to help facilitate the performance, **it is solely the student's responsibility** to enroll in MUAP 4100, secure a Faculty Committee, schedule a date and location for the hearing and recital, and ensure that performers are secured, rehearsed, and prepared to perform at a passable level. While all circumstances will be taken fully into account, the recital will be graded primarily on the quality of the compositions as reflected in the performance.

No later than four weeks before the recital, the student must present a live recital hearing with all performers present. At the hearing, a Faculty Committee consisting of the instructor and two other faculty members will hear the entire program and vote on whether the recital will be ready for performance. If the hearing is passed, the recital is cleared to proceed. If the hearing receives a provisional pass, the student generally has two weeks to rectify any concerns of the committee. If the student does not pass the hearing or resolve the provisional pass, the recital is postponed until the following semester and the student will receive a grade of "I" for MUAP 4100. Please see [www.uttyler.edu/music](http://www.uttyler.edu/music) for additional details regarding recital policies.

**\*\* Communication:** Students are required to regularly check their Patriot e-mail account and the class Canvas page.

**\*\* Academic Integrity:** Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated (cheating, copying homework, plagiarism, etc.).

## UT TYLER REQUIRED SYLLABUS LANGUAGE

**UT Tyler Honor Code:** Every member of the UT Tyler community joins together to embrace: Honor and integrity that will not allow me to lie, cheat, or steal, nor to accept the actions of those who do.

**Students Rights and Responsibilities:** To know and understand the policies that affect your rights and responsibilities as a student at UT Tyler, please follow this link:

<http://www2.uttyler.edu/wellness/rightsresponsibilities.php>

**Campus Carry:** We respect the right and privacy of students 21 and over who are duly licensed to carry concealed weapons in this class. License holders are expected to behave responsibly and keep a handgun secure and concealed. More information is available at <http://www.uttyler.edu/about/campus-carry/index.php>

**UT Tyler a Tobacco-Free University:** All forms of tobacco will not be permitted on the UT Tyler main campus, branch campuses, and any property owned by UT Tyler. This applies to all members of the University community, including students, faculty, staff, University affiliates, contractors, and visitors. Forms of tobacco not permitted include cigarettes, cigars, pipes, water pipes (hookah), bidis, kreteks, electronic cigarettes, smokeless tobacco, snuff, chewing tobacco, and all other tobacco products. There are several cessation programs available to students looking to quit smoking, including counseling, quitlines, and group support. For more information on cessation programs please visit [www.uttyler.edu/tobacco-free](http://www.uttyler.edu/tobacco-free).

**Grade Replacement/Forgiveness and Census Date Policies:** Students repeating a course for grade forgiveness (grade replacement) must file a Grade Replacement Contract with the Enrollment Services Center (ADM 230) on or before the Census Date of the semester in which the course will be repeated. (For Fall, the Census Date is Sept. 12.) Grade Replacement Contracts are available in the Enrollment Services Center or at <http://www.uttyler.edu/registrar>. Each semester's Census Date can be found on the Contract itself, on the Academic Calendar, or in the information pamphlets published each semester by the Office of the Registrar.

Failure to file a Grade Replacement Contract will result in both the original and repeated grade being used to calculate your overall grade point average. Undergraduates are eligible to exercise grade replacement for only three course repeats during their career at UT Tyler; graduates are eligible for two grade replacements. Full policy details are printed on each Grade Replacement Contract.

The Census Date (Sept. 11<sup>th</sup>) is the deadline for many forms and enrollment actions of which students need to be aware. These include:

- Submitting Grade Replacement Contracts, Transient Forms, requests to withhold directory information, approvals for taking courses as Audit, Pass/Fail or Credit/No Credit.
- Receiving 100% refunds for partial withdrawals. (There is no refund for these after the Census Date)
- Schedule adjustments (section changes, adding a new class, dropping without a "W" grade)
- Being reinstated or re-enrolled in classes after being dropped for non-payment
- Completing the process for tuition exemptions or waivers through Financial Aid

**State-Mandated Course Drop Policy:** Texas law prohibits a student who began college for the first time in Fall 2007 or thereafter from dropping more than six courses during their entire undergraduate career. This includes courses dropped at another 2-year or 4-year Texas public college or university. For purposes of this rule, a dropped course is any course that is dropped after the census date (See Academic Calendar for the specific date).

Exceptions to the 6-drop rule may be found in the catalog. Petitions for exemptions must be submitted to the Enrollment Services Center and must be accompanied by documentation of the extenuating circumstance. Please contact the Enrollment Services Center if you have any questions.

**Disability/Accessibility Services:** In accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the ADA Amendments Act (ADAAA) the University of Texas at Tyler offers accommodations to students with learning, physical and/or psychological disabilities. If you have a disability, including a non-visible diagnosis such as a learning disorder, chronic illness, TBI, PTSD, ADHD, or you have a history of modifications or accommodations in a previous educational environment, you are encouraged to visit <https://hood.accessiblelearning.com/UTTyler> and fill out the New Student application. The Student Accessibility and

Resources (SAR) office will contact you when your application has been submitted and an appointment with Cynthia Lowery, Assistant Director of Student Services/ADA Coordinator. For more information, including filling out an application for services, please visit the SAR webpage at <http://www.uttyler.edu/disabilityservices>, the SAR office located in the University Center, # 3150 or call 903.566.7079.

**Student Absence due to Religious Observance:** Students who anticipate being absent from class due to a religious observance are requested to inform the instructor of such absences by the second class meeting of the semester.

**Student Absence for University-Sponsored Events and Activities:** If you intend to be absent for a university-sponsored event or activity, you (or the event sponsor) must notify the instructor at least two weeks prior to the date of the planned absence. At that time the instructor will set a date and time when make-up assignments will be completed.

**Social Security and FERPA Statement:** It is the policy of The University of Texas at Tyler to protect the confidential nature of social security numbers. The University has changed its computer programming so that all students have an identification number. The electronic transmission of grades (e.g., via e-mail) risks violation of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act; grades will not be transmitted electronically.

**Emergency Exits and Evacuation:** Everyone is required to exit the building when a fire alarm goes off. Follow your instructor's directions regarding the appropriate exit. If you require assistance during an evacuation, inform your instructor in the first week of class. Do not re-enter the building unless given permission by University Police, Fire department, or Fire Prevention Services.

**Student Standards of Academic Conduct:** Disciplinary proceedings may be initiated against any student who engages in scholastic dishonesty, including, but not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts.

i. "Cheating" includes, but is not limited to:

- copying from another student's test paper;
- using, during a test, materials not authorized by the person giving the test;
- failure to comply with instructions given by the person administering the test;
- possession during a test of materials which are not authorized by the person giving the test, such as class notes or specifically designed "crib notes". The presence of textbooks constitutes a violation if they have been specifically prohibited by the person administering the test;
- using, buying, stealing, transporting, or soliciting in whole or part the contents of an unadministered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program;
- collaborating with or seeking aid from another student during a test or other assignment without authority;
- discussing the contents of an examination with another student who will take the examination;
- divulging the contents of an examination, for the purpose of preserving questions for use by another, when the instructors has designated that the examination is not to be removed from the examination room or not to be returned or to be kept by the student;
- substituting for another person, or permitting another person to substitute for oneself to take a course, a test, or any course-related assignment;
- paying or offering money or other valuable thing to, or coercing another person to obtain an unadministered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program or information about an unadministered test, test key, home solution or computer program;
- falsifying research data, laboratory reports, and/or other academic work offered for credit;
- taking, keeping, misplacing, or damaging the property of The University of Texas at Tyler, or of another, if the student knows or reasonably should know that an unfair academic advantage would be gained by such conduct; and
- misrepresenting facts, including providing false grades or resumes, for the purpose of obtaining an academic or financial benefit or injuring another student academically or financially.

ii. "Plagiarism" includes, but is not limited to, the appropriation, buying, receiving as a gift, or obtaining by any means another's work and the submission of it as one's own academic work offered for credit.

iii. "Collusion" includes, but is not limited to, the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing academic assignments offered for credit or collaboration with another person to commit a violation of any

- section of the rules on scholastic dishonesty.
- iv. All written work that is submitted will be subject to review by plagiarism software.

**UT Tyler Resources for Students:**

- UT Tyler Writing Center (903.565.5995), [writingcenter@uttyler.edu](mailto:writingcenter@uttyler.edu)
- UT Tyler Tutoring Center (903.565.5964), [tutoring@uttyler.edu](mailto:tutoring@uttyler.edu)
- The Mathematics Learning Center, RBN 4021, this is the open access computer lab for math students, with tutors on duty to assist students who are enrolled in early-career courses.
- UT Tyler Counseling Center (903.566.7254)

## Undergraduated Composition – Fall 2017

### Course Calendar

<b>Date(s)</b>	<b>Event</b>
8/28	- Classes Begin (Lessons scheduled but not held during Week 1)
9/4	- <i>NO LESSONS</i> : Labor Day
9/5-9/8	First Lesson
9/11	- <i>Census Date</i> (Last day to withdraw from course without penalty)
9/22	- <i>NO LESSONS</i> : Instructor out of town
9/29	- <i>NO LESSONS</i> : Instructor out of town
11/6	- <i>Withdrawal Deadline</i>
11/9 (Thr.)	Composer Readings Concert, 7:30pm, Braithwaite Recital Hall <i>(Tentative date, ensemble TBA)</i>
11/20-11/25	- <i>NO LESSONS</i> : Thanksgiving Holiday
12/11 (Mon.)	- <i>NO LESSONS</i> : Study Day
12/14 (Thr.)	<b>Juries</b> <i>(Tentative date, times TBD)</i>