

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT TYLER
School of Performing Arts

course syllabus for

MUAP 4100: 60-Minute Recital (Composition)
Fall 2025

By appointment, scheduled during Week 1 – FAC 1215

Professor: Dr. Kyle Gullings

Office: FAC 1215

Email (preferred contact method): kgullings@uttyler.edu

Office Phone: 903.565.5653

Office Hours: (subject to change)

Mondays 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.

Wednesdays 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.

Thursdays 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.

(other times by appointment)

Course Description: Required public performance for senior-level music performance and composition majors. The recital program should contain 60 minutes of music and be approved by faculty committee.

Course Information: Permission codes to enroll may be obtained by contacting the Music office. Fees will be charged for this course and are subject to change. Students in this course must also be enrolled in MUAP 4287 individual applied composition lessons or the equivalent in the same semester.

Prerequisite: None.

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

1. **Compose** a variety of solo, chamber, or large ensemble original compositions incorporating **at least three** of the following performing forces: keyboard, brass, woodwinds, percussion, strings, vocal, and/or electronic media.
2. **Engrave, edit, and distribute** these compositions through proficient use of music notation software.
3. **Recruit and rehearse performers** to present the recital.
4. **Present** a public recital, during their senior year, of original compositions. This includes **scheduling and marketing** the event, following department protocols.
5. **Perform and/or conduct** on at least one work from the recital.

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

Assessment:

Grade Weighting	Final Jury	100%
Grading Scale	90-100%	A
	80-89%	B
	70-79%	C
	60-69%	D
	Below 60%	F

Methods for Assessing Outcomes: The final grade is calculated as the average of the individual letter grades given by all jury members. As examples, 2 As and 1 B averages to an A; 1 A and 2 Bs averages to a B; 1 each A B and C averages to a B; 1 each A B and D averages to a B, and so on.

Methods of Instruction: Enrolled students will meet weekly, individually, with the instructor to receive critiques of their compositions, discuss progress on engraving, recruiting and rehearsing performers, and scheduling the hearing and recital.

**** Attendance Policy:** Weekly attendance is essential and expected. Weekly grades are given for each lesson, and unexcused absences 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.). Even in cases of *excused absences*, any outstanding assignments are due at the following class period. In all cases, it is the student's responsibility to inform the instructor of absences with as much advance notice as possible, and to *document* that absence if an excused absence is being requested.

Make-up sessions are not offered for lower-division group lessons, even for excused absences. Make-up lessons for upper-division individual lessons are only offered upon student request, for excused absences approved by the instructor; make-ups are not offered for unexcused absences or due to lack of preparation or writing progress.

- ** Composer Readings:** Once each semester, as funds and circumstances allow, the Music Department will arrange for performer(s) to present student compositions in a workshop/performance format. Instrumentation will be announced near the beginning of each semester. Students enrolled in 60-Minute Recital are welcome and encouraged to participate in these Readings, but they are not required to do so.
- ** 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 upper- or lower-division 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 lessons.
- ** Lesson Format/Expectations:** 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, second, and third times – No penalty. The hour will be spent on idea generation strategies, composer proficiency etudes, score study, other recital preparations, and future goals.
 2. Fourth time – Automatic semester grade of "F" at the instructor's discretion, failure of the Recital course, and no further lessons will be scheduled for the remainder of the semester.
- All official composition assignments must ultimately be notated using computer software such as MuseScore, Dorico, Sibelius, or Finale. Hand-written drafts are acceptable for weekly lessons, but not the score submissions for Recital Hearing review. Notation software on a laptop or manuscript paper and a pencil are required at each lesson.
- ** Portfolio / Juries:** Near the end of each semester, students in upper-division individual lessons will prepare an end-of-semester Jury of all original compositions completed, representing his/her work over that semester only. All notated compositions and excerpts must include computer-engraved score(s), suitable audio renditions (synthesized or recorded), and a Composition Jury Sheet, submitted digitally to the primary instructor, ahead of a live feedback session with a 3-member faculty committee.
- 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.
- Only students enrolled in lower-division group composition lessons will prepare a *separate* end-of-semester Portfolio of all listening assignments, etudes, and assigned compositions completed in group lessons, which will receive written feedback by the primary instructor only. Students enrolled in both levels of composition lessons will submit *both* a Portfolio and a Jury.
- ** Grading Requirement – Public Performance of Compositions:** Every student enrolled in applied composition lessons (upper- or lower-division) 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.

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 60 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 3-member 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, the Faculty Committee 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 "F" for MUAP 4100, unless an Incomplete is warranted by circumstances outside the student's control.

Students enrolled in MUAP 4100 must also be enrolled in MUAP 4287 upper-division individual composition lessons or equivalent in the same semester. Please see 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.).

Statement on the Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in This Course: For this course, students are allowed to use artificial intelligence (AI) to brainstorm or improve on composition strategies, creative concepts, and lists of related repertoire for listening. All such uses of AI in this course must be disclosed at the time of submission. Unless you get prior permission from your instructor, you may **not** use AI in any other ways to assist with any text-based assignments (listening reflections, etc.) or to generate audio or music notation for any purpose in this course.

Other: For additional **Student Resources** and **University Policies and Information**, please those sections on our course Canvas site under the Syllabus Module.

MUAP 4100: 60-Minute Recital (Composition) – Fall 2025

Course Calendar

(assignment due dates subject to change)

Date(s)	Event
8/25 Mon.	- Classes Begin (Group and individual lessons scheduled during Week 1)
9/1 Mon.	- <i>NO CLASSES</i> : Labor Day
9/8 Mon.	- <i>Census Date</i> (Last day to withdraw from course without penalty)
10/15-10/17	- <i>NO LESSONS</i> : Instructor at Victoria Symphony (reschedule)
10/27-11/2	- <i>NO LESSONS</i> : Instructor out of town for conferences (reschedule)
11/3 Mon.	- <i>Withdrawal Deadline</i>
11/24-11/28	- <i>NO CLASSES</i> : Thanksgiving Holiday

No Final Exam. Students enrolled in MUAP 4100 Recital are not required to take a Composition Jury at the end of the semester, but they may choose to opt in to taking one if desired.