

The University of Texas at Tyler

MUSI 4245: Arranging for Ensembles, Spring 2026

Course day and time: **1:25 to 2:20 pm MWF** in FAC 2006

Instructor: Dr. Jeffrey Emge, 566-7045--email: jemge@uttyler.edu

Student Office Hours: FAC 2023 10-12TR, 11-12MWF or by appointment

DESCRIPTION: MUSI 4245 is a summative course in both music education and music theory. It is intended to give a detailed look at writing music arrangements idiomatically for woodwind instruments, brass instruments, choral ensemble, and percussion ensemble. There will be a cursory look at percussion as a family. In addition, this course also gives a summative review of idiomatic music manuscript for instruments. The nature of this course is such that the student will apply both a raw knowledge component (midterm and final exams) and composition synthesis component (four small projects).

PRE-REQUISITES:

- A. Upper-division Music major or music minor status;
- B. Grade of at least C in Music Theory 4. Students who have not passed this course are not allowed to enroll in MUSI 4245.

REQUIRED MATERIALS

1. Knowledge at a basic level of either *Finale*© or *Sibelius*© or *Dorico*© notation software. Finale video tutorials available on CANVAS>>MUSI4245>>MODULES>>FINAL TUTORIALS
2. Access to a quality laptop or desktop computer.
3. Pencils and staff paper for class notes and for sketching compositions.

Staff Paper: For success in this course, students must have manuscript staff paper in class *every day*. Free staff paper can easily be found online: http://www.musictheory.org.uk/manuscript_paper.php or many other places.

ATTENDANCE: All students should attend all classes; this creates habits that make you dependable and employable. You are counted as attending if you arrive no later than 1:30, have your materials with you, are participating, do not wear earbuds or headphones, and are not using your phone. To encourage good attendance habits, early, I have an attendance policy. Excessive absences will affect the final grade. Students are allowed three absences without the final grade being affected. Each absence, starting with the fourth, will lower the semester average by two points. The instructor retains the sole right to determine whether an absence is of an emergency nature that would not count towards the two allowed absences; emergencies are handled on a case-by-case basis. Student participation in UT Tyler-sponsored trips (absences associated with a UT Tyler course in which the student is enrolled) do not count towards the two allowed absences. Students who are habitually tardy will be counseled privately. In the case of chronic tardiness, the instructor reserves the right to reduce the final grade of those students who are habitually and significantly late. **HOWEVER**, if you are legitimately sick, DO NOT COME TO CLASS. For the well-being of both you and the class, you must go to the university clinic or a doctor. After an absence for illness, I must see a note stating you were seen by the university clinic or your own private physician, and cleared to return to class.

HYGIENE: As we still have Covid-19 among us, extra precautions are in place for the entire semester. I ask all students to hand sanitize upon entering the class; a hand sanitizing bottle/station is located at the door to the classroom. Even though the state of Texas forbids public universities to require a mask when indoors, I encourage everyone to wear a mask in crowded places and to receive the free Covid-19 vaccination.

STUDENT DRESS AND CONDUCT: Pajamas or sleep pants are prohibited as dress in this class. Any recording—video and/or audio—of any portion of lectures without express prior approval of instructor is strictly forbidden, and violators will be asked to drop the class and referred for disciplinary proceedings. Students must avoid wearing strong perfumes/after shave in rehearsal, as they can easily trigger allergies. Personal grooming and hygiene are important in group settings, because students must sit for a long time near each other. Students with noticeable body odor will be asked to leave class and charged with an absence. Do not use smartphones to check messages during class. Students wearing any item with political or obscene content will be asked to leave and charged with an absence.

COURSE EVALUATION

20%	"Daily" assignments (grades of 0, 50, 75, 90, or 100 given)
30%	4 Projects (Woodwind, Brass, Choral, Percussion)
25%	Midterm Exam (written, multiple choice exam of 33 or 40 questions)
25%	Final Exam (written, multiple choice exam of 33 or 40 questions)

GRADING SCALE: 90-100% A 80-89% B 70-79% C 60-69% D Below 60% F

All daily assignments are already posted in Canvas under "Assignments"; due dates shown in CANVAS are tentative.

Homework is due at BEGINNING OF CLASS Students who submit daily work or projects more than five minutes after class begins will receive a 25% deduction in grade. Daily work not submitted in class is given a grade of zero; there are no "makeups" (but see statement below). Projects submitted late but not more than one class late will be penalized 25%. Projects submitted more than one week late will not be graded, and a grade of zero will be assigned.

LIFE HAPPENS: You will be allowed ONE daily assignment late—up to one week—with no penalty. Use this wisely.

Statement on Plagiarism and the use of Artificial Intelligence

For any written work involving the writing of paragraphs, papers, or analytical work in prose form, I reserve the right to use Google, Turnitin©, or similar plagiarism detection software to determine if you are the actual author of any written work product involving prose. If I or through Google or Turnitin© detect the likelihood that you either plagiarized work, or copied in whole or in part work from another student, or used Artificial Intelligence to create the work, a grade of zero will be assigned.

Resources for Students

CANVAS>>>MUSI 4245>>>Course Information>>>Student Resources [HERE](#)

CANVAS>>>MUSI 4245>>>Course information>>>University Policies and Information [HERE](#)

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successfully completing MUSI 4245, the student will be able to:

- create a handwritten or computer-generated score for small ensembles
- know the role each instrument plays within their family and between families
- apply idiosyncratic articulation and playing characteristics of each instrument into short arrangements
- arrange music for woodwinds, brass, chorus, and percussion in four or five-part arrangements of no more than 24 measures
- arrange four to six lines of a given poem into a SATB choral texture
- apply a working knowledge of SATB ranges and roles in the choral ensemble

MUSI 4245 Arranging for Ensembles: Tentative Outline

January 12	Introduction to Course
January 14	Writing a Descant/counterpoint
January 16	Music notation for scores and parts
January 19	MLK day-NO CLASSES
January 21	Flute and piccolo
January 23	Flute scoring (all-region band; class may start late)
January 26	Introduction to Oboe and English Horn
January 28	Oboe and English Horn Scoring
January 30	Introduction to Clarinet family
February 2	Clarinet
February 4	Clarinet Scoring
February 6	Introduction to bassoon
February 9	Bassoon scoring; woodwind project (Project #1) assigned
February 11	Introduction to Saxophone
February 13	NO CLASS-TMEA
February 16	Saxophone
February 18	Saxophone Scoring
February 20	Introduction to Brass; Trumpet (might be a video lecture)
February 23	Trumpet Scoring; Project #1 due
February 25	Introduction to Horn
February 27	Horn Scoring
March 2	Midterm Exam
March 4	Introduction to Trombone
March 6	Trombone Scoring; brass project (project #2) assigned
March 7-15	SPRING BREAK
March 16	Euphonium
March 18	Euphonium and Tuba; scoring
March 20	Overview of Chorus
March 23	Creating SATB, SSAATTBB, and other choral scores; Project #2 due
March 25	Choral Roles of soprano and alto; writing for soprano
March 27	Writing for alto; Choral roles of tenor and bass
March 30	Writing for tenor and bass; choral project (project #3) assigned
April 1	Choral Composition: lyrics, melodic rhythm
April 3	Choral Composition: writing a melody; range and scoring
April 6	Choral Composition: harmonization of melody; accompaniment
April 8	Proofing the Choral Score
April 10	Overview of percussion score, transposition, notation; Project #3 due
April 13	Membrane percussion: snare and bass
April 15	Semi-pitched percussion: tenor drums and timpani; percussion project (project #4) assigned
April 17	Keyboard percussion
April 20	Cymbals, tam-tam, crotales
April 22	Auxiliary percussion and notation
April 24	Project #4 due (no class meeting; details TBA)

Final Exam (tentative): Monday April 27, 12:30pm