

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT TYLER
School of Performing Arts

course syllabus for

MUSI 4101: Capstone Project (1 credit hour)

Fall 2026

Tu 11:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. – FAC 1215

Professor: Dr. Kyle Gullings

Office: FAC 1215

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

Office Phone: 903.565.5653

Office Hours: (contact me to set an appointment, or...)

Mondays 10:10 – 11:10 a.m.

Wednesdays 2:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Thursdays 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Course Description: A substantial Capstone Project on a Music research topic submitted as evidence of competence in the major field. May be an outgrowth of studies in music performance (a lecture-recital), music theory, music history, music education, a topics course, non-Music electives, or an independent study project.

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

1. Prepare a **final music project** (lecture-recital, formal paper, other project, etc.) synthesizing knowledge and skills acquired in previous coursework in music and, optionally, one or more other fields.
2. If completing a scholarly project, demonstrate the basic **knowledge and skills of research**, including conducting a literature review, gathering data or other information, drafting, revising, citing, and crafting of a formal paper.

Required Materials: Materials will depend on the project selected.

Grading:

Grade Weighting	Weekly Meeting Progress	30%
	Final Project	70%

Grading Scale	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 project.

Methods of Instruction: Enrolled students will meet weekly with the instructor to receive guidance in the development of their final project, discuss relevant scholarship and trends in the field, assess and develop specific proficiencies aimed at working toward the final project, and set specific goals and directions for the following week. Readings and other outside work may be assigned.

**** Format/Expectations:** In the first few weeks of the semester, the instructor and the student will jointly create a contract outlining the final project format and topic to be approached and relevant outside scholarship to read during the semester. Student progress and grading will be evaluated based on fulfillment of this contract.

**** Attendance Policy:** Weekly attendance is essential and expected. Make-up meetings may not be rescheduled for unexcused absences or due to lack of preparation or progress. Weekly grades are given for each meeting, and absences without advance notice will result in a grade of 0% for that week's meeting. Four (4) “no-show” meetings within a semester may result in an automatic semester grade of “F”, and no further meetings 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 meeting grade will not be impacted, and all

attempts will be made to make up the missed meeting. In all cases, students who must miss a meeting should inform the instructor, with as much advance notice as possible.

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 as soon as possible, and to *document* that absence if an *excused absence* is being requested.

**** 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 reading/writing strategies, project ideas, pedagogical techniques, and lists of outside reading. 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 to fully write or fully edit a draft, final paper, bibliography, or other weekly assignment, or for any other purposes.

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

Capstone Project – Fall 2026

Course Calendar

(subject to change)

Date(s)	Event
8/24 Mon.	- Classes Begin (Weekly meeting day / time scheduled individually)
9/7 Mon.	- <i>NO CLASSES</i> : Labor Day
9/8 Tue.	- <i>Census Date</i> (Last day to withdraw from course without penalty)
9/9 Wed.	(Week 3) Final Project: Proposal / Contract Due on Canvas
10/21 Wed.	(Week 9) Final Project: First Draft / Section Due on Canvas
10/30 Fri.	- <i>Withdrawal Deadline</i>
11/2 Mon.	Registration Begins: Meet CAS Advising and your Music faculty for advising prior to today
11/11 Wed.	(Week 12) Final Project: Second Draft / Section Due on Canvas
11/23-11/27	- <i>NO CLASSES</i> : Thanksgiving Holiday
12/9 Wed.	(Finals Week) Final Project: Final Draft / Section Due 11:59pm on Canvas