

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

*course syllabus for*

**MUAP xx87 (1187, 2187):**  
**Undergraduate Composition (Lower Division)**  
**Spring 2022**  
**By appointment, scheduled during Week 1 – FAC 1215**

**Professor:** Dr. Marcel Castro-Lima

**Office:** FAC 1215

**Email (preferred contact method):** mcastrolima@uttyler.edu

**Office Phone:** 940.735.8231

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

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

or scheduled Zoom meeting.

**Course Description:** MUAP 1187 and 1287 consist weekly applied lessons in Composition at the Freshman/Sophomore grade levels. The focus is on fundamental skills development, technical writing exercises, style copy assignments, and listening assignments. Permission to enroll and appropriate computer call number may be obtained by contacting the music office. Fees will be charged for this course, and are subject to change. Each level of applied lessons may be repeated twice for credit. Location to be defined.

**Prerequisite:** None.

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

1. Complete discrete tasks as assigned involving the fundamentals of music composition: melody, harmony, rhythm, form, texture, timbre, counterpoint, and orchestration.
2. Apply the above aspects of music in the service of small-scale composition assignments with well-defined parameters.
3. Speak knowledgably concerning musical literature, with a particular focus on Common Practice Period music and more contemporary literature.
4. Engrave, edit, and distribute their compositions through use of music notation software.

**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 Assignments Progress (Composition Etudes & Listening Assignments)	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, and the scope and quality of the final Jury (a portfolio of composition etudes and listening assignments).

**Methods of Instruction:** Enrolled students will meet weekly with the instructor in a group setting to discuss assigned music literature listening, receive critiques of their composition etudes and short compositions, and work on building related techniques. This group meeting is in addition to any individual applied composition lessons.

**\*\* 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:** All official 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 the etudes and short assigned compositions completed, representing his/her work over that semester only. If enrolled in individual lessons (upper division), the student should put these shorter technical pieces at the end of the regular Jury binder. The student's work 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 (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. 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.).

*Information for Classrooms and Laboratories:* Students are expected to wear face masks covering their nose and mouth in public settings (including classrooms and laboratories). The UT Tyler community of Patriots views adoption of these practices consistent with its [Honor Code \(Links to an external site.\)](#) and a sign of good citizenship and respectful care of fellow classmates, faculty, and staff.

Students who are feeling ill or experiencing symptoms such as sneezing, coughing, digestive issues (e.g. nausea, diarrhea), or a higher than normal temperature should stay at home and are encouraged to use the [UT Tyler COVID-19 Information and Procedures \(Links to an external site.\)](#) website to review protocols, check symptoms, and report possible exposure. Students needing additional accommodations may contact the Office of Student Accessibility and Resources at University Center 3150, or call (903) 566-7079 or email [saroffice@uttyler.edu](mailto:saroffice@uttyler.edu).