

Composition Skills 2 (MUC 1212)

University of Florida Spring 2026

Instructor: Dr. Scott Lee - scott.lee@ufl.edu

M/W 9:35-10:25 AM, MUB 146

Office: MUB 339 Office Hours: TBA

How to get in touch:

For short questions: E-mail is best. E-mails will generally be answered within 24 hours of receipt, except on weekends.

For everything else: Come to office hours or make an appointment. Office hours are a chance for you to get help on assignments, go over material covered in class, talk about connections between class material and other ideas, and so on. You are strongly encouraged to take advantage of this time.

Course Description:

An introduction to the craft of contemporary music composition through score study, composition projects, assignments, and discussions.

Required Text

Cope, David. *Techniques of the Contemporary Composer*. Schirmer, 1997. ISBN: 0028647378
(Important note: This text is out of print, and copies in various formats can be accessed online.)

Course Materials

Manuscript paper, computer notation software (Dorico or Sibelius are recommended).

Digital Resources

We will make use of Canvas for communication and assignments <https://ufl.instructure.com/>
Please check it frequently.

Additional Course Requirements

Students will also be asked to present their own work and perform on their instruments. Students will present a portfolio of their work to the full composition faculty at composition juries at the end of the semester. All students studying composition are encouraged to attend the weekly composition studio in MUB 144 on Fridays at 12:50pm.

Attendance and Tardy Policy

Students are expected to attend all regularly scheduled classes. Each unexcused absence over three will result in a one-point deduction from your final grade. Any student with six or more unexcused absences will fail the course. An excused absence is an approved UF event, a family emergency, or an illness. If three or more absences result from an extended illness, a doctor's note will need to be provided for those absences to be excused.

Students knowing in advance that they will miss a class must be in contact **beforehand via email**. Please do not schedule non-urgent doctor's appointments during class time. In the case of an absence (excused or unexcused), that student is responsible for determining what material was covered, and what assignments were given.

Attendance will be taken at the beginning of class. Students who are not present when attendance is taken will be marked as tardy. Three tardies will count as one unexcused absence. There are no excused tardies.

Assignments

Over the course of the semester, you'll be assigned a number of short composition assignments focusing on concepts and techniques covered in class. You'll have the opportunity to explore these techniques in greater depth with two more significant composition projects.

Evaluation:

Students will be evaluated through participation & preparation, assignments, and projects:

Participation & Preparation:	10%
Assignments:	45%
Projects:	35%
Final Jury Grade:	10%

Scale:

A = 93-100 / A- = 90-92 / B+ = 87-89 / B = 83-86 / B- = 80-82 / C+ = 77-79 / C = 73-76 C- = 70-72 /
D+ = 67-69 / D = 66-65 / D- = 63-64 / E = 0-62

Late Submission Policy

Late assignment submissions (not including late submissions due to excused absences) will be accepted with a grade deduction of 5% if submitted within 24 hours of the due date, and a 2.5% further reduction for each additional day the assignment is late. Late assignments will be accepted up to two weeks after the initial due date. **Assignments that have not been turned in within two weeks of the original deadline will receive zero credit and will not be accepted afterwards.**

To avoid grade deductions for late submission, students may request due-date extensions for assignments via email at least 24 hours in advance of the original due date. Extensions will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

Technology Policy:

Your attention is your most valuable asset; use it to the best of your ability. I reserve the right to dock your grade and/or ask you to leave class if you are inappropriately using technology in class.

UF Course Policies

University-wide policies and resources can be found here: <https://go.ufl.edu/syllabuspolicies>

Schedule on following Page (subject to change)

Week	Dates	Unit	Topic	Assignment
1	1/12, 1/14	Intro & Rhythm	Introductions, Syllabus, and Asymmetric/Mixed Meters	Asymmetric Meter Assignment
2	1/21		Polyrhythms	Polyrhythm Assignment
3	1/26, 1/28		Isorhythms	Isorhythm Assignment
4	2/2, 2/4	Minimalism	“Classical” Minimalism and Repetition	Minimalism Assignment
5	2/9, 2/11		Phasing	
6	2/16, 2/18		Postminimal Vocal Music	Midterm Project Assigned
7	2/23, 2/25	Professional Development	Professional Development	
8	3/2, 3/4	Midterm Project & Texture	Midterm Project Performances & Postwar Textures	Midterm Project Due Texture Assignment
9	3/9, 3/11		Spatialization	
10	3/23, 3/25	Extended Techniques	Prepared Piano and Extended Techniques for Winds	Extended Technique Assignment
11	3/30, 4/1		Extended Techniques for Strings and Voices	
12	4/6, 4/8	New Notations	Proportional Notation	Final Project Assigned
13	4/13, 4/15	Indeterminacy	Graphic Scores & Indeterminacy	
14	4/20, 4/22	Experimental Music & Final Project	Experimental Music and Final Project Performances	Final Project Due