



**MUC 3232/4242/4950/6930/7931 |
MUS 4905/6973: GRADUATE COMPOSITION**

Spring 2026

Class: Individual, 1-hour lesson per student, [MUB](#) 342

Professor: Dr. Felipe Tovar-Henao (felipe.tovar@ufl.edu), he/him
(you can call me Felipe—pronounced feh-LEE-peh)

Office Hours: Th 3-3:50pm, [MUB](#) 342

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Individual instruction in the craft and art of contemporary music composition through score study, listening assignments, guided exercises, discussions, and composition projects.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Students are expected to demonstrate regular progress on composition projects in weekly meetings, the scope and details of which will be determined in consultation with the instructor. As needed, the Instructor will assign listenings, analyses, readings, and/or exercises that students are expected to complete according to a mutually agreed upon timeline. Students will make every effort to have their compositions performed in public. Students will present a portfolio of their work for the full composition faculty at composition juries at the end of the semester. All students studying composition are required to attend the weekly composition forum, Mondays at 4:05 in room 106B.

REQUIRED MATERIALS

Manuscript paper, computer notation software (Finale, Sibelius, or Dorico are recommended), and sound editing software if applicable.

GRADING

Students will be evaluated through their weekly progress in lessons and a final composition jury.

- Weekly Progress: 75%
- Composition Jury: 25%

Attendance and Engagement/Participation Policy

Students are expected to attend all weekly scheduled meetings. Students knowing in advance that they will miss a meeting due to an excused absence (an approved UF event, a family emergency, or an illness) must contact the instructor via email at least 24 hours prior to the lesson (if possible) to reschedule, otherwise they will not be offered a make-up meeting. Emergencies are the only exception. A student with three unexcused absences or more will have their grade lowered by a full letter grade.

Grading Scale

Letter	%	General Grading Criteria (specific assignment rubrics TBD)
A	93 - 100%	Excellent. Well-prepared and thorough. Shows creativity, diligence, or insight beyond the basic requirements
A-	90 - 92.99%	
B+	87 - 89.99%	
B	83 - 86.99%	
B-	80 - 82.99%	
C+	77 - 79.99%	
C	73 - 76.99%	
C-	70 - 72.99%	
D+	67 - 69.99%	
D	63 - 66.99%	
D-	60 - 62.99%	
E	<60%	Fail. Missing, incomplete, plagiarized, or incoherent.

For more information on grading, visit: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/>

CAMPUS-WIDE POLICIES AND RESOURCES

- E-learning technical support: Contact the [UF Computing Help Desk](#) at [352-392-4357](tel:352-392-4357) or via e-mail at helpdesk@ufl.edu.
- [Career Connections Center](#): Reitz Union Suite 1300, [352-392-1601](tel:352-392-1601). Career assistance and counseling services.
- [Library Support](#): Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources. Call [866-281-6309](tel:866-281-6309) or email ask@ufl.libanswers.com for more information.
- [Academic Resources](#): 1317 Turlington Hall, Call [352-392-2010](tel:352-392-2010), or to make a private appointment: [352-392-6420](tel:352-392-6420). Email contact: teaching-center@ufl.edu. General study skills and tutoring.
- [Writing Studio](#): Daytime (9:30am-3:30pm): 2215 Turlington Hall, [352-846-1138](tel:352-846-1138) | Evening (5:00pm-7:00pm): 1545 W University Avenue (Library West, Rm. 339). Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers.
- Academic Complaints: Office of the Ombuds; [Visit the Complaint Portal webpage for more information](#).
- Enrollment Management Complaints (Registrar, Financial Aid, Admissions): [View the Student Complaint Procedure webpage for more information](#).
- UF Student Success Initiative: Visit <https://studentsuccess.ufl.edu/> for resources that support your success as a UF student.
- [Public Speaking Lab](#): (Dial Center, 501 Rolfs Hall). Offering online and in-person help developing, organizing, and practicing oral presentations. Contact email: publicspeakinglab@clas.ufl.edu.

Academic Integrity

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states "We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment." The Conduct Code specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. [See the UF Conduct Code website for more information](#). If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to me.

Campus Health and Wellness Resources

- UF Whole Gator Resources: Visit <https://one.uf.edu/whole-gator/discover> for resources that are designed to help you thrive physically, mentally, and emotionally at UF.

Students Requesting Accommodations

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the Disability Resource Center. [See the "Get Started With the DRC" webpage on the Disability Resource Center site](#). It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.

Evaluations

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online. Students can complete evaluations in three ways:

- The email they receive from GatorEvals
- Their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals
- The central portal at <https://my-ufl.bluera.com>

Guidance on how to provide constructive feedback is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>.

Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

Information about university-wide policies and resources can be found at:

<https://syllabus.ufl.edu/syllabus-policy/uf-syllabus-policy-links/>

WEEKLY CLASS SCHEDULE

NB: this schedule is very likely to change as student interest, and group pacing dictates. Thanks in advance for your flexibility!

Topics covered will include, but are not limited to:

- Generating composition material
- Strategies and techniques for developing, extending, and manipulating material
- Working within compositional constraints and limitations
- Creating variety and contrast
- Manipulating non-pitched parameters
- Employment of compositional processes
- Contemporary notation