

The University of Texas at El Paso
MUST 3218: Music Theory VI (Orchestration)
Spring 2017 / 2 Credits
TR 12:00-12:50 PM / Fox Fine Arts 101

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Dominic Dousa
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OFFICE HOURS: TBA

For information about the instructor, please see <http://faculty.utep.edu/ddousa>

Prerequisites: A minimum grade of 'C' in MUST 2112 (Aural Skills IV) *and* MUST 2314 (Music Theory IV); a passing score on the Music Theory Advancement Exam

COURSE MATERIALS

- Required Textbook: Adler, *The Study of Orchestration*, 4th edition (W.W. Norton & Company, 2016)
- Finale or Sibelius notation software. These programs are available in Prospect Lab 308, and Finale is also accessible at the Music Library.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

▪ This course involves the study of instrumentation and orchestration. Through intense study of scores and orchestration exercises, students will familiarize themselves with the individual instruments of the modern-day band and orchestra, and gain an understanding of how they are effectively employed in combination in the context of a musical composition. Projects will involve preparation of scores in a professional manner.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to

- understand and explain the capabilities of individual instruments, as well as the terminology related to their technique.
- set existing or original music for small and large ensembles in a stylistic manner.
- use notation software programs to prepare professional scores for these settings.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

▪ *Class Participation.* Active involvement is very important in this class, as class meetings will include a discussion and analysis of assigned readings and exercises. While there is not an explicit participation component in the calculation of the overall semester grade, students are expected to contribute in a meaningful manner to the discussion for every class period. **More than two unexcused absences will result in the lowering of the overall semester grade by 2% for each unexcused absence.**

Any devices that may cause a disturbance (pagers, cell phones, etc.) must be turned off prior to class.

▪ *Homework.* There will homework assigned regularly to prepare for and to supplement class discussions. Assignments are due at the beginning of class. Specific content for the assignments and due dates will be announced in class. **No credit will be awarded for late assignments due to an unexcused absence.**

▪ *Quizzes.* Quizzes will be given occasionally to reinforce important concepts and information. **Missed quizzes due to an unexcused absence cannot be made up.**

- *Short Projects.* For each instrument family, there will be a short orchestration project involving the setting of a short piece or excerpt for an ensemble of instruments for that family (and possibly others previously studied).
- *Final Project.* Each student will prepare an orchestration of a short piece or excerpt that demonstrates an effective use of large ensemble (band or orchestra).

TENTATIVE SEMESTER SCHEDULE

WEEK	DATES	LECTURE TOPIC	PROJECT
1	January 17, 19	Introduction / Individual String Instruments	
2	January 24, 26	Individual String Instruments (continued)	
3	January 31, February 2	Writing for String Ensemble	
4	February 7, 9	Individual Woodwind Instruments	
5	February 14, 16	Individual Woodwind Instruments (continued), Writing for Woodwind Ensemble	String Project (Due 2/14)
6	February 21, 23	Individual Brass Instruments	
7	February 28, March 2	Individual Brass Instruments (continued)	
8	March 7, 9	Writing for Brass Ensemble	Woodwind Project (Due 3/7)
	March 13-17	SPRING BREAK	
9	March 21, 23	Individual Percussion Instruments	
10	March 28, 30	Individual Percussion Instruments (continued)	Brass Project (Due 3/28)
11	April 4, 6	Scoring for Full Orchestra	
12	April 11, 13	Scoring for Full Orchestra (continued)	
13	April 18, 20	Scoring for Concert Band	Percussion Project (Due 4/18)
14	April 25, 27	Scoring for Concert Band (continued)	
15	May 2, 4	Scoring for Other Ensembles	
FINALS WEEK	May 8-12	Final Exam (Tuesday, 5/9; 1:00-3:45 PM)	Final Orchestration Project (Due 5/9)

GRADING

• Grades will be calculated based on homework & quizzes, the four short projects, and the final project. Each component will be calculated as a percentage score (for example, if you earn 40 out of a possible 50 points on a project, your percentage score for that component would be $40/50 * 100 = 80.0\%$). These scores will be weighted according to the following outline in determining your final grade. A sample semester grade calculation is provided below.

<u>Component</u>	<u>% of Overall Grade</u>	<u>Grading Scale</u>	
Homework & Quizzes	10%	90% and above	A
Instrumental Family Projects	15% each (60% total)	80% up to 90%	B
Final Project	30%	70% up to 80%	C
		60% up to 70%	D
		Below 60%	F

• For students with final grades within 1% of the next grade level (59%, 69%, 79%, 89%), the instructor may assign a higher grade if the student has (1) attended class regularly, (2) not missed homework or quizzes, (3) demonstrated *consistent* effort in mastering class material, and (4) shown improvement throughout the semester.

SAMPLE SEMESTER GRADE CALCULATION

Homework & Quizzes: 103 out of 125 total points earned = 82.4%

Short Project 1: 43 out of 50 points earned = 86.0%

Short Project 2: 48 out of 50 points earned = 96.0%

Short Project 3: 46 out of 50 points earned = 92.0%

Short Project 4: 49 out of 50 points earned = 98.0%

Final Project: 94 out of 100 points earned = 94.0%

Final Grade: $.10*82.4 + .15*86.0 + .15*96.0 + .15*92.0 + .15*98.0 + .30*94.0 = 92.2 = A$

OTHER COURSE INFORMATION

- Census Day is Wednesday, February 1. This is the last day to drop a course without a grade of 'W'.
- A grade of 'W' will be reported only if the student withdraws from the course by the Course Drop Deadline (Thursday, March 30).
- A grade of 'I' will be reported only if extenuating circumstances (extended illness, legal matters, emergency) prevent the student from completing the course. An 'I' will not be given as a substitute for a failing grade. The student and instructor will determine a timetable for completion of all course requirements in a time frame that is in accordance with UTEP policy.
- *Academic Dishonesty.* Cheating is unethical, not acceptable, and a serious matter. Students found to be cheating will be subject to disciplinary action according to UTEP policy. For more information, please see <http://sa.utep.edu/osccr/academic-integrity/>.
- *Special Needs.* I will make any reasonable accommodations for students with limitations due to disabilities, including learning disabilities. Please see me personally before or after class in the first two weeks or make an appointment to discuss any special needs you might have. If you have a documented disability and require specific accommodations, you will need to contact the Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) at 747-5148 or at cass@utep.edu, or stop by at Room 106 in the Union East Building.

****PLEASE NOTE: The information on this syllabus is subject to change. Any changes will be announced in class and/or via email.**