

The University of Texas at El Paso
MUST 3218: Music Theory VI (Orchestration)
Spring 2025 / 2 Credits
MW 9:30-10:20 AM / Fox Fine Arts 102

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Dominic Dousa OFFICE: Fox Fine Arts 401C OFFICE HOURS: TBA
OFFICE PHONE: (915) 747-7819 EMAIL: ddousa@utep.edu _____

For information about the instructor, please click [here](#) (UTEP Department of Music website).

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

- MuseScore, Finale, or Sibelius notation software.

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 orchestra and band, 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.

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. Some of the homework assignments will serve as preliminary work for your final orchestration project. **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.**

▪ *Final Orchestration 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 | TOPIC |
|----------------|-------------------|---|
| 1 | January 22 | Introduction |
| 2 | January 27, 29 | Individual String Instruments (continued) |
| 3 | February 3, 5 | Writing for String Ensemble |
| 4 | February 10, 12 | Individual Woodwind Instruments |
| 5 | February 17, 19 | Individual Woodwind Instruments (continued), Writing for Woodwind Ensemble |
| 6 | February 24, 26 | Individual Brass Instruments |
| 7 | March 3, 5 | Individual Brass Instruments (continued) |
| | March 10-14 | SPRING BREAK |
| 8 | March 17, 19 | Percussion Instruments / Scoring for Full Orchestra |
| 9 | March 24, 26 | Scoring for Full Orchestra (continued) |
| 10 | March 31, April 2 | Individual / Group Meetings for Projects |
| 11 | April 7, 9 | Individual Meetings for Projects (times TBA) |
| 12 | April 14, 16 | Individual / Group Meetings for Projects |
| 13 | April 21, 23 | Individual Meetings for Projects (times TBA) |
| 14 | April 28, 30 | Individual Meetings for Projects (times TBA) |
| 15 | May 5, 7 | Preparation of Parts |
| FINALS WEEK | May 12-14 | (*FINAL ORCHESTRATION PROJECT DUE) |

* Assignments will be given almost every class, covering the main topic of study. Specific content for the assignments and due dates will be announced in class. Dates for quizzes will also be announced in class.

GRADING

• Grades will be calculated based on homework & quizzes, and the final project. Each component will be calculated as a percentage score (for example, if you earn 310 out of a possible 340 points for the homework & quizzes throughout the semester, your percentage score for that component would be $310/340 * 100 = 91.2\%$). 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 | 50% | 90% and above | A |
| Final Project | 50% | 80% up to 90% | B |
| | | 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) demonstrated consistent effort in mastering class material, and (3) shown a trajectory of improvement in completing the final project.

SAMPLE SEMESTER GRADE CALCULATION

Homework & Quizzes: 303 out of 360 total points earned = 84.2%

Final Project: 92 out of 100 points earned = 92.0%

Final Grade: $.50*84.2 + .50*92.0 = 88.1 = B$

OTHER COURSE INFORMATION

- Census Day 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. Please check UTEP's Academic Calendar for specific dates.
- 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 <https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/osccr/student-conduct/academic-integrity.html>.
- *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.**