EXPANDED COURSE DESCRIPTION
MUSIC
School of the Arts, Media, Performance and Design
Music Department
FA / MUSI 4140 6.0 SECTION A
COMPOSING FOR FILM
FALL 2020 / WINTER 2021

COURSE CALENDAR DESCRIPTION

Course offers advanced composition studies involving the creation of several recorded soundtracks for motion media. The focus is on finding ways to add value and meaning to a media project through musical expression, creativity and exploration. Topics will include using a DAW (Digital Audio Workstation), aesthetic considerations, film history, and the professional aspects of being a motion-media composer. Prerequisite: MUSI 3141 Introduction to Scoring for Film, Games, and Motion Media, or permission of the instructor.

INSTRUCTOR(S)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Section / Format / Term</th>
<th>Contact Email</th>
<th>Contact Phone</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Peters, Randolph</td>
<td>Sec. A / STDO / Y</td>
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SPECIAL FEATURES

Composing For Film
FA/MUSI 4140 6.0 Y 2020/21
Course Director: Professor Randolph Peters
rand@yorku.ca

Taught remotely via Zoom, Thursdays 11:30 am to 2:30 pm Eastern

1. Special Features

The art of composing for film, or other digital media, requires the use of technological tools as well as the mastery of the related subjects of musical orchestration, counterpoint, and notation. The main focus of the course however, will be on finding ways to add value and meaning to a media project through musical expression, creativity and exploration.

Technical Requirements for Taking the Course: Computer with webcam; built-in mic, or preferably, a good quality USB mic; stable, high-speed internet; and DAW (Digital Audio Workstation) software capable of synchronizing audio with video. Choices of DAW include (in order of preference): Logic Pro X (Mac), ProTools (Mac, PC), Cubase (Mac, PC), Nuendo (Mac, PC), Reaper (Mac, PC), among others.

2. Topics and Concepts

Topics will include using a DAW (Digital Audio Workstation), aesthetic considerations, film history, and the professional aspects of being a motion-media composer.
DAW skills include understanding MIDI and “MIDIstration,” sampling and sample playback; audio recording, sequencing, and synchronization with film. Software: primarily Logic Pro X and Kontakt. Also Finale, Sibelius, Reason, Audacity, Ableton Live among others.

Other topics include 1) Audio Recording and Mixing, 2) Sound Design, and 3) Composing for Video Games.

Readings and media examples will be distributed in class and on eClass (formerly known as Moodle).

3. Learning Outcomes with Examples

Assignments will generate discussion about concepts related to film scoring. Film excerpts of various genre (e.g., drama, comedy, action, suspense, documentary) will be scored using the DAW. Assignments will be customized to meet the student’s background and experience with these tools. The student’s musical compositions will be shared and discussed in class.

Students will not only learn how to use film scoring software and expand their range as composers, they will start to build a portfolio, which is essential to finding employment in the field.

4. Graded Assessment

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<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation/Attendance/Effort/Exploration</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quizzes -based on asynchronous viewing</td>
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<tr>
<td>of required videos &amp; films</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scoring Assignment #1 (Fall)</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>MIDIstrating John Williams (Fall)</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scoring Assignment #2 (Winter)</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Vertical Composing for Video Games</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scoring Assignment #3 (Winter-Final)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>- “Wrought”</td>
<td>25%</td>
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5. Additional Information

Recommended Equipment:

1) Sequencing in a DAW is much easier with a MIDI keyboard. An 88-key MIDI device is good for pianists, but a 49-key (or more) MIDI keyboard will also work.
2) A good quality, portable mic, that can also act as an audio interface, is a valuable tool for recording performances as well as creating new samples.

Attendance is mandatory. Assignments are due at the beginning of class. Exceptions for valid reasons such as illness, compassionate grounds and so on, may be entertained by the Course Director.

Academic Policies / Information

The Senate Academic Standards, Curriculum and Pedagogy (ASCP) provides a Student Information Sheet that includes:

- York's Academic Honesty Policy and Procedures / Academic Integrity Web site
- Access/Disability
- Ethics Review Process for Research Involving Human Participants
- Religious Observance Accommodation
- Student Code of Conduct
Additional information:

- Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities
- Alternate Exam and Test Scheduling
- Grading Scheme and Feedback Policy
  The Senate Grading Scheme and Feedback Policy stipulates that (a) the grading scheme (i.e. kinds and weights of assignments, essays, exams, etc.) be announced, and be available in writing, within the first two weeks of class, and that, (b) under normal circumstances, graded feedback worth at least 15% of the final grade for Fall, Winter or Summer Term, and 30% for ‘full year’ courses offered in the Fall/Winter Term be received by students in all courses prior to the final withdrawal date from a course without receiving a grade.

- Important University Sessional Dates (you will find classes and exams start/end dates, reading/co-curricular week, add/drop deadlines, holidays, University closings and more.
  https://registrar.yorku.ca/enrol/dates

- "20% Rule"
  No examinations or tests collectively worth more than 20% of the final grade in a course will be given during the final 14 calendar days of classes in a term. The exceptions to the rule are classes which regularly meet Friday evenings or on Saturday and/or Sunday at any time, and courses offered in the compressed summer terms.

  Final course grades may be adjusted to conform to Program or Faculty grades distribution profiles.

Many courses utilize Moodle, York University’s course website system. If your course is using Moodle, click here to access it.

Moodle @ York University