**MUSI 3392** Composition

Fall 2013

**Instructor:** George B. Chave

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**Office Hours:** MWF 10-11. And by appointment. Please email me to schedule an appointment.

**Section Information:** MUSI 3392 Section 001

**Time and Place of Class Meetings:** FAB #307 time TBA

**Description of Course Content:** Course designed to meet the needs of students desiring to become composers or teachers of composition.

**Student Learning Outcomes:** Students will learn to express their compositional ideas through larger scale compositions. Students will synthesize material learned in Compositional Techniques and Theory IV. Over the five semester sequence Theory/Composition majors will create a portfolio of compositions and recordings. Students will learn to tap their creative abilities and will work toward developing a personal style.

**Required Textbooks and Other Course Materials:**

Staff paper, pencil and eraser. Students must become familiar (and facile) with

a music notation software package.

**Descriptions of major assignments and examinations:**

Composition I students will complete two or three projects throughout the semester.

Each project will incorporate several aspects of contemporary musical language agreed upon by the student and instructor. Students are expected to compose a minimum of ten minutes of music during the semester. Formal aspects of the music composed will likely be modeled on pre-existing works.

**Attendance:** Students are expected to attend lessons on a regular (weekly) basis. Three or more absences (unexcused or excused) will result in a failing grade for that semester. Students are encouraged to attend at least one Major Ensemble performance of each of the Major Ensembles (Wind and Percussion, Choral, Strings) to establish connections with cohorts (for eventual performances of their own work).

**Other Requirements:** Prerequisite: B or better in MUSI 2227, 2325, 2326, and 2186 and a passing grade on the Music Theory barrier exam.

**PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT:** Students are expected to be respectful toward their instructor. It is appropriate to address your instructor as Professor X or Doctor Y. Your instructors have spent a good portion of their lives mastering their respective disciplines. They have also spent a good portion of their time preparing to teach your class. In reciprocity, please prepare for class. Do your homework. Read the relevant material in the text (even when it is not assigned). Ask relevant and appropriate questions in class. It is assumed you are here to become a professional musician (as a performer, teacher, audio engineer, producer, theorist, composer, musicologist, etc.). Whatever your chosen discipline, the course work in your degree plan is chosen because of its relevance to your professional aspirations. Therefore, please give your instructor your full and undivided attention. Nothing appears quite so disrepectful to an instructor as the student who is staring down at his or her cell phone, whispering to his or her cohort, reading the Shorthorn or otherwise engaging in activity that is not directly related to the topic at hand. Be patient of other students’ questions, and attend carefully to their words and the instructor’s response. Instructors are eager to find alternative methods to present a concept if students are struggling. Instructors are less inclined to respond to a question that was posed five minutes earlier. Email or call your instructor if you cannot make it to a class (before class begins). Email or call a classmate to find out what assignments or class materials you may have missed. (Don’t ask your instructor “what was the homework?”) Further, do not ask your instructor to use an office hour to “reteach” a class that you missed. Read the relevant chapter, ask a cohort for clarification, work with a tutor, THEN schedule an office appointment with your instructor to clarify any difficult concepts. Walking into class late once is a forgiveable offense (although disruptive). Routinely walking into class late is not only disruptive, but demonstrates a blatant disregard for your fellow classmates’ and your instructor’s time. It indicates that you are incapable of managing the most basic tasks in life. To remedy situations arising from a student’s inability to comport him- or herself in a professional manner the instructor may (a) remove a cell-phone, computer, other electronic device or newspaper from the student for the remainder of the class period; (b) ask the student to leave the classroom for the remainder of the class period; (c) lock the door to the classroom after attendance has been taken; (d) ask the student to make appropriate amends to the party(ies) to whom he or she has been discourteous in the form of a public and/or private written and/or verbal apology, with the expectation that the student will change his or her future behaviour to conform to professional conduct as outlined here.

**Grading**:

90-100: **A** 80-89: **B** 70-79: **C** 60-69: **D** below 60: **F**

Student will keep a notebook containing compositions. Compositions will be graded on basic competence with material, musicality, performability, and competence in formal organization of material.

**Expectations for Out-of-Class Study**: A general rule of thumb is this: for every credit hour earned, a student should spend 3 hours per week working outside of class. Hence, a 3-credit course might have a minimum expectation of 9 hours of reading, study, etc. Beyond the time required to attend each class meeting, students enrolled in this course should expect to spend at least an additional 9 hours per week of their own time in course-related activities, including reading required materials, completing assignments, preparing for exams, etc.

Makeup Policy: Only under extenuating circumstances will makeup assignments be accepted or makeup exams be offered. If students know they will be out of town or unable to attend an exam for any reason, they should inform the instructor in advance.

**Grade Grievances**: Any appeal of a grade in this course must follow the procedures and deadlines for grade-related grievances as published in the current undergraduate / graduate catalog.

**Drop Policy:**  Students may drop or swap (adding and dropping a class concurrently) classes through self-service in MyMav from the beginning of the registration period through the late registration period. After the late registration period, students must see their academic advisor to drop a class or withdraw. Undeclared students must see an advisor in the University Advising Center. Drops can continue through a point two-thirds of the way through the term or session. It is the student's responsibility to officially withdraw if they do not plan to attend after registering. **Students will not be automatically dropped for non-attendance**. Repayment of certain types of financial aid administered through the University may be required as the result of dropping classes or withdrawing. For more information, contact the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships (<http://wweb.uta.edu/ses/fao>).

**Americans with Disabilities Act:** The University of Texas at Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of all federal equal opportunity legislation, including the *Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)*. All instructors at UT Arlington are required by law to provide "reasonable accommodations" to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. Any student requiring an accommodation for this course must provide the instructor with official documentation in the form of a letter certified by the staff in the Office for Students with Disabilities, University Hall 102. Only those students who have officially documented a need for an accommodation will have their request honored. Information regarding diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining disability-based academic accommodations can be found at [www.uta.edu/disability](http://www.uta.edu/disability) or by calling the Office for Students with Disabilities at (817) 272-3364.

**Academic Integrity:**  All students enrolled in this course are expected to adhere to the UT Arlington Honor Code:

*I pledge, on my honor, to uphold UT Arlington’s tradition of academic integrity, a tradition that values hard work and honest effort in the pursuit of academic excellence.*

*I promise that I will submit only work that I personally create or contribute to group collaborations, and I will appropriately reference any work from other sources. I will follow the highest standards of integrity and uphold the spirit of the Honor Code.*

Instructors may employ the Honor Code as they see fit in their courses, including (but not limited to) having students acknowledge the honor code as part of an examination or requiring students to incorporate the honor code into any work submitted. Per UT System *Regents’ Rule* 50101, §2.2, suspected violations of university’s standards for academic integrity (including the Honor Code) will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. Violators will be disciplined in accordance with University policy, which may result in the student’s suspension or expulsion from the University.

**Student Support Services**:UT Arlington provides a variety of resources and programs designed to help students develop academic skills, deal with personal situations, and better understand concepts and information related to their courses. Resources include tutoring, major-based learning centers, developmental education, advising and mentoring, personal counseling, and federally funded programs. For individualized referrals, students may visit the reception desk at University College (Ransom Hall), call the Maverick Resource Hotline at 817-272-6107, send a message to [resources@uta.edu](mailto:resources@uta.edu), or view the information at [www.uta.edu/resources](http://www.uta.edu/resources).

**Electronic Communication:** UT Arlington has adopted MavMail as its official means to communicate with students about important deadlines and events, as well as to transact university-related business regarding financial aid, tuition, grades, graduation, etc. All students are assigned a MavMail account and are responsible for checking the inbox regularly. There is no additional charge to students for using this account, which remains active even after graduation. Information about activating and using MavMail is available at <http://www.uta.edu/oit/cs/email/mavmail.php>.

**Student Feedback Survey:** At the end of each term, students enrolled in classes categorized as lecture, seminar, or laboratory shall be directed to complete a Student Feedback Survey (SFS). Instructions on how to access the SFS for this course will be sent directly to each student through MavMail approximately 10 days before the end of the term. Each student’s feedback enters the SFS database anonymously and is aggregated with that of other students enrolled in the course. UT Arlington’s effort to solicit, gather, tabulate, and publish student feedback is required by state law; students are strongly urged to participate. For more information, visit <http://www.uta.edu/sfs>.

**Final Review Week:** A period of five class days prior to the first day of final examinations in the long sessions shall be designated as Final Review Week. The purpose of this week is to allow students sufficient time to prepare for final examinations. During this week, there shall be no scheduled activities such as required field trips or performances; and no instructor shall assign any themes, research problems or exercises of similar scope that have a completion date during or following this week *unless specified in the class syllabus*. During Final Review Week, an instructor shall not give any examinations constituting 10% or more of the final grade, except makeup tests and laboratory examinations. In addition, no instructor shall give any portion of the final examination during Final Review Week. During this week, classes are held as scheduled. In addition, instructors are not required to limit content to topics that have been previously covered; they may introduce new concepts as appropriate.

**Emergency Exit Procedures:** Should we experience an emergency event that requires us to vacate the building, students should exit the room and move toward the nearest exit, which is located at the end of the hallway, towards 301. When exiting the building during an emergency, one should never take an elevator but should use the stairwells. Faculty members and instructional staff will assist students in selecting the safest route for evacuation and will make arrangements to assist handicapped individuals.

**Course Schedule**

**While the instructor strives to conform to the following schedule, please be advised there are times when it is conducive to student learning that course schedules must be altered and adapted. The instructor reserves the right to alter the course schedule.**

Week 1 Consultation on project I. Decisions made regarding instrumentation, technical aspects of composing, technical abilities of instruments, formal requirements

Week 2-7 Weekly meetings. Review of each previous week’s work (at least 30 measures of music each week). Recommendations for revisions, rewrites. Editing and making performance ready scores.

Week 8 Consultation on project II. Decisions made regarding instrumentation, technical aspects of composing, technical abilities of instruments, formal requirements

Week 9-14 Weekly meetings. Review of each previous week’s work (at least 30 measures of music each week). Recommendations for revisions, rewrites. Editing and making performance ready scores.

Week 15 To the extent possible student should secure performers for each of the projects composed during the semester for an informal reading of the works produced.