

# COURSE SYLLABUS



COURSE TITLE: MUSC-143: Introduction to Songwriting

CLASS SECTION: 001

TERM: 2022F

COURSE CREDITS: 2

DELIVERY METHOD(S): In-class

Camosun College campuses are located on the traditional territories of the Lək̓ʷəŋən and W̱SÁNEĆ peoples. We acknowledge their welcome and graciousness to the students who seek knowledge here.

Learn more about Camosun's [Territorial Acknowledgement](#).

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For COVID-19 information please visit <https://legacy.camosun.ca/covid19/index.html>.

*Camosun College requires mandatory attendance for the first class meeting of each course. If you do not attend, and do not provide your instructor with a reasonable explanation in advance, you will be removed from the course and the space offered to the next waitlisted student.*

## INSTRUCTOR DETAILS

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NAME: Wynn Gogol  
EMAIL: [vcm.wgogol@gmail.com](mailto:vcm.wgogol@gmail.com)  
OFFICE: NA  
HOURS: Friday: 10:00-11:50

*As your course instructor, I endeavour to provide an inclusive learning environment. However, if you experience barriers to learning in this course, do not hesitate to discuss them with me. Camosun College is committed to identifying and removing institutional and social barriers that prevent access and impede success.*

## CALENDAR DESCRIPTION

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Students will learn compositional techniques of writing music for solo vocals with instrumental accompaniment, including creating melodies and lyrics over instrumental accompaniments supplied by the instructor. Emphasis will be placed on creativity, performance and collaboration. Students will be expected to create up to 3 original songs. Students will demonstrate individual songwriting progress during informal in-class performances, supported by the instructor and/or fellow students. Some instructor-mentored collaborative work will be expected.

### PREREQUISITE(S):

One of:

- C in English 11
- C in Camosun Alternative
- C in ELD 072
- C in ENGL 050 (if taken prior to September 2020)

### CO-REQUISITE(S):

Not applicable

## EXCLUSION(S):

Not applicable

## COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES / OBJECTIVES

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Upon successful completion of this course a student will be able to:

1. Develop a central hook and simple verse song form as the basis for creating a compelling original song;
2. Write original lyrics that expand upon a theme and focus on a specific emotional outcome for the listener;
3. Create an original melody that underscores and enhances the narrative message in the lyric;
4. Demonstrate rudimentary knowledge of contemporary music theory and history;
5. Work with fellow students as part of a collaborative singer-songwriting process.

## REQUIRED MATERIALS & RECOMMENDED PREPARATION / INFORMATION

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1. Text book: *The Artful Songwriter* (available through The Bookstore)
2. Loose leaf paper, pencil and eraser
3. Your instrument (eg. guitar, keyboard, laptop)
4. Recording device (eg. cell phone voice memo app)

Please familiarize yourself with <https://www.rhymezone.com>

## COURSE SCHEDULE, TOPICS, AND ASSOCIATED PREPARATION / ACTIVITY / EVALUATION

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The following schedule and course components are subject to change with reasonable advance notice, as deemed appropriate by the instructor.

Pillar 1: Generating song ideas (starting and finishing)

Pillar 2: Emotion: Lyrics and melody

Pillar 3: Artist studies

Pillar 4: Setting useful goals

Pillar 5: Intro to popular harmony

WEEK or DATE RANGE	ACTIVITY or TOPIC	OTHER NOTES
<b>Week 1</b>	<i>Introduction to MUSC 143</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Where do song ideas come from?</li><li>• What's a first idea?</li><li>• Top-line exercise</li></ul>	<b>Reading assignment:</b> <i>The Artful Songwriter</i> , pp.14-25
<b>Week 2</b>	<i>Writing Creative Lyrics 1</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• RanDOM: iDea geNeRAtion</li><li>• Sensory writing</li><li>• Toggling</li><li>• Top-line exercise</li></ul>	<b>Reading:</b> <i>TAS</i> , pp.67-86
<b>Week 3</b>	<i>Writing Creative Lyrics 2</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Story arc</li><li>• Rule of three</li><li>• Specific is universal</li><li>• Top-line exercise</li></ul>	<b>Reading:</b> <i>TAS</i> , pp.87-109

WEEK or DATE RANGE	ACTIVITY or TOPIC	OTHER NOTES
<b>Week 4</b>	<i>Writing Creative Lyrics 3</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Songwriting perspectives</li> <li>• Rhythm in language</li> <li>• Common meter</li> <li>• Top-line exercise</li> </ul>	<b>Reading:</b> TAS, pp.111-119
<b>Week 5</b>	<i>Finishing Songs</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• When is it a hook?</li> <li>• Repetition</li> <li>• The scaffold: verse, chorus/refrain</li> <li>• Top-line exercise</li> </ul>	<b>Reading:</b> TAS, pp.26-41
<b>Week 6</b>	<i>The Singer's Approach to Songwriting</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The vocalist as songwriter</li> <li>• Orbiting around the singer</li> <li>• Creating exciting moments in performance</li> <li>• Top-line exercise</li> </ul>	
<b>Week 7</b>	<i>The Guitar Player's Approach to Songwriting</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The guitar-centric songwriter</li> <li>• The cool guitar part</li> <li>• Creating exciting moments in performance</li> <li>• Top-line exercise</li> </ul>	
<b>Week 8</b>	<i>Intro to Popular Harmony 1</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The basics: I,IV &amp; V chords</li> <li>• Starting and Stopping</li> <li>• The diatonic colour palette</li> <li>• Top-line exercise</li> </ul>	<b>Reading:</b> TAS, pp.135-50
<b>Week 9</b>	<i>Intro to Popular Harmony 2</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Using harmony to paint emotions</li> <li>• Intro to modes: The dark side</li> <li>• Chord loops</li> <li>• Top-line exercise</li> </ul>	<b>Reading:</b> TAS, pp.151-153
<b>Week 10</b>	<i>Artist Focus: DJ &amp; MC</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What's hip hop culture?</li> <li>• Authenticity</li> <li>• Public domain vs appropriation</li> <li>• Top-line exercise</li> </ul>	
<b>Week 11</b>	<i>Melodic Writing 1</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RanDOM: iDea geNerAtion</li> <li>• High vs. low</li> <li>• Rhythm</li> <li>• Top-line exercise</li> </ul>	<b>Reading:</b> TAS, pp.42-50
<b>Week 12</b>	<i>Melodic Writing 2</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chords and melody</li> <li>• Top-line exercise</li> <li>• Song circle</li> </ul>	<b>Reading:</b> TAS, pp.50-65
<b>Week 13</b>	<i>Course review</i>	
<b>Week 14</b>	<i>Oral Presentations</i> Song Exploder topics	
	Final exam - song performances TBA	

Students registered with the Centre for Accessible Learning (CAL) who complete quizzes, tests, and exams with academic accommodations have booking procedures and deadlines with CAL where advanced notice is required. Deadlines can be reviewed on the [CAL exams page](http://camosun.ca/services/accessible-learning/exams.html). <http://camosun.ca/services/accessible-learning/exams.html>

## EVALUATION OF LEARNING

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DESCRIPTION	WEIGHTING
In-class participation	15%
1500-word essay	20%
10-minute oral presentation (Song Exploder)	20%
Two new original songs 1. An emotional song using verse/chorus/bridge form 2. Simple verse with refrain, minor key	25%
Final exam	20%
<b>TOTAL</b>	100%

If you have a concern about a grade you have received for an evaluation, please come and see me as soon as possible. Refer to the [Grade Review and Appeals](http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.14.pdf) policy for more information. <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.14.pdf>

## COURSE GUIDELINES & EXPECTATIONS

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- Sharing creative work during class is encouraged
- Students will be required to write two original songs within the course timeframe, based on sketches and ideas developed in class. Song performances for final grading will likely be in-person
- Material covered by assigned readings may not be covered during class time, but will be fair game for the final exam

## SCHOOL OR DEPARTMENTAL INFORMATION

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**SCHOOL:** Camosun Arts and Science

**DEPARTMENT:** Music (Victoria Conservatory of Music)

*Through its partnership with the Victoria Conservatory of Music, Camosun offers three music programs in classical and contemporary disciplines, with courses at the foundational level, in music technologies, and in music performance.*

**All Music Program students are registered Camosun College students entitled to receive all services – including but not limited to academic and personal support – as provided by both Camosun College and the Victoria Conservatory of Music. Music Program students are bound by all policies – including but not limited to**

academic, administrative, and personal conduct policies – of both Camosun College and the Victoria Conservatory of Music.

## STUDENT RESPONSIBILITY

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Enrolment at Camosun assumes that the student will become a responsible member of the College community. As such, each student will display a positive work ethic, assist in the preservation of College property, and assume responsibility for their education by researching academic requirements and policies; demonstrating courtesy and respect toward others; and respecting expectations concerning attendance, assignments, deadlines, and appointments.

## SUPPORTS AND SERVICES FOR STUDENTS

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Camosun College offers a number of services to help you succeed in and out of the classroom. For a detailed overview of the supports and services visit <http://camosun.ca/students/>.

Academic Advising	<a href="http://camosun.ca/advising">http://camosun.ca/advising</a>
Accessible Learning	<a href="http://camosun.ca/accessible-learning">http://camosun.ca/accessible-learning</a>
Counselling	<a href="http://camosun.ca/counselling">http://camosun.ca/counselling</a>
Career Services	<a href="http://camosun.ca/coop">http://camosun.ca/coop</a>
Financial Aid and Awards	<a href="http://camosun.ca/financialaid">http://camosun.ca/financialaid</a>
Help Centres (Math/English/Science)	<a href="http://camosun.ca/help-centres">http://camosun.ca/help-centres</a>
Indigenous Student Support	<a href="http://camosun.ca/indigenous">http://camosun.ca/indigenous</a>
International Student Support	<a href="http://camosun.ca/international/">http://camosun.ca/international/</a>
Learning Skills	<a href="http://camosun.ca/learningskills">http://camosun.ca/learningskills</a>
Library	<a href="http://camosun.ca/services/library/">http://camosun.ca/services/library/</a>
Office of Student Support	<a href="http://camosun.ca/oss">http://camosun.ca/oss</a>
Ombudsperson	<a href="http://camosun.ca/ombuds">http://camosun.ca/ombuds</a>
Registration	<a href="http://camosun.ca/registration">http://camosun.ca/registration</a>
Technology Support	<a href="http://camosun.ca/its">http://camosun.ca/its</a>
Writing Centre	<a href="http://camosun.ca/writing-centre">http://camosun.ca/writing-centre</a>

If you have a mental health concern, please contact Counselling to arrange an appointment as soon as possible. Counselling sessions are available at both campuses during business hours. If you need urgent support after-hours, please contact the Vancouver Island Crisis Line at 1-888-494-3888 or call 911.

### Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

The College is committed to providing appropriate and reasonable academic accommodations to students with disabilities (i.e. physical, depression, learning, etc). If you have a disability, the [Centre for Accessible Learning](#) (CAL) can help you document your needs, and where disability-related barriers to access in your courses exist, create an accommodation plan. By making a plan through CAL, you can ensure you have the appropriate academic accommodations you need without disclosing your diagnosis or condition to course instructors. Please visit the CAL website for contacts and to learn how to get started:

<http://camosun.ca/services/accessible-learning/>

### Academic Integrity

Please visit <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.13.pdf> for policy regarding academic expectations and details for addressing and resolving matters of academic misconduct.

### Academic Progress

Please visit <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.1.pdf> for further details on how Camosun College monitors students' academic progress and what steps can be taken if a student is at risk of not meeting the College's academic progress standards.

### Course Withdrawals Policy

Please visit <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-2-student-services-and-support/e-2.2.pdf> for further details about course withdrawals. For deadline for fees, course drop dates, and tuition refund, please visit <http://camosun.ca/learn/fees/#deadlines>.

### Grading Policy

Please visit <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.5.pdf> for further details about grading.

### Grade Review and Appeals

Please visit <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.14.pdf> for policy relating to requests for review and appeal of grades.

### Mandatory Attendance for First Class Meeting of Each Course

Camosun College requires mandatory attendance for the first class meeting of each course. If you do not attend, and do not provide your instructor with a reasonable reason in advance, you will be removed from the course and the space offered to the next waitlisted student. For more information, please see the "Attendance" section under "Registration Policies and Procedures" (<http://camosun.ca/learn/calendar/current/procedures.html>) and the Grading Policy at <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.5.pdf>.

### Medical / Compassionate Withdrawals

Students who are incapacitated and unable to complete or succeed in their studies by virtue of serious and demonstrated exceptional circumstances may be eligible for a medical/compassionate withdrawal. Please visit

<http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-2-student-services-and-support/e-2.8.pdf> to learn more about the process involved in a medical/compassionate withdrawal.

### Sexual Violence and Misconduct

Camosun is committed to creating a campus culture of safety, respect, and consent. Camosun's Office of Student Support is responsible for offering support to students impacted by sexual violence. Regardless of when or where the sexual violence or misconduct occurred, students can access support at Camosun. The Office of Student Support will make sure students have a safe and private place to talk and will help them understand what supports are available and their options for next steps. The Office of Student Support respects a student's right to choose what is right for them. For more information see Camosun's Sexualized Violence and Misconduct Policy: <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-2-student-services-and-support/e-2.9.pdf> and [camosun.ca/sexual-violence](http://camosun.ca/sexual-violence). To contact the Office of Student Support: [oss@camosun.ca](mailto:oss@camosun.ca) or by phone: 250-370-3046 or 250-3703841

### Student Misconduct (Non-Academic)

Camosun College is committed to building the academic competency of all students, seeks to empower students to become agents of their own learning, and promotes academic belonging for everyone. Camosun also expects that all students to conduct themselves in a manner that contributes to a positive, supportive, and safe learning environment. Please review Camosun College's Student Misconduct Policy at <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-2-student-services-and-support/e-2.5.pdf> to understand the College's expectations of academic integrity and student behavioural conduct.

**Changes to this syllabus:** Every effort has been made to ensure that information in this syllabus is accurate at the time of publication. The College reserves the right to change courses if it becomes necessary so that course content remains relevant. In such cases, the instructor will give the students clear and timely notice of the changes.