

COURSE SYLLABUS



COURSE TITLE: MUSC-143: Introduction to Songwriting

CLASS SECTION:

TERM: 2024F

COURSE CREDITS: 1.5

DELIVERY METHOD(S): In Person

Camosun College campuses are located on the traditional territories of the Lək'wəḡən and W̱SÁNEĆ peoples. We acknowledge their welcome and graciousness to the students who seek knowledge here. Learn more about Camosun's [Territorial Acknowledgement](#).

INSTRUCTOR DETAILS

NAME: Wynn Gogol

EMAIL: vcm.wgogol@gmail.com

OFFICE: n/a

HOURS: By appointment

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

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

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

1. Text books:
 - 1) *Writing Better Lyrics* by Pat Pattison
 - 2) *The Artful Songwriter* by Wynn Gogol
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

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

WEEK or DATE RANGE	ACTIVITY or TOPIC	OTHER NOTES
1. Sept 6th	Introduction to MUSC 143 Culture and Tech: The Great Enshittenment?	
2. Sept 13th	Lyrics 1	
3. Sept 20th	Lyrics 2	
4. Sept 27th	Popular Harmony 1	
5. Oct 4th	Melody 1	
6. Oct 11th	Oct 11th: Two Song Sketches Due From Song Form to Finishing	
7. Oct 18th	Lyrics 3	
8. Oct 25th	Oct 25th: Midterm Paper Due Popular Harmony 2	
9. Nov 1st	Melody 2	
10. Nov 8th	Singer's Approach To Songwriting	
11. Nov 15th	Guitar Player's Approach To Songwriting	
12. Nov 22nd	Nov. 22nd: Two Original Songs Due In-class performance <u>or</u> recorded submission	
13. Nov 29th	Rapper's Approach To Songwriting	
14. Dec 6th	Course Review	
Exam Period	Final Exam (scheduled by registrar)	

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 noticed 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

DESCRIPTION	WEIGHTING
<p>In-class attendance and participation - Completion of in-class creative work</p>	<p>25%</p>
<p>Two Song Sketches 1. Contrasting verse-chorus 2. Simple verse w/ refrain in minor</p>	<p>10%</p>
<p>1500-word argument midterm paper (3000 words max)</p> <p>Topic: 1. Choose a songwriter or songwriting team, discuss why you think they had a pivotal impact on songwriters that came after</p> <p>* Write a well-researched essay that argues a single coherent view point</p> <p>a. Create an opening paragraph with a hook and a thesis statement b. Body - outline one point per paragraph c. Summary - draw an interesting conclusion, write a strong closing statement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Use a clear, neutral tone - Avoid personal anecdotes - Your argument must be supported by well-researched facts 	<p>20%</p>

DESCRIPTION	WEIGHTING
<p>Two new original songs:</p> <p>a. Emotional song in verse/chorus/bridge form</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The central theme/emotion of your song should be clear, both to you and your listener - Demonstrate an understanding of verse and chorus function/contrast <p>b. Simple verse-chorus, in a minor key</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Demonstrate an understanding of how a refrain functions as a central song hook - There should be no chorus (a refrain completes each verse) <p>Song Submission requirements:</p> <p>In-class performance <u>or</u></p> <p>In an email:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Attach each song as a separate recording (eg. phone voice memo recording) - Each song should be accompanied by a Word .docx that includes: typed lyrics, song form, theme and chord progression(s) 	25%
<p>Final Exam</p>	20%
<p>TOTAL</p>	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

To get the most out of this course, students are expected to attend all classes and be on time. It is your responsibility to acquire all information given during a class missed, including notes, hand-outs, changed exam dates etc.

Seminar Attendance

Seminar participation is essential to the course objectives, and largely involves discussion of the weekly topic and assigned readings or activities. It is also an opportunity for students to ask questions and learn from each other. The participation grade is assigned based on the level of your constructive engagement in the weekly seminars.

Due Dates and Late Assignments

The due dates are established in accordance with the course and term duration. The purpose of the due dates is to help both you and I to get the assignments done so that they can be assessed in a timely manner. Just as you need time to complete the assignments, I need enough time to grade them. As such, the due dates are fixed (unless you have an approved academic accommodation through CAL) and it is expected that students will hand in assignments on time. Assignment marks, comments, and feedback will be returned to students in a timely manner, usually within 1-3 weeks, depending on the length of the assignment.

All assignments must be handed in by the time indicated (on the assignment, or on D2L). Late assignments may be graded but marks equivalent to 10% of the total value of the assignment will be deducted for each day, inclusive of days on the weekend, past the deadline. If assignments have already been marked and returned, a late assignment will not be accepted. Assignments will not be accepted that are late more than three days, inclusive of days over the weekend.

Exam Procedures

All exams must be written at the scheduled times with the exception of students requiring an accommodation by CAL. It is understood that emergency circumstances do occur (e.g. severe illness or family emergency); for such circumstances accommodation may be offered at the discretion of the instructor, provided the student:

- a) notifies the instructor in advance of the exam (not after), and
- b) provides documented evidence of the circumstance (e.g. medical certificate).

If an exam is missed with an excused absence, it is up to the instructor's discretion as to how the mark will be made up. In most cases, an oral exam will be scheduled for the student as soon as possible.

Be sure not to make travel plans for the end of semester until the final exam schedules are finalized and posted. Please ask any family members who might make travel plans on your behalf to consult you before booking tickets.

Please note: the use of cell phones during a test or quiz is not allowed and may result in a zero for that assessment.

Study Habits

Good and regular study habits are essential to do well in this course. You should plan on a weekly minimum of 6 hours outside of scheduled class time for the completion of readings, assignments and for general studying. Joining a study group can help make this more achievable.

It is recommended practice to transform lecture notes into a study-friendly format after each lecture, incorporating additional information from your textbook. Study these notes before the next class to prepare yourself for new material, which will often build on previously covered material.

Please schedule an after-class meeting if you need extra clarification and help.

SCHOOL OR DEPARTMENTAL INFORMATION

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITY

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

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

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.

COLLEGE-WIDE POLICIES, PROCEDURES, REQUIREMENTS, AND STANDARDS

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](http://camosun.ca/services/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. To contact the Office of Student Support: 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.