

COURSE SYLLABUS



COURSE TITLE: MUSC-217-Contemporary Music Arranging

CLASS SECTION: MUSC-217 DX01

TERM: 2025W

COURSE CREDITS: 3

DELIVERY METHOD(S): In-person

Camosun College respectfully acknowledges that our campuses are situated on the territories of the Ləkʷəŋən (Songhees and Kosapsum) and WSÁNEĆ peoples. We honour their knowledge and welcome to all students who seek education here.

INSTRUCTOR DETAILS

NAME: Ashley Wey
EMAIL: ashleyweybooking@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

Building on the skills acquired in MUSC 216, this course focuses on arranging composed materials for a variety of contemporary music ensembles. Principals of contemporary musical construction are explored. Emphasis is on strong music writing skills supported with an ability to spontaneously create countermelody and harmonization through improvisation.

PREREQUISITE(S): All of:

- C in MUSC 216

One of:

- C in MTEC 100
- C in MTEC 210

CO-REQUISITE(S):

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All of:

- MUSC 219

EXCLUSION(S):

Not Applicable

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES / OBJECTIVES

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

1. Compose, re-harmonize, expand with variation or improvisation technique, and arrange for contemporary musical ensemble melodies and countermelodies employing standard modes and progressions across the cycle of fifths, and complete a written score capturing these phrases in detail;
2. Compose, re-harmonize, expand with variation or improvisation technique, and arrange for contemporary musical ensemble a short fragment of music using harmonies derived from major, melodic minor, diminished and whole-tone scales; and complete a written score capturing these phrases in detail;
3. Analyze and extrapolate compositional methodologies from jazz, pop, and folk standards set for a variety of ensembles.
4. Produce scores and individual parts, including those for transposing instruments, for original works and arrangements.

REQUIRED MATERIALS & RECOMMENDED PREPARATION / INFORMATION

- a. Texts: Jazz Composition-Theory And Practice (Ted Pease)

available at the Camosun bookstore (Landsdown campus)

- a. Sibelius music notation program (preferred) or MuseScore (free download) <https://musescore.org/en>
- a. Other: Manuscript paper, pencils, eraser and a binder for handouts

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.

January 7-16	Explore arranging for voices then writing a short arrangement for 4 voices (soprano, alto & two tenors)	
Jan. 17 - Jan. 27	Studying transposition and ranges for all instruments used in a Big Band and Orchestra.	
Jan. 28 - Feb. 10	Considerations regarding layout/planning involved for a big band and large ensemble arrangement and analyzing classic recordings across genres.	
Feb. 11 - Feb. 20	Study techniques for arranging for large ensembles of various combinations of instrumentation, including a Rhythm section and a five-piece horn section, four	

	voices, and a string quartet, as well as writing for a large ensemble featuring a soloist.	
Feb 21 - March 3	Explore techniques for writing for an ensemble of multiple types of instrumentation in the style of jazz, pop, folk, or contemporary music (with a minimum of 8 Instruments). This section is tailored to which styles apply to each student.	
March 4 - March 24	Explore writing and arranging for a Classic Big Band within the genres of jazz, pop, folk, and contemporary music.	
Mar. 25 - Apr. 1	Study the great arrangers for string quartets in contemporary music and complete a short arrangement.	
April 3 till Exam	Re-cap the terms' content and review content for Exam	

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](https://camosun.ca/services/academic-supports/accessible-learning/academic-accommodations-exams). <https://camosun.ca/services/academic-supports/accessible-learning/academic-accommodations-exams>

EVALUATION OF LEARNING

DESCRIPTION	WEIGHTING
Write a short arrangement for 4 voices (soprano, alto & two tenors)	12%
Quiz on transposition, ranges for all instruments and voicing 4 instruments	12%
Quiz on lay out for big band arrangement.	12%
Write an arrangement for a large Ensemble of a choice of instrumentation. Must include a Rhythm section and the student's choice of a five-piece horn section, four voices, or a string quartet.	12%
Write an arrangement for a Traditional Big Band with the song choice being jazz, pop, folk, or contemporary music.	12%
Write a short arrangement for 5 strings (2 vln, 1 vla, 1 cello, 1 bass)	12%
Attendance	10%

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](#) policy for more information.

<http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.14.pdf>

COURSE GUIDELINES & EXPECTATIONS

This 14-week course is designed to give students a comprehensive understanding of music theory and its application in composition and arranging. Students will learn the fundamentals of music theory, including arranging, composing, harmony, and form across musical styles of pop, folk, bluegrass, jazz and contemporary music. Analyze and extrapolate compositional methodologies from jazz, pop, and folk standards set for a variety of ensembles.

Students are expected to:

- Attend all classes and participate actively in class discussions and activities.
- Complete all assigned readings and homework assignments on time.
- Prepare for and participate in weekly quizzes and exams.
- Demonstrate a high level of musicianship and theoretical knowledge.
- Respect the instructor and fellow students.
- Be open to new musical experiences and styles.

SCHOOL OR DEPARTMENTAL INFORMATION

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

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 camosun.ca/services.

Support Service	Website
Academic Advising	camosun.ca/services/academic-supports/academic-advising
Accessible Learning	camosun.ca/services/academic-supports/accessible-learning
Counselling	camosun.ca/services/health-and-wellness/counselling-centre
Career Services	camosun.ca/services/co-operative-education-and-career-services
Financial Aid and Awards	camosun.ca/registration-records/financial-aid-awards
Help Centres (Math/English/Science)	camosun.ca/services/academic-supports/help-centres
Indigenous Student Support	camosun.ca/programs-courses/iecc/indigenous-student-services
International Student Support	camosun.ca/international
Learning Skills	camosun.ca/services/academic-supports/help-centres/writing-centre-learning-skills
Library	camosun.ca/services/library
Office of Student Support	camosun.ca/services/office-student-support
Ombudsperson	camosun.ca/services/ombudsperson
Registration	camosun.ca/registration-records/registration
Technology Support	camosun.ca/services/its
Writing Centre	camosun.ca/services/academic-supports/help-centres/writing-centre-learning-skills

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 Integrity

Students are expected to comply with all College policy regarding academic integrity; which is about honest and ethical behaviour in your education journey. The following guide is designed to help you understand your responsibilities: <https://camosun.libguides.com/academicintegrity/welcome>
Please visit <https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2021-05/e-1.13.pdf> for Camosun's Academic Integrity policy and details for addressing and resolving matters of academic misconduct.

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

Camosun College is committed to achieving full accessibility for persons with disabilities. Part of this commitment includes arranging appropriate academic accommodations for students with disabilities to ensure they have an equitable opportunity to participate in all of their academic activities. If you are a student with a documented disability and think you may need accommodations, you are strongly encouraged to contact the Centre for Accessible Learning (CAL) and register as early as possible. Please visit the CAL website for more information about the process of registering with CAL, including important deadlines: <https://camosun.ca/cal>

Academic Progress

Please visit <https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2023-02/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 <https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2021-05/e-2.2.pdf> for further details about course withdrawals. For deadline for fees, course drop dates, and tuition refund, please visit <https://camosun.ca/registration-records/tuition-fees#deadlines>.

Grading Policy

Please visit <https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2021-05/e-1.5.pdf> for further details about grading.

Grade Review and Appeals

Please visit <https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2021-05/e-1.14.pdf> for policy relating to requests for review and appeal of grades.

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 (see [Medical/Compassionate Withdrawals policy](#)). Please visit <https://camosun.ca/services/forms#medical> to learn more about the process involved in a medical/compassionate withdrawal.

Sexual Violence

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 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 Policy: <https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2021-05/e-2.9.pdf> and camosun.ca/services/sexual-violence-support-and-education.

To contact the Office of Student Support: oss@camosun.ca or by phone: 250-370-3046 or 250-370-3841

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 <https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2021-05/e-2.5.pdf> to understand the College's expectations of academic integrity and student behavioural conduct.

Looking for other policies?

The full suite of College policies and directives can be found here: <https://camosun.ca/about/camosun-college-policies-and-directives>

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.

