CAMOSUN COLLEGE
School of Arts & Science
Department of Music

MUSC-143-001
Introduction to Songwriting
Winter 2019

COURSE OUTLINE

The course description is online @ http://camosun.ca/learn/calendar/current/web/musc.html

Ω *Please note: This outline will <u>not</u> be kept indefinitely. It is recommended students keep this outline for their records, especially to assist in transfer credit to post-secondary institutions.*

1. Instructor information

(a)	Instructor:	Wynn Gogol
(b)	Office Hours:	Friday: 10:00-12:00pm
(c)	Location:	Room 319
(d)	Phone Number:	N/A
(e)	Email:	Wynn Gogol <gogolw@camosun.bc.ca>
(f)	Website:	

2. Intended Learning Outcomes:

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

1. Reliably generate song ideas using a variety of techniques
2. Set useful songwriting goals
3. Use basic modal harmonies as the basis for an original song
4. Identify contemporary songwriting styles in popular music
5. Work collaboratively with fellow musicians in the creation of an original song for solo or small group performance

3. Required Materials:

1. *The Artful Songwriter*
2. Materials: manuscript paper, loose leaf paper, pencil and eraser
3. Your instrument (guitar, keyboard, laptop or banjo)
4. Ear buds or headphones
5. Optional: Apple laptop with Logic Pro X installed, USB microphone

4. Course Content and Schedule:

Pillar 1: Generating song ideas (starting and finishing)
Pillar 2: Artist studies
Pillar 3: Setting useful goals
Pillar 4: Lyrics, melody and emotion
Pillar 5: Intro to popular harmony
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Week 1: *Starting songs*
• Where do song ideas come from?
• What's a first idea?
• Top-line exercise; Intro to song circle

Week 2: *Setting goals*
• The creative process in songwriting
• Using a reference track
• Voice and narrator
• Top-line exercise
• Song circle

Week 3: *Artist focus: Singers*
• The vocalist as songwriter
• Orbiting around the singer
• Creating exciting moments in performance
• Top-line exercise
• Song Circle

Week 4: *Finishing songs*
• What's a hook?
• Repetiton
• The scaffold: verse, chorus/refrain
• Top-line exercise
• Song circle

Week 5: *Intro to popular harmony 1*
• The basics: I,IV & V chords
• Using minor chords
• The diatonic colour palette
• Song circle

Week 6: *Artist focus: guitar players*
• The guitar-centric songwriter
• The cool guitar part
• Creating exciting moments in performance
• Top-line exercise
• Song circle

Week 7: *Intro to popular harmony 2*
• Intro to modes: The dark side
• Chord loops
• Song circle

Week 8: *Writing great lyrics 1*
- RanDOm: iDea geNerAtion
- Representing language
- Rhythm in language
- Song circle

Week 9: *Artist focus: The producer*
- What does a music producer do?
- The producer as songwriter
- The 'big idea' effect
- Song circle

Week 10: *Writing great lyrics 2*
- Story arc
- Specific is universal
- In your face lyrics
- Song circle

Week 11: *Artist focus: DJ & MC*
- What's hip hop culture?
- Authenticity
- Public domain vs appropriation
- Top-line exercise
- Song circle

Week 12: *Making a melody 1*
- RanDOm: iDea geNerAtion
- High vs. low
- Rhythm
- Top-line exercise
- Song circle

Week 13: *Making a melody 2*
- Chords and melody
- Top-line exercise
- Song circle

Week 14: *Oral Presentations*
- Song Exploder topics
- Final song circle

Final class performance (TBA)

5. Basis of Student Assessment:
(This section should be directly linked to the Intended Learning Outcomes.)

1. 10-minute oral presentation - Song Exploder: 20%
2. Two new original songs: 20%
   a. A song with a strong emotional emphasis
   b. A self-directed song
3. A 1000-word essay: 25%
4. In-class performance: 20%
5. In-class participation: 15%

6. Grading System

| X | Standard Grading System (GPA) |

| | Competency Based Grading System |

7. Recommended Materials to Assist Students to Succeed Throughout the Course

8. College Supports, Services and Policies

Immediate, Urgent, or Emergency Support
If you or someone you know requires immediate, urgent, or emergency support (e.g. illness, injury, thoughts of suicide, sexual assault, etc.), **SEEK HELP**. Resource contacts @ http://camosun.ca/about/mental-health/emergency.html or http://camosun.ca/services/sexual-violence/get-support.html#urgent

College Services
Camosun offers a variety of health and academic support services, including counselling, dental, disability resource centre, help centre, learning skills, sexual violence support & education, library, and writing centre. For more information on each of these services, visit the **STUDENT SERVICES** link on the College website at http://camosun.ca/

College Policies
Camosun strives to provide clear, transparent, and easily accessible policies that exemplify the college's commitment to life-changing learning. It is the student's responsibility to become familiar with the content of College policies. Policies are available on the College website at http://camosun.ca/about/policies/. Education and academic policies include, but are not limited to, Academic Progress, Admission, Course Withdrawals, Standards for Awarding Credentials, Involuntary Health and Safety Leave of Absence, Prior Learning Assessment, Medical/Compassionate Withdrawal, Sexual Violence and Misconduct, Student Ancillary Fees, Student Appeals, Student Conduct, and Student Penalties and Fines.

A. GRADING SYSTEMS *http://camosun.ca/about/policies/index.html*

The following two grading systems are used at Camosun College:

1. **Standard Grading System (GPA)**

Percentage	Grade	Description	Grade Point Equivalency
90-100	A+		9
85-89	A		8
80-84	A-		7
77-79	B+		6
73-76	B		5
70-72	B-		4
65-69	C+		3
60-64	C		2
50-59	D		1
0-49	F	Minimum level has not been achieved.	0

2. **Competency Based Grading System (Non GPA)**

This grading system is based on satisfactory acquisition of defined skills or successful completion of the course learning outcomes

Grade	Description
COM	The student has met the goals, criteria, or competencies established for this course, practicum or field placement.
DST	The student has met and exceeded, above and beyond expectation, the goals, criteria, or competencies established for this course, practicum or field placement.
NC	The student has not met the goals, criteria or competencies established for this course, practicum or field placement.

B. Temporary Grades

Temporary grades are assigned for specific circumstances and will convert to a final grade according to the grading scheme being used in the course. See Grading Policy at http://camosun.ca/about/policies/index.html for information on conversion to final grades, and for additional information on student record and transcript notations.

Temporary Grade	Description
I	*Incomplete*: A temporary grade assigned when the requirements of a course have not yet been completed due to hardship or extenuating circumstances, such as illness or death in the family.
IP	*In progress*: A temporary grade assigned for courses that are designed to have an anticipated enrollment that extends beyond one term. No more than two IP grades will be assigned for the same course.
CW	*Compulsory Withdrawal*: A temporary grade assigned by a Dean when an instructor, after documenting the prescriptive strategies applied and consulting with peers, deems that a student is unsafe to self or others and must be removed from the lab, practicum, worksite, or field placement.