

COURSE SYLLABUS



COURSE TITLE: Contemporary Music Theory

CLASS SECTION: MUSC-216-X01

TERM: 2021F

COURSE CREDITS: 3

DELIVERY METHOD(S): Online

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.](#)

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

NAME: Joey Smith

EMAIL: joeysmith@telus.net

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

The principles of contemporary musical construction are explored. Melodies and chord changes are worked and studied simultaneously. Emphasis is on strong music writing skills supported with an ability to spontaneously create melody and harmonization through improvisation.

PREREQUISITE(S): C in MUSC 113

CO-REQUISITE(S): MUSC 218

EXCLUSION(S):

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES / OBJECTIVES

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

1. Spontaneously compose music involving standard modes and progressions across the cycle of fifths, and complete a written score capturing these phrases in detail;
2. Spontaneously compose and re-harmonize using standard practice 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. Demonstrate ability to identify and employ traditional counterpoint and harmony in the composition and analysis of works from the contemporary repertoire including folk, pop, and jazz.
4. Spontaneously compose in variation form over Blues Changes, Rhythm Changes, Coltrane Changes, and within standard song forms, and complete a written score capturing these phrases in detail.
5. Analyze and extrapolate compositional methodologies from jazz, pop, and folk standards and reinterpretations thereof.
- 6.

REQUIRED MATERIALS & RECOMMENDED PREPARATION / INFORMATION

- (a) Texts: Jazz Composition-Theory And Practice (Ted Pease) available at the Camosun bookstore (Landsdown campus)
- (b) Sibelius music notation program (preferred) or MuseScore (free download) <https://musescore.org/en>
- (c) 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.

WEEK or DATE RANGE	ACTIVITY or TOPIC	OTHER NOTES
September 7 - 16	Learning techniques for creating contemporary melodies using melodic rhythm, motivic development and guide tones	
September 21- 30	Composition of a Contrafact (new melody overlaid on the same harmonic structure of another song)	
October 5- 14	Using reharmonization techniques on standard chord progressions	
October 19- 28	Composition using modal	
November 2- 16	Introduction of writing for other instruments considering transposition and range	
Nov. 18 - Dec. 7	Writing an arrangement for small ensemble	

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 scan 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
Compose a 32 bar (AABA) song based on a standard set of chord changes using melodic rhythm and motivic techniques.	Assignment	12%
Write a modal based tune	Assignment	12%
Arrange an original or standard song for a small ensemble	Assignment	12%
Identifying and using melodic rhythm, motifs and guide tones	Quiz	12%
Tonal, modal and reharmonization techniques	Quiz	12%
Basic arranging techniques for a small ensemble (transposition & range)	Quiz	12%
	Final Exam	18%
	Attendance	10%
	TOTAL	100%

COURSE GUIDELINES & EXPECTATIONS

1. Learning techniques for creating contemporary melodies using melodic rhythm, motivic development and guide tones
2. Analysis of songs based on major, minor and modal harmony
3. Using reharmonization techniques on standard chord progressions
4. Composition of songs over various song forms including blues & AABA forms
5. Writing an arrangement with consideration of intros, interludes and endings
6. Introduction of writing for other instruments considering transposition and range

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 <http://camosun.ca/students/>.

Support Service	Website
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](#) (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.