

MUSC 4200  
THE STUDY OF ORCHESTRATION AND ARRANGING  
UNIVERSITY OF WEST GEORGIA—DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC

COURSE SYLLABUS

**Instructor:** Dr. Josh Byrd  
**Office:** HUM 340  
**Phone:** 678-839-6267  
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**Term:** Fall 2017  
**Class Times:** WF 11:00 a.m.-12:15 pm  
**Location:** HUM 331  
**Office Hours:** By Appointment

**Course Description:**

The study of instrumentation, orchestration, and arranging techniques for instrumental and vocal ensembles. Projects use traditional methods and the current tools of music technology.<sup>i</sup>

*Please note that the information contained in this syllabus may be altered  
by the instructor at any point during the semester  
in order to adapt to the pace or needs specific to the current class.*

**Class Objectives:**

The primary objective of this class is to educate students as to the arranging and orchestration possibilities available in today's music through knowledge of specific instruments, music theory, technology, and professional trends. By the end of this course students will have the necessary tools to arrange music for a variety of instruments, genres, and ability levels.

1. Learn the specific qualities of the voice as well as wind, string, and percussion instruments as they relate to timbre, range, scoring, and technique.
2. Become proficient at reading and writing for transposing instruments and instruments in alternate clefs to improve arranging, analysis, and composition techniques.
3. Develop a thorough knowledge of the types of ensembles that are commonly used in "classical" and popular music.
4. Be able to arrange music for a variety of ability levels and ensembles, including middle school, high school, and professional choirs, orchestras, concert bands, and marching bands.

**Required Materials:**

1. USB flash drive
2. Pencil
3. Another pencil
4. Manuscript paper
5. Assigned scores and recordings/tracks
6. Notebook for compiling handouts

**Attendance Policy:**

Do not miss class or arrive late to class. If you must miss a class, please email Dr. Byrd at least one day in advance.<sup>ii</sup> **Following two unexcused absences your final average will be lowered by five percent for each subsequent absence.**

**Email Policy:**

PLEASE NOTE THAT ANY EMAIL MISSING A SUBJECT, HEADER, GREETING, EMAIL BODY, AND/OR SIGNATURE MAY NOT BE ANSWERED.

**Student Expectations:**

Because this is a “hands-on” course, student attendance and participation is vital for student success. Although some class time will be provided for assignments, additional lab time will be available (and necessary) throughout the week. All assignments must be completed and turned in on time. Late work will rarely be accepted, even if you were absent from class that day. ***Any material submitted late can only earn a “C” as its highest grade. Late projects will not be accepted following a calendar week past the due dates.*** Make up exams/quizzes will only be given for excused absences.<sup>iii</sup>

**Evaluation:**

The following formula will be used to determine your semester grade:

In-class Assignments	20%
Homework	20%
Quizzes	20%
Projects	25%
Final Project	15%

**Grade Scale:**

A	90-100%
B	80-89%
C	70-79%
D	60-69%
F	0-59%

**University of West Georgia Honor Code:**

Please refer to the University’s honor code regarding academic honesty and student integrity (<http://www.westga.edu/~handbook/index.php?page=honorcode>).

**Disability Services:**

All students are provided with equal access to classes and materials, regardless of special needs, temporary or permanent disability, special needs related to pregnancy, etc. If you have any special learning needs, particularly (but not limited to) needs defined under the Americans with Disabilities Act, and require specific accommodations, please do not hesitate to make those known, either yourself or through the Coordinator of Disability Services. Students with documented special needs may expect accommodation in relation to classroom accessibility, modification of testing, special test administration, etc. For more information, please contact Disability Services at the University of West Georgia. Any student with a disability documented through Student Services is encouraged to contact the professor right away so that appropriate accommodations may be arranged. In addition, certain accommodations (which will be discussed in class) are available to all students, within constraints of time and space.

**Syllabus Information:**

Please visit [http://www.westga.edu/assetsDept/vpaa/Common\\_Language\\_for\\_Course\\_Syllabi.pdf](http://www.westga.edu/assetsDept/vpaa/Common_Language_for_Course_Syllabi.pdf) should you wish to review the University’s syllabus policies.

### Notable Dates:

- Thursday, October 5-Friday, October 6—Fall Break
- Monday, November 20-Friday, November 24—Thanksgiving Break

### Tentative Calendar:

- **Week 1:**
  - Introduction, Syllabus, Survey, What is arranging? What is orchestration? IMSLP, “Transpositions and You”, Score reading, Transposing Instruments vs. Non-transposing Instruments, Transposing (continued)
- **Week 2:**
  - Transposing (continued), Clefs, Transposing chords/melodies  
**Transposition Quiz**, Strings overview, Violin, Viola
- **Week 3:**
  - Cello, Bass, Scoring for strings, **STRING QUARTET PROJECT** (handwritten), Woodwinds overview, Flute, Oboe, Bassoon
- **Week 4:**
  - Clarinet, Saxophone, English Horn, Scoring for Woodwinds, **WOODWIND QUINTET AND SAXOPHONE QUARTET PROJECT**, **STRING QUARTET PROJECT DUE**
- **Week 5:**
  - **Class Choice #1**, Brass overview, Trumpet, Horn
- **Week 6:**
  - Trombone, Tuba, Scoring for Brass, **BRASS QUINTET PROJECT**, **WOODWIND QUINTET AND SAXOPHONE QUARTET PROJECT DUE**
- **Week 7:**
  - Percussion, **PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE PROJECT**
- **Week 8:**
  - Scoring for Voice, **BRASS QUINTET PROJECT DUE**, Scoring for Choir, **CHOIR PROJECT**
- **Week 9:**
  - **Class Choice #2**, “Doubting Arrangers,” **PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE PROJECT DUE**
- **Week 10:**
  - Scoring for guitar, piano, and harp, Scoring for young band
- **Week 11:**
  - Scoring for young choir, **CHOIR PROJECT DUE**, Scoring for high school band
- **Week 12:**
  - Scoring for high school choir, **FINAL PROJECT**, Marching Band
- **Week 13:**
  - Marching Band (continued), “A Dose of Reality”
- **Week 14:**
  - Wrap-up
- **Week 15:**
  - **FINAL PROJECT PRESENTATIONS**

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<sup>i</sup> Students need to be familiar with either Sibelius (lab computers) or Finale (personal computer) because many of the assignments will be completed with these programs. **The purpose of this class is NOT to teach students how to become familiar with either of these programs.**

<sup>ii</sup> Examples of excused absences may include but are not limited to—with documentation where applicable—family emergencies, illness, and Music Department trips. When in doubt whether or not an absence will be excused... ASK!

<sup>iii</sup> Students are responsible for contacting the instructor regarding missed work and absences (whether or not it is excused or unexcused).