**Syllabus**

**MUS 241 (Composition 1, second term)**

Winter 2006

Meetings: Fridays 12:00-1:50 pm

Location: 203 Music

Web: http://darkwing.uoregon.edu/~tmcq/comp1.html

Instructor: Dr. Terry McQuilkin

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Prerequisite for MUS 241: MUS 240 (Composition 1, first term)

Course description: This course is the second term of a three-year sequence leading to the B.Mus. degree in composition. Through composition assignments and analytical listening, students will further develop their skills and acquire additional knowledge in the concepts and techniques of composition, principles of music notation, understanding of stylistic characteristics of contemporary music, and scoring for specified media.


Composition assignments: Learning the technique and art of music composition is the primary goal of this course; thus compositional exercises and assignments will demand a significant time commitment on your part. **Assignments must be turned in at the beginning of class on the date they are due.** Late assignments will not be accepted unless arrangements have been made at least one week before the due date.

Listening quiz. You will be asked to listen, outside of class, to musical works that demonstrate the compositional forms, techniques and styles discussed in class. You will be receiving lists of works that you should listen to in the Douglass Listening Room (on the third floor of Knight Library).

Concert reports. In addition to being familiar with the literature of Western art music, a composer should regularly attend live concerts, particularly those including music of our own time. You will be asked to attend three concerts, drawn from a list that you will be receiving, and write a succinct account of your observations.

Analytic listening assignment. You will be asked to complete one assignment designed to focus your listening on specific musical characteristics and compositional techniques found in the pieces that you are required to listen to. This assignment will help you identify and apply relevant principles of composition to your own work.

Composition projects. You will complete two composition projects this term. One will consist of an art song for voice and piano, on a text of your choice. The other will be either: (a) a single-movement work for instrument of your choice and piano or (b) one or two additional art songs that would compliment the song already completed. The projects must be carefully edited and formatted to conform to standard notational practice, and should be written neatly in ink or printed using acceptable computer notation software. Specific guidelines for the project will be handed at appropriate times during the term.
Instrumentation quizzes. You will be asked to read specific pages in Adler's *The Study of Orchestration*, 3rd edition.

**Grading:**
**To receive a grade of "A" you must:**
(1) Attend class regularly, with no more than one unexcused absence*, and  
(2) Achieve an "A" grade average on the assignments and quizzes.

**To receive a grade of "B" you must:**
(1) Attend class regularly, with no more than two unexcused absences*, and  
(2) Achieve a "B" grade average on the assignments and quizzes.

**To receive a grade of "C" you must:**
(1) Attend class regularly, with no more than three unexcused absences*, and  
(2) Achieve a "C" grade average on the assignments and quizzes.

*See section on attendance below

**Grading:** The following will be considered in your final grade:
- Short composition assignments  30%
- Listening quiz  10%
- Instrumentation/orchestration quizzes  10%
- Concert reports  10%
- Analytic listening assignment  10%
- Composition Projects (2)  30%

**Attendance:** Class attendance at all meetings is required. Should a School of Music performance or other required University event conflict with a class meeting, you must make arrangements with me at least one week in advance. If an illness or emergency prevents you from coming to class, please communicate to me in writing prior to the beginning of class.

**A word about notation.** It is critically important that all composition assignments are legible and conform to standard practices of musical orthography and score preparation. To aid you in the preparation of your scores, please consult *UO Guidelines for Music Notation* by David Crumb.

**Disability.** If you have a documented disability and anticipate needing accommodations in the course, please make arrangements to see me soon. Please request that the Counselor of Students with Disabilities send me a letter verifying your disability.

**Consultation outside of class.** Plan to meet with me in a small group at several times during the term to review your progress on your compositions. If you have concerns or questions, please arrange to see me in my office or communicate with me via e-mail. E-mail messages can be sent at any time, and I will do my best to reply within a day.