

Music 481 – Orchestration
MWF 11:00-11:50, E379 HFAC

Dr. Neil Thornock; 801-422-1482; E-579A HFAC; neilthornock@gmail.com
Office hours – MW at Noon, or just come knock, any time. Make an appointment if you like.

TA: Curtis Smith; thegoose23@yahoo.com

Course Learning Outcomes

During this course, you will be introduced to the craft of orchestration, as practiced during the 18th and 19th centuries, through exercise and study. For the purposes of our composition degree program, specifically, this course teaches fundamentals and intermediate techniques of orchestration, primarily pre-modern. Exercises will include small in-class and take-home exercises as well as a final orchestration project.

You will learn about the instrumental make-up of the entire orchestra, the nature of each instrument, the techniques most commonly employed for achieving balance, variety, and color, and the presentation of your ideas on scores and parts.

You must have passed Music 294, 296, and 298 with a C- or higher to take this course.

Required Materials

Manuscript paper
Pencil and eraser
Kent Kennan, *The Technique of Orchestration*
Ticket to Utah Symphony (see below)

You will need to print various items from the internet on occasion.

Grading

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|-----|--------------------|
| 25% | Assignments |
| 10% | Quizzes |
| 10% | Listening Reports |
| 10% | Concert Attendance |
| 10% | Field Trip |
| 35% | Final Project |
| -- | Attendance |

Assignments

Assignments will be graded for completion: 2 points if it is complete, 1 point if it is at least 25% complete, and 0 for any less. Each assignment contributes an equal weight to the final grade.

Quizzes

We will have quizzes at the beginning of class as announced.

Listening Reports

By midnight every Wednesday, you must turn in a one-page report from your listening during the week. This assignment will consist of listening to an orchestral work with the score (at least 15 minutes of music) and writing a less-than-one-page summary of interesting observations from your listening.

These assignments are to be emailed to me with the following guidelines:

Include the content in the body of the email (no attachments).

Send it with the subject line 481 LR (your name).

Send it as a separate, unique message – do not reply or tag on to previous messages.

Any important communication you have for me must be sent in a separate email.

Concert Attendance

You must attend at least two full-length orchestra concerts during the semester. You may not be a performer in either concert. You may attend the Chamber, Philharmonic, or Symphonic Orchestra concerts, the opera, or Utah Symphony (other than our field trip). For any other ensemble performance to count, you must request by email in advance. You should then write your observations in a brief synopsis of the works played and basic orchestration techniques employed. DO THIS EARLY since you don't want to run out of opportunities.

Field Trip

Reserve the evening of Friday, November 11 for a field trip to the Utah Symphony. We will hear a performance of Beethoven's Symphony No. 6 and two works of Wagner. The cost of the ticket, plus a small transportation fee, will be billed to your student account. More details forthcoming.

Final Project

We will discuss the final project in greater detail at a later time.

Attendance

I will take attendance every class period. If you are on time, you get a 0. If you arrive after the prayer, you get a 1. If you are absent, you get a 2. You get 4 free attendance points, after which your final grade percentage will be reduced by the number of attendance points over 4.

So, if you missed one class (2 points) and were late three times (3 points), you will have 5 attendance points. $5 - 4 = 1$, so your final grade will be reduced one point.

Course Schedule will be handed out later in the week.

Participation in this course

Although I may be the instructor for this course, every one of us has a responsibility to create an edifying environment in which every student may learn unhindered. Thus I ask that you be considerate regarding phones, food, and appearance, and, more importantly, that you be kind and respectful to everyone.