

**UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT TYLER**  
**School of Performing Arts**

*course syllabus for*

**MUSI 3348: Composers Seminar (3 credit hours)**  
**Spring 2020**  
**Tu/Th 9:30 - 10:50 a.m. – FAC 2214 (Conference Room)**

**Professor:** Dr. Kyle Gullings

**Office:** FAC 2213

**Email (preferred contact method):** kgullings@uttyler.edu

**Office Phone:** 903.566.7388

**Office Hours:** (subject to change)

Tuesdays 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Wednesdays 11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

Thursdays 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

(other times by appointment)

**Course Description:** A survey of topics necessary for composers building a professional career, including presenting one's original music, score study, and lectures on special topics (rehearsal etiquette, preparation of score and parts, etc.).

**Prerequisite:** MUSI 2312 (Music Theory IV), equivalent, or instructor approval. Students not possessing the prerequisite will be administratively removed from the class unless otherwise approved by the department.

**Course Learning Objectives:** Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Speak intelligently and persuasively about the construction and relevance of their own musical compositions, and offer honest, constructive criticisms of colleagues' compositions, in seminar format.
- Apply knowledge of music theory, form, and style through analyses of compositions by established twentieth and twenty-first-century composers, presented in oral presentation format.
- Demonstrate knowledge of topics necessary for composers building a professional career, through an assembled Composer's Manual documenting progress in the course, notes on works analyzed and presented, and reflections on each Professional Development lecture session.

**Required Materials:** No textbook is required. Students must keep a journal (notebook, 3-ring binder with loose-leaf, etc.) for the Composer's Manual Final Project, which is turned in with the Final Essay Exam.

**Assessment:**

<b>Grade Weighting</b>	Original Music Presentations in Peer Seminars	20% (2 @ 10% each)
	Analysis Projects	30% (3 @ 10% each)
	Seminar Participation	30%
	Final Essay and Analysis Exam	20%

<b>Grading Scale</b>	90-100%	A
	80-89%	B
	70-79%	C
	60-69%	D
	Below 60%	F

**Methods for Assessing Outcomes:** Outcomes will be assessed through a variety of Original Music Presentations, oral-format Analysis Projects, and an assembled binder documenting progress in the course, notes on works analyzed and presented, and reflections on each Professional Development lecture session (the Composer's Manual Final Project).

**Methods of Instruction:** Course content will be split among verbal-presentation analytical studies of compositions by established twentieth and twenty-first-century composers, students' critiques of each other's original compositions, and lecture sessions on special topics of interest to professional composers.

**\*\* Due Dates and Excused Absences Policy:** All assignments are due on the days indicated, at the start of class. No

credit will be given for analyses, presentations, or other work that is late or missing due to *unexcused* absences.

At the instructor's discretion, absences may be considered *excused* only for legitimate, *documented* reasons (serious illness, family emergency, etc.). Even in cases of *excused absences*, any outstanding assignments are due at the following class period. Missed presentations typically must be made up within one week of the absence. In all cases, it is the student's responsibility to inform the instructor of absences as soon as possible, and to *document* that absence if an *excused absence* is being requested.

**\*\* Attendance Policy:** Full attendance and participation are expected in this course. Arrival after class has begun will count as a tardy. Three tardies will count as one unexcused absence.

For this course, students are allowed **two (2) "free" unexcused absences**. After this, the following penalties may be applied:

3-4 unexcused absences = 1 letter grade reduction

5-6 unexcused absences = 2 letter grades reduction

7+ unexcused absences = automatic failure of the course ("F")

(This penalty is not part of the Participation grade, which reflects engaged activity in class.)

Additionally, avoidable distractions such as cell phone use/texting, eating food, outside work, and unnecessarily leaving the room during class time may result in a tardy or absence for the day, at the instructor's discretion. Multiple occurrences will result in the student being asked to leave the class session.

**\*\* Communication:** Students are required to regularly check their Patriot e-mail account and the class Canvas page.

**\*\* Academic Integrity:** Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated (cheating, copying homework, plagiarism, etc.).

## UNIVERSITY POLICIES AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION THAT MUST APPEAR IN EACH COURSE SYLLABUS

### UT Tyler Honor Code

Every member of the UT Tyler community joins together to embrace: Honor and integrity that will not allow me to lie, cheat, or steal, nor to accept the actions of those who do.

### Students Rights and Responsibilities

To know and understand the policies that affect your rights and responsibilities as a student at UT Tyler, please follow this link:

<http://www.uttyler.edu/wellness/rightsresponsibilities.php>

### Campus Carry

We respect the right and privacy of students 21 and over who are duly licensed to carry concealed weapons in this class. License holders are expected to behave responsibly and keep a handgun secure and concealed. More information is available at

<http://www.uttyler.edu/about/campus-carry/index.php>

### UT Tyler a Tobacco-Free University

All forms of tobacco will not be permitted on the UT Tyler main campus, branch campuses, and any property owned by UT Tyler. This applies to all members of the University community, including students, faculty, staff, University affiliates, contractors, and visitors.

Forms of tobacco not permitted include cigarettes, cigars, pipes, water pipes (hookah), bidis, kreteks, electronic cigarettes, smokeless tobacco, snuff, chewing tobacco, and all other tobacco products.

There are several cessation programs available to students looking to quit smoking, including counseling, quitlines, and group support. For more information on cessation programs please visit [www.uttyler.edu/tobacco-free](http://www.uttyler.edu/tobacco-free).

### Grade Replacement/Forgiveness and Census Date Policies

Students repeating a course for grade forgiveness (grade replacement) must file a Grade Replacement Contract with the Enrollment Services Center (ADM 230) on or before the Census Date of the semester in which the course will be repeated. Grade Replacement Contracts are available in the Enrollment Services Center or at <http://www.uttyler.edu/registrar>. Each semester's Census Date can be found on the Contract itself, on the Academic Calendar, or in the information pamphlets published each semester by the Office of the Registrar.

Failure to file a Grade Replacement Contract will result in both the original and repeated grade being used to calculate your overall grade point average. Undergraduates are eligible to exercise grade replacement for only three course repeats during their career at UT Tyler; graduates are eligible for two grade replacements. Full policy details are printed on each Grade Replacement Contract.

The Census Date is the deadline for many forms and enrollment actions of which students need to be aware. These include:

- Submitting Grade Replacement Contracts, Transient Forms, requests to withhold directory information, approvals for taking courses as Audit, Pass/Fail or Credit/No Credit.
- Receiving 100% refunds for partial withdrawals. (There is no refund for these after the Census Date)
- Schedule adjustments (section changes, adding a new class, dropping without a "W" grade)
- Being reinstated or re-enrolled in classes after being dropped for non-payment
- Completing the process for tuition exemptions or waivers through Financial Aid

### State-Mandated Course Drop Policy

Texas law prohibits a student who began college for the first time in Fall 2007 or thereafter from dropping more than six courses during their entire undergraduate career. This includes courses dropped at another 2-year or 4-year Texas public college or university. For purposes of this rule, a dropped course is any course that is dropped after the census date (See Academic Calendar for the specific date).

Exceptions to the 6-drop rule may be found in the catalog. Petitions for exemptions must be submitted to the Enrollment Services Center and must be accompanied by documentation of the extenuating circumstance. Please contact the Enrollment Services Center if you have any questions.

### Disability/Accessibility Services

In accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the ADA Amendments Act (ADAAA) the University of Texas at Tyler offers accommodations to students with learning, physical and/or psychological disabilities. If you have a disability, including a non-visible diagnosis such as a learning disorder, chronic illness, TBI, PTSD, ADHD, or you have a history of modifications or accommodations in a previous educational environment, you are encouraged to visit

<https://hood.accessiblelearning.com/UTTyler> and fill out the New Student application. The Student Accessibility and Resources (SAR) office will contact you when your application has been submitted and an appointment with Cynthia Lowery, Assistant Director of Student Services/ADA Coordinator. For more information, including filling out an application for services, please visit the SAR webpage at <http://www.uttyler.edu/disabilityservices>, the SAR office located in the University Center, # 3150 or call 903.566.7079.

### Student Absence due to Religious Observance

Students who anticipate being absent from class due to a religious observance are requested to inform the instructor of such absences by the second class meeting of the semester.

### Student Absence for University-Sponsored Events and Activities

If you intend to be absent for a university-sponsored event or activity, you (or the event sponsor) must notify the instructor at least two weeks prior to the date of the planned absence. At that time the instructor will set a date and time when make-up assignments will be completed.

### **Social Security and FERPA Statement**

It is the policy of The University of Texas at Tyler to protect the confidential nature of social security numbers. The University has changed its computer programming so that all students have an identification number. The electronic transmission of grades (e.g., via e-mail) risks violation of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act; grades will not be transmitted electronically.

### **Emergency Exits and Evacuation**

Everyone is required to exit the building when a fire alarm goes off. Follow your instructor's directions regarding the appropriate exit. If you require assistance during an evacuation, inform your instructor in the first week of class. Do not re-enter the building unless given permission by University Police, Fire department, or Fire Prevention Services.

### **Student Standards of Academic Conduct**

Disciplinary proceedings may be initiated against any student who engages in scholastic dishonesty, including, but not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts.

- i. "Cheating" includes, but is not limited to:
  - copying from another student's test paper;
  - using, during a test, materials not authorized by the person giving the test;
  - failure to comply with instructions given by the person administering the test;
  - possession during a test of materials which are not authorized by the person giving the test, such as class notes or specifically designed "crib notes". The presence of textbooks constitutes a violation if they have been specifically prohibited by the person administering the test;
  - using, buying, stealing, transporting, or soliciting in whole or part the contents of an unadministered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program;
  - collaborating with or seeking aid from another student during a test or other assignment without authority;
  - discussing the contents of an examination with another student who will take the examination;
  - divulging the contents of an examination, for the purpose of preserving questions for use by another, when the instructors has designated that the examination is not to be removed from the examination room or not to be returned or to be kept by the student;
  - substituting for another person, or permitting another person to substitute for oneself to take a course, a test, or any course-related assignment;
  - paying or offering money or other valuable thing to, or coercing another person to obtain an unadministered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program or information about an unadministered test, test key, home solution or computer program;
  - falsifying research data, laboratory reports, and/or other academic work offered for credit;
  - taking, keeping, misplacing, or damaging the property of The University of Texas at Tyler, or of another, if the student knows or reasonably should know that an unfair academic advantage would be gained by such conduct; and
  - misrepresenting facts, including providing false grades or resumes, for the purpose of obtaining an academic or financial benefit or injuring another student academically or financially.
- ii. "Plagiarism" includes, but is not limited to, the appropriation, buying, receiving as a gift, or obtaining by any means another's work and the submission of it as one's own academic work offered for credit.
- iii. "Collusion" includes, but is not limited to, the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing academic assignments offered for credit or collaboration with another person to commit a violation of any section of the rules on scholastic dishonesty.
- iv. All written work that is submitted will be subject to review by plagiarism software.

### **UT Tyler Resources for Students**

- [UT Tyler Writing Center](mailto:writingcenter@uttyler.edu) (903.565.5995), [writingcenter@uttyler.edu](mailto:writingcenter@uttyler.edu)
- [UT Tyler Tutoring Center](mailto:tutoring@uttyler.edu) (903.565.5964), [tutoring@uttyler.edu](mailto:tutoring@uttyler.edu)
- The Mathematics Learning Center, RBN 4021, this is the open access computer lab for math students, with tutors on duty to assist students who are enrolled in early-career courses.
- [UT Tyler Counseling Center](tel:903.566.7254) (903.566.7254)

**Composers Seminar (MUSI 3348) – Spring 2020**

**Tentative Course Calendar (subject to change)**

*Revised 02-04-2020*

**Day   Date   Topic(s)**

**Week 1**

- Tu    1/14    Syllabus / Intro. to Course Topics / What do you want to learn?  
Intro. to Presentations, Analyses, Professional Development/“Composer’s Manual”, Final Exam
- Th    1/16    Discuss business card design. Show your sample business cards.

**Week 2**

- Tu    1/21    Discuss website design. Critique Dr. Gullings’ website.
- Th    1/23    Intro. to Group Composition Seminar, Giving and Receiving Feedback  
Original Music Presentation 1: Dr. Gullings (sample presentation)

**Week 3**

- Tu    1/28    Original Music Presentation 1, Complete: (Morton)
- Th    1/30    Original Music Presentation 1, Complete: (Findlay)  
Original Music Presentation 1, Complete: (Armstrong)

**Week 4**

- Tu    2/4    Professional Development Topic: **Dr. Gullings** – *Music Composition Competitions*
- Th    2/6    Professional Development Topic: **Dr. Gullings** – *Your CV / Resume*

**Week 5**

- Tu    2/11    Professional Development Topic: **Dr. Gullings** – *Graduate School Applications, other TBD*
- Th    2/13    Score Analysis 1 – Early Masters of the Post-CPP: Dr. Gullings (sample presentation)

**Week 6**

- Tu    2/18    Score Analysis 1 – Early Masters of the Post-CPP: (Armstrong)
- Th    2/20    Score Analysis 1 – Early Masters of the Post-CPP: (Findlay)  
Score Analysis 1 – Early Masters of the Post-CPP: (Morton)

**Week 7**

- Tu    2/25    Guest Lecture? Other?
- Th    2/27    Guest Lecture? Other?

**Week 8**

- Tu    3/3    Guest Lecture? Other?
- Th    3/5    Guest Video Lecture: Dr. Andrew Simpson, The Catholic University of America  
Topic = original music, other topics TBD.

**Week 9**

No class: Spring Break.

**Week 10**

Tu 3/17 Reaction discussion from CMS Conference  
Score Analysis 2 – Aural Analysis: Dr. Gullings (sample presentation)

Th 3/19 Score Analysis 2 – Aural Analysis: (Findlay)

**Week 11**

Tu 3/24 Score Analysis 2 – Aural Analysis: (Morton)  
Score Analysis 2 – Aural Analysis: (Armstrong)

Th 3/26 No Class: SCI Conference, UTA

**Week 12**

Tu 3/31 Reaction discussion from SCI Conference  
Original Music Presentation 2, recent/in-progress: Dr. Gullings (sample presentation)

Th 4/2 Original Music Presentation 2, recent/in-progress: (Morton)

**Week 13**

Tu 4/7 Original Music Presentation 2, recent/in-progress: (Armstrong)  
Original Music Presentation 2, recent/in-progress: (Findlay)

Th 4/9 Guest Video Lecture: Dr. Michael Oberhauser, The Catholic University of America  
Topic = Self-producing events, community arts engagement, original music.

**Week 14**

Tu 4/14 Guest Lecture? Other?

Th 4/16 Score Analysis 3 – Style Analysis: Dr. Gullings (sample presentation)

**Week 15**

Tu 4/21 Score Analysis 3 – Style Analysis: (Findlay)

Th 4/23 Score Analysis 3 – Style Analysis: (Armstrong)  
Score Analysis 3 – Style Analysis: (Morton)

**Week 16**

No class. Final exam TBD.

## Potential Final Exam Questions

Answer the following questions in essay format, using complete sentences and paragraphs. Responses will be evaluated based on accuracy, completeness, cohesiveness, dated references to specific relevant composers and works, and evidence of critical thought.

1. Describe the development of art music from about 1920 through the present. Trace some major artistic and philosophical trends, referencing at least four distinct compositions we discussed in this class by title, composer, and year composed. Answer in about five to seven paragraphs.
2. Describe your personal compositional style at present, and place it in the context of the trends you described in your previous essay. Reference at least two of your own compositions by title, and make specific references to techniques used in them and styles they represent. Use at least one of the works you featured in your original music presentations this semester. Answer in about three to five paragraphs.
3. What advice would you give an aspiring composer just starting their undergraduate work, who is interested in a career in contemporary classical music composition? Reference at least three specific things you learned from the professional development series this semester. Answer in about three to five paragraphs.
4. You will be given a work to analyze, along with contact information for the living composer who wrote it. **Analyze** the work, taking detailed notes through **multiple listening sessions**. Then **interview** the composer to gain more insights about the meaning, history, and techniques involved in its creation. Finally, write a **two to three-page** introduction and analysis on the work, and affix it to the end of this exam. The paper should give a brief **introduction** and overview of the piece and its composer. It should also include at least **three specific musical comments**, referencing the score and/or audio track times. Place this work into the context of one or more of the **major trends** in art music since 1920 you identified in Question 1. Finally, summarize how the composer's aesthetic goals are represented in his or her music.