**ESSEX COUNTY COLLEGE**

**Humanities Division**

**MUS 209 – Contemporary Arrangement and Composition**

**Course Outline**

**Course Number & Name:**  MUS 209 Contemporary Arrangement and Composition

**Credit Hours:**  3.0 **Contact Hours:**  3.0 **Lecture:** 3.0 **Lab:**  N/A **Other:**  N/A

**Prerequisites**:  Grade of “C” or better in MUS 106 or placement

**Co-requisites:** None **Concurrent Courses:** None

**Course Outline Revision Date:**  Spring 2011

**Course Description**: The student is exposed to the techniques involved in providing musical settings for any size performance group and encouraged to exercise his/her creative ability through the use of technical tools.

**Course Goals:** Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to do the following:

1. compose at least two compositions for different media; and

2. analyze assigned repertoire for components of contemporary music composition.

**Measurable Course Performance Objectives (MPOs)**: Upon successful completion of this course, students should specifically be able to do the following:

1. Compose at least two compositions for different media:

* 1. *compose the scores of at least two compositions*;
  2. *complete the part preparation of at least two compositions;*
  3. *explore and implement a variety of formal possibilities and mediums of composition;* and
  4. *explore and implement various contemporary compositional techniques*

2. Analyze assigned repertoire for components of contemporary music composition:

1. *identify atonal melodies;*
2. *identify contemporary rhythmic patterns;* and
3. *identify contemporary chord patterns*

**Methods of Instruction**: Instruction will consist of a combination of lectures/discussions/ demonstrations and individual and/or class exercises. Note: The topics and assignments in this course are individually tailored to each student’s needs and portfolio of compositions and assessed potential.

**Outcomes Assessment:** Rubrics are used to assess compositions and manuscripts for the presence and mastery of the course objectives. Data is collected and analyzed to determine the level of student performance on these assessment instruments in regards to meeting course objectives. The results of this data analysis are used to guide necessary pedagogical and/or curricular revisions.

**Course Requirements:** All students are required to:

1. Attend class and actively participate in class discussions.

2. Complete assigned compositions, manuscripts, and/or assignments on time.

**Methods of Evaluation:** Final course grades will be computed as follows:

**% of**

**Grading Components final course grade**

* **Compositions 60%**

Students must complete assigned compositions in time for rehearsal and public performance, which is an essential skill of a composer. These compositions will provide evidence of the level of student mastery of course objectives.

* **Final Manuscript and Parts**   **30%**

The final manuscript and parts should indicate synthesis of course content and will provide evidence of the level of student mastery of course objectives.

* **Attitude and Persistence**   **10%**

Students must be able to accept and use constructive criticism and direction to improve their skills.

Note: At this early stage of instruction, the craft and technique of the composer are weighted more heavily than the actual quality of the final composition.

**Academic Integrity:** Dishonesty disrupts the search for truth that is inherent in the learning process and so devalues the purpose and the mission of the College. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, the following:

* plagiarism – the failure to acknowledge another writer’s words or ideas or to give proper credit to sources of information;
* cheating – knowingly obtaining or giving unauthorized information on any test/exam or any other academic assignment;
* interference – any interruption of the academic process that prevents others from the proper engagement in learning or teaching; and
* fraud – any act or instance of willful deceit or trickery.

Violations of academic integrity will be dealt with by imposing appropriate sanctions. Sanctions for acts of academic dishonesty could include the resubmission of an assignment, failure of the test/exam, failure in the course, probation, suspension from the College, and even expulsion from the College.

**Student Code of Conduct:** All students are expected to conduct themselves as responsible and considerate adults who respect the rights of others. Disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. All students are also expected to attend and be on time for all class meetings. No cell phones or similar electronic devices are permitted in class. Please refer to the Essex County College student handbook, *Lifeline*, for more specific information about the College’s Code of Conduct and attendance requirements.

**Course Content Outline:** There is no text for this course. Depending upon the ability and talent of the students in the class, the instructor will set a weekly schedule for the course