MUSI 4253 Orchestration – Fall 2018 – Syllabus

Course: MUSI 4253 – Orchestration
Time: 11:00-11:50 T-TH
Instructor: Dr. Stephen D. Emmons
Office: Carr 292
Telephone: 486-6031
Email: semmons@angelo.edu
Office Hours: As Posted

Course Description
The purpose of this course is to introduce the basic principles of orchestration. The main focus will be on the instruments of the orchestra and concert band and their use in various ensembles. Emphasis is upon the development of practical orchestration skills such as transcribing, arranging, and score and part preparation. Numerous orchestration projects and exams will be used to assess student learning.

Course Student Learning Outcomes
Demonstrate through written application an understanding of:
1) Basic acoustics, timbre, and the overtone series
2) Notation and score preparation
3) Ranges, tone qualities, technical abilities, and transposition of band and orchestral instruments
4) Orchestrating for a variety of ensembles
5) The use of computer notation software (Finale)
6) History of the orchestra and orchestration

IDEA Learning Objectives
1) Gaining a basic understanding of the subject
2) Developing specific skills, competencies, and points of view needed by professionals in the field most closely related to this course
3) Developing creative capacities

Grading
- Strings Project (consists of a transcription of an excerpt for string orchestra and string quartet) @ 5%
- Woodwinds Project (consists of a transcription of an excerpt for the woodwind section of a typical wind ensemble or symphonic band) @ 10%
- Brass Project (consists of an arrangement for brass choir @ 15%
- Orchestra Project (consists of orchestrating a Bach chorale for full orchestra and chorus) @ 10%
- Band Project (Final project, consists of orchestrating a piece for wind ensemble – this transcription will be read by the ASU Wind Ensemble) @ 15% points
- Weekly quizzes (via Blackboard) @ 35% - quizzes and due dates will be announced via Blackboard
- Strings, Brass, & Woodwind Bach chorale scoring tests (in class) @ 10%

The Blackboard quizzes will include ranges, transposition, terminology, techniques, acoustics, and history. The band and orchestra projects serve as capstone projects in place of a final exam.
Final averages and letter grades are as follows:
- A = 90-100%
- B = 80-89%
- C = 70-79%
- F = Below 70%

**Required Texts**
- *Essential Dictionary of Orchestration* by Dave Black and Tom Gerou
- *Essential Dictionary of Music Notation* by Tom Gerou and Linda Lusk
- Full version of *Finale* music notation software available at [www.finalemusic.com](http://www.finalemusic.com)

**Course Outline**

*The course outline is tentative due to external factors such as guest lectures and band rehearsal readings.*

**Policies**

**Attendance**

Attendance is required in this course. You are allowed four absences without penalty. Each absence beyond four will result in two points deducted from your final course grade. Missed assignments may be taken only if I am aware of a legitimate problem BEFORE the assignment due date. Otherwise, the missed assignment will result in a grade of zero for that assignment. Orchestration projects turned in late may be penalized at the discretion of the professor.

Students will be excused for the observance of a religious holy day in accordance with OP 10.19. [http://www.angelo.edu/opmanual/](http://www.angelo.edu/opmanual/)

**University Course Withdrawal Policy**

The last day to drop a course or to totally withdraw from the University will be April 2, 2018. Withdrawal grades will be indicated by W.

**Honor Code Statement**


**Disabilities Statement**

Persons with disabilities which may warrant academic accommodations must contact the Student Life Office, Room 112 University Center, in order to request such accommodations prior to any accommodations being implemented. You are encouraged to make this request early in the semester so that appropriate arrangements can be made. [http://www.angelo.edu/services/disability-services/disability-services-policy-statement.php](http://www.angelo.edu/services/disability-services/disability-services-policy-statement.php)