

COURSE SPECIFICATION FORM
for new course proposals and course amendments

Department/School:	Music	Academic Session:	2011-12 and thereafter
Course Title:	Practical Composition Skills	Course Value: (UG courses = unit value, PG courses = notional learning hours)	0.5
Course Code:	MU1113	Course JACS Code: (Please contact Data Management for advice)	W380
Availability: (Please state which teaching terms)	Autumn through Spring	Status: (i.e.: Core, Core PR, Compulsory, Optional)	Core (Level 4)
Pre-requisites:	None	Co-requisites:	None
Co-ordinator:	Ms Helen Grime		
Course Staff:	Dr Mark Bowden, Ms Helen Grime, Mr Brian Lock		
Aims:	This course will provide the opportunity to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • practise the art of musical composition • develop skills in independent creative work 		
Learning Outcomes:	By the end of this course you should be able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • write practically for a range of instruments and voices, and idiomatically for those with which you are most familiar • compose small-scale musical works • pace short compositions effectively 		
Course Content:	The course will cover some of the following topics. The precise topics taught may change depending on the research interests of the staff responsible for teaching the course: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Writing for solo instrument or voice with accompaniment • Writing for small chamber ensemble • Introduction to media and film music • Studio techniques 		
Teaching & Learning Methods:	The course will be taught in fortnightly sessions during the autumn and spring terms totalling a maximum of 20 hours alongside some 130 hours of private study, resulting in the notional total of 150 hours of study for the course. The fortnightly sessions will divide into three areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introductory lectures, in which representative works will be used to introduce assignments and as potential models for your own creative ideas • Small group tutorials, in which individual coursework will be discussed, to give in-depth help, advice and feedback. • Workshops, with both student and professional musicians, to encourage the development of practical composition skills. 		
Details of teaching resources on Moodle:	Online resources to be added as appropriate		
Key Bibliography:	<p>Adler, Samuel. <i>The Study of Orchestration</i>, 3rd ed. (New York & London: Norton, 2002)</p> <p>Black, Dave. <i>Essential Dictionary of Music Notation</i> (Los Angeles: Alfred Publishing Co., Inc, 1996)</p> <p>Blatter, Alfred. <i>Instrumentation and Orchestration</i>, 2nd ed. (Belmont, Thompson Learning, 1997)</p> <p>Gerou, Tom. <i>Essential Dictionary of Orchestration</i> (Los Angeles: Alfred Publishing Co., Inc, 1998)</p> <p>Gould, Elaine <i>Behind Bars</i> (London: Faber, 2011)</p> <p>Johnson, Julian. 'Composition', in <i>An Introduction to Music Studies</i>, ed. J. P. E. Harper-</p>		

	<p>Scott & Jim Samson (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press 2009), 236–249</p> <p>Lock, Brian. 'Music technology', in <i>An Introduction to Music Studies</i>, ed. J. P. E. Harper-Scott & Jim Samson (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press 2009), 250-263</p>
Formative Assessment & Feedback:	<p>Formative feedback will be given during the small group tutorial sessions in which each piece of work to be submitted will be discussed with a course tutor. Workshops will include group discussions and wide-ranging question-and-answer sessions. Summative feedback will be given in the form of a written comment and/or annotations on returned coursework. A weekly office hour is available for individual consultation with course tutors.</p>
Summative Assessment:	<p>Exam: n/a</p> <p>Coursework: a portfolio (100%) of a total of 8-10 minutes of music, comprising:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assignment 1 (40%) • Assignment 2 (60%) <p>The nature of the assignments will vary from year to year, but may include: a composition for solo instrument or for voice with accompaniment; a composition for small chamber ensemble; or a cue of film music for use in a film scene. Students will be advised through the course handbook at the start of the year what the assessment will be.</p> <p>Deadlines: Each assignment to be submitted by the appropriate in-course deadline in order to qualify for final submission for assessment.</p>

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The information contained in this course outline is correct at the time of publication, but may be subject to change as part of the Department's policy of continuous improvement and development. Every effort will be made to notify you of any such changes.