



MS 381 MUSIC THEORY III / COMPOSITION

IES Abroad

DESCRIPTION:

This course serves as an introduction to nineteenth-, twentieth- and twenty-first-century musical practices, focusing on the composition of original works, the analysis of relevant samples from historic music literature and exercises to develop acquaintance with language, syntax and style of the targeted music age. The composed pieces will be performed at the end of the course.

CREDITS: 3

CONTACT HOURS: 45

LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION: English

PREREQUISITES: Having taken a Music Theory 200 level class; being familiar with tonal harmony and basic analysis

METHOD OF PRESENTATION:

Lectures, discussions, creative sessions, attendance to course-related performances, student presentations, hands on correction of assigned work.

REQUIRED WORK AND FORM OF ASSESSMENT:

- Weekly assignments - 30%
- Composition projects - 35%
- Listening - 35%

Course Engagement:

Due to the lab nature of this course, your presence and engagement in class sessions is vital.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

By the end of the course students will be able to:

- Place chromatic melodic and harmonic elements within a functional context, to extend the understanding and use of tonal and post-tonal syntax
- Read and respond to analytical essays from the music theory literature
- Analyze examples of music from the Classical, Romantic to 21st-Century repertoire
- Aurally comprehend all the elements presented in their musical context
- Idiomatically compose a variety of model compositions
- Compose an original piece

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

As a member of our class community, you are expected to be present and on time every day. Attending class has an impact on your learning and academic success. For this reason, the IES Abroad Milan attendance policy allows for the following number of absences, which are intended to be used for physical and mental health reasons:

- THREE (3) absences in each Italian language course,
- TWO (2) absences in each Area Studies course,
- ONE (1) absence in each seminar course or course meeting 1 day a week,
- ZERO (0) absences in each course of individual music instruction.

Every absence beyond this allowance will automatically result in a penalty of 2 percentage points off the final grade. SEVEN (7) absences will result in a failing grade in Italian language and Area Studies courses. FOUR (4) absences will result in a failing grade in seminar or 1-day-a-week courses. Failure to attend a scheduled exam, test, quiz, or presentation will automatically result in an F grade on that assessment.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:

Students are expected to abide by the IES Abroad Code of Academic Integrity. All work submitted by a student for academic credit

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should constitute the student's own original work. Any work submitted for academic credit may be subject to review by a textual similarity detection service for the detection of plagiarism and AI usage.

CONTENT:

Lessons	Content	Readings & Assignments
Lesson 1	Analysis and listenings 1: at the borders of tonality - A. Berg, Piano Sonata op. 1	Assignment: - Review of the arguments of the lesson - Writing of a short sketch (4 - 8 measures) with the technique analyzed in the lesson (optional)
Lesson 2	- Personal composition 1: introduction - Check about competences	Assignment: Definition of a personal project
Lesson 3	Analysis and listenings 2: atonality and dodecaphony - A. Schoenberg, piano pieces op. 19 and op. 23	Assignment: - Review of the arguments of the lesson - Writing of a short sketch (4 - 8 measures) with the technique analyzed in the lesson (optional)
Lesson 4	- Personal composition 2: the world of instruments - windwoods - Discussion about personal projects	Assignment: Definition/development of a personal project
Lesson 5	Analysis and listenings 3: a new world - A. Webern, Symphony op. 21 and Piano Variations op. 27	Assignment: - Review of the arguments of the lesson - Writing of a short sketch (4 - 8 measures) with the technique analyzed in the lesson (optional)
Lesson 6	- Personal composition 3: the world of instruments - brass - Discussion about personal projects	Assignment: Definition/development of a personal project
Lesson 7	Analysis and listenings 4: Neoclassicism - I. Stravinskij, Octet	Assignment: - Review of the arguments of the lesson - Writing of a short sketch (4 - 8 measures) with the technique analyzed in the lesson (optional)
Lesson 8	- Personal composition 4: the world of instruments - percussion - Discussion about personal projects	Assignment: Definition/development of a personal project
Lesson 9	Analysis and listenings 5: other landscapes - E. Varèse, Octandre - B. Bartók, Piano Suite op. 14	Assignment: - Review of the arguments of the lesson - Writing of a short sketch (4 - 8 measures) with the technique analyzed in the lesson (optional)
Lesson 10	- Personal composition 5: the world of instruments - piano - Discussion about personal projects	Assignment: Definition/development of personal works
Lesson 11	Analysis and listenings 6: Total serialism - K.H. Stockhausen, Kreuzspiel	Assignment: Personal composition 4: the world of instruments - percussion Discussion about personal projects: - Review of the arguments of the lesson - Writing of a short sketch (4 - 8 measures) with the
Lesson 12	- Personal composition 6: the world of instruments - harp and guitar - Discussion about personal projects	Assignment: Definition/development of personal works

Lesson 13	Analysis and listenings 7: Past and future - L. Berio, O King and Folk Songs	Assignment: - Review of the arguments of the lesson - Writing of a short sketch (4 - 8 measures) with the technique analyzed in the lesson (optional)
Lesson 14	- Personal composition 7: the world of instruments - strings 1 - Discussion about personal projects	Assignment: Definition/development of personal works
Lesson 15	Analysis and listenings 8: Alea - Pieces by J. Cage, B. Maderna, M. Feldman and others	Assignment: - Review of the arguments of the lesson - Writing of a short sketch (4 - 8 measures) with the technique analyzed in the lesson (optional)
Lesson 16	- Personal composition 8: the world of instruments - strings 2 - Discussion about personal projects	Assignment: Definition/development of personal works
Lesson 17	Analysis and listenings 9: Miniatures - G. Kurtág, Microludes and Officium Breve for string quartet	Assignment: - Review of the arguments of the lesson - Writing of a short sketch (4 - 8 measures) with the technique analyzed in the lesson (optional)
Lesson 18	- Personal composition 9: the world of instruments - strings 3 - Discussion about personal projects	Assignment: Definition/development of personal works
Lesson 19	Analysis and listenings 10: new perspectives - G. Ligeti, Piano Studies	Assignment: - Review of the arguments of the lesson - Writing of a short sketch (4 - 8 measures) with the technique analyzed in the lesson (optional)
Lesson 20	- Personal composition 10: scores and individual parts - Discussion about personal projects	Assignment: Definition/development of personal works
Lesson 21	Analysis and listenings 11: today's borders - compositions written in the last twenty years.	Assignment: - Review of the arguments of the lesson - Writing of a short sketch (4 - 8 measures) with the technique analyzed in the lesson (optional)
Lesson 22	Personal composition 11: last check of scores	

**COURSE-RELATED TRIPS:**

- Concerts Attendance

RECOMMENDED READINGS:

- R. Taruskin, "Music in the Early Twentieth Century" and "Music in the Late Twentieth Century" - The Oxford History of Western Music
- S. Adler, "The Study of Orchestration"
- Other readings will be recommended during the course.

REQUIRED LISTENINGS:

- Berg, Piano Sonata op. 1
- A. Schoenberg, piano pieces op. 19 and op. 23
- A. Webern, Symphony op. 21 and Piano Variations op. 27
- I. Stravinskij, Octet
- E. Varèse, Octandre
- B. Bartók, Piano Suite op. 14
- K.H. Stockhausen, Kreuzspiel
- J. Cage, Aria and Sonatas and Interludes
- B. Maderna, Giardino religioso and Aura
- M. Feldman, The King of Denmark
- G. Kurtág, Microludes and Officium Breve for string quartet
- G. Ligeti, Piano Studies - Book I, II and III
- Other works will be indicated during the course.