

McLennan C O M M U N I T Y C O L L E G E

WACO, TEXAS

COURSE SYLLABUS AND INSTRUCTOR PLAN

SONGWRITING

MUSC 1321.01

PROFESSOR BILL HOWARD

NOTE: This is a 16-week course.

COVID 19 Notice:

McLennan Community College is committed to providing you with every resource you need to reach your academic goals including your safety. We will continue to monitor the evolving situation with COVID 19 and adjust our safety guidelines to make sure we offer a safe environment for you and our faculty. Please make sure to consult your faculty and the MCC website at <https://www.mclennan.edu/crisis-management/coronavirus-updates/index.html> on any changes to these guidelines.

Songwriting
MUSC 1321.01

Course Description:

The student will be able to demonstrate acceptable competency in the basic skills and techniques of songwriting, including melodic construction, harmonic progressions, and lyric writing and revision.

Prerequisites and/or Corequisites:

None

Course Notes and Instructor Recommendations:

None

Instructor Information:

Instructor Name: Bill Howard
MCC E-mail: whoward@mclennan.edu
Office Phone Number: 254.299.8217
Office Location: PAC 113
Office/Teacher Conference Hours: TBA

Required Text & Materials:

Music Industry Careers Workbook

MCC Bookstore Website: <http://www.mclennan.edu/bookstore/>

Student Support/Resources:

MCC provides a variety of services to support student success in the classroom and in your academic pursuits to include counseling, tutors, technology help desk, advising, financial aid, etc. A listing of these and the many other services available to our students is available at <http://www.mclennan.edu/campus-resource-guide/>

Methods of Teaching and Learning:

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Lecture, groups, assignments and final project performance

Course Objectives and/or Competencies:

- 1.) Write augmented and diminished rhythms as well as superimposed meters.
- 2.) Utilize melodic sequences and phrase forms in melodies.
- 3.) Utilize common chord progressions and phrase forms in harmonic progressions.
- 4.) Write basic lyrics in AAA form.
- 5.) Write rhythms to lyrics.
- 6.) Combine musical elements using a lead sheet format.
- 7.) Use correct music notation.

Course Outline or Schedule:

1/14 - Introduction to course

Unit One - Rhythmic Elements

1/16 - Rhythmic elements / Use of meter

1/21 - Syncopation / Sequences / Augmentation and diminution

1/23 - Rhythmic Project Due

Unit Two - Melodic Elements

1/28 - Melodic construction

1/30 - Scales and modes

2/4 - Melodic phrase forms / Contour

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2/6 - Melodic development

2/11 - Melodic Review

2/13 - Melodic Project Due

Unit Three - Harmonic Elements

2/18 - Chord types

2/20 - Common chord progressions /Bass Inversions

2/25 - Harmonic phrase forms / CESH / Cadences

2/27 - Modulations / Transpositions / Ostinatos / Pedal points

3/3 - Rhythms In Chord Progressions / Harmonic Review

3/5 - Combining Elements / Other Types Of Chord Progressions

3/19 - Harmonic Project Due

Unit Four - Other Musical Elements

3/17- Introductions and endings

3/24 - Notation / Editing / Lead sheets

3/26 - Continued

Unit Five - Lyrics

3/31 - Basic lyric concepts / Terminology / AAA form

4/2 - Verse /Chorus form

4/7 - AABA form / Review - **AAA Lyrics Due**

4/9 - Point of view / Plot and settings

4/14- Repetition and specifics / Common pitfalls

Unit Six - Lyrics and Rhythm

4/16 - Combining lyrics and rhythm

4/21 – Continued / **Lyric Rhythm Project Due**

4/23 - Individual Sessions

4/28 - Individual Sessions

4/30 - Individual Sessions

FINAL PROJECT PERFORMANCES

May 5 and 7

Course Grading Information:

The final grade for this course will be determined by three factors: the number of competencies successfully completed by each student (25%), the grade average for each test and assignment (50%), and the final course project (25%). The minimum passing grade for each competency, each test and assignment, and the final project is 70%. The grading scale for competencies is as follows:

7 competencies - A

6 competencies - B

5 competencies - C

4 competencies - D (**will not** be accepted as a prerequisite for future classes)

3 competencies or less – F

Late Work, Attendance, and Make Up Work Policies:

Assignments for this course are normally due on the next class day and students should plan on completing these assignments as scheduled. Each student may at their discretion hand in one late

regular assignment (not including final projects) on the second class day after receiving the assignment. Assignments handed in after that date may or may not be accepted at the instructor's discretion. Missed assignments will receive a grade of zero for that competency.

Student Behavioral Expectations or Conduct Policy:

1.) Cell phones - please turn off your cell phone before coming to class. If you are expecting an emergency call during class please advise your instructor. Earbuds should not be worn during class (we are studying music, right?) and text messaging is not allowed at any time. **If you send or receive a text message during a test you will automatically fail that test.**

2.) Food and Drinks - there are areas on campus as well as in the PAC for eating and relaxing. **Please do not bring food to class.** If you are unable to survive more than an hour without food you may wish to reconsider your choice of majors and switch to the food service industry. **No drinks are allowed in the MIDI lab, the class piano lab, the recording studio, or any other areas that contain electrical equipment** - this assures your safety while protecting the investment that MCC has made in technology for your benefit.

* **[Click Here for the MCC Academic Integrity Statement](http://www.mclennan.edu/academic-integrity)**
(www.mclennan.edu/academic-integrity)

The link above will provide you with information about academic integrity, dishonesty, and cheating.

[Click Here for the MCC Attendance/Absences Policy](https://www.mclennan.edu/highlander-guide/policies.html)
(<https://www.mclennan.edu/highlander-guide/policies.html>)

Click on the link above for the college policies on attendance and absences. Your instructor may have additional guidelines specific to this course.

McLennan

C O M M U N I T Y

COLLEGE

ACADEMIC RESOURCES/POLICIES

Accommodations/ADA Statement:

Any student who is a qualified individual with a disability may request reasonable accommodations to assist with providing equal access to educational opportunities. Students should contact the Accommodations Coordinator as soon as possible to provide documentation and make necessary arrangements. Once that process is completed, appropriate verification will be provided to the student and instructor. Please note that instructors are not required to provide classroom accommodations to students until appropriate verification has been provided by the Accommodations Coordinator. For additional information, please visit www.mclennan.edu/disability.

Students with questions or who require assistance with disabilities involving physical, classroom, or testing accommodations should contact:

disabilities@mclennan.edu

254-299-8122

Room 319, Student Services Center

Title IX:

We care about your safety, and value an environment where students and instructors can successfully teach and learn together. If you or someone you know experiences unwelcomed behavior, we are here to help. Individuals who would like to report an incident of sexual misconduct are encouraged to immediately contact the Title IX Coordinator at titleix@mclennan.edu or by calling Dr. Drew Canham (Chief of Staff for Diversity, Equity & Inclusion/Title IX) at (254) 299-8645. Individuals also may contact the MCC Police Department at 299-8911 or the MCC Student Counseling Center at MCC at (254) 299-8210. The MCC Student Counseling Center is a confidential resource for students. Any student or employee may report sexual harassment anonymously by visiting <http://www.lighthouse-services.com/mclennan/>.

Go to McLennan's Title IX webpage at www.mclennan.edu/titleix/. It contains more information about definitions, reporting, confidentiality, resources, and what to do if you or someone you know is a victim of sexual misconduct, gender-based violence or the crimes of rape, acquaintance rape, sexual assault, sexual harassment, stalking, dating violence, or domestic violence.

Student Support/Resources:

MCC provides a variety of services to support student success in the classroom and in your academic pursuits to include counseling, tutors, technology help desk, advising, financial aid, etc. A listing of these and the many other services available to our students is available at <http://www.mclennan.edu/campus-resource-guide/>

College personnel recognize that food, housing, and transportation are essential for student success. If you are having trouble securing these resources or want to explore strategies for balancing life and school, we encourage you to contact a Success Coach by calling (254) 299-8226 or emailing SuccessCoach@mclennan.edu. Students may visit the Completion Center Monday-Friday from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. to schedule a meeting with a Success Coach and receive additional resources and support to help reach academic and personal goals. Paulanne's Pantry (MCC's food pantry) provides free food by appointment to students, faculty and staff based on household size. Text (254) 870-7573 to schedule a pantry appointment. The Completion Center and pantry are located on the Second Floor of the Student Services Center (SSC).

MCC Foundation Emergency Grant Fund:

Unanticipated expenses, such as car repairs, medical bills, housing, or job loss can affect us all. Should an unexpected expense arise, the MCC Foundation has an emergency grant fund that may be able to assist you. Please go to <https://www.mclennan.edu/foundation/scholarships-and-resources/emergencygrant.html> to find out more about the emergency grant. The application can be found at https://www.mclennan.edu/foundation/docs/Emergency_Grant_Application.pdf.

MCC Academic Integrity Statement:

Go to www.mclennan.edu/academic-integrity for information about academic integrity, dishonesty, and cheating.

Minimum System Requirements to Utilize MCC's D2L|Brightspace:

Go to <https://www.mclennan.edu/center-for-teaching-and-learning/Faculty-and-Staff-Commons/requirements.html> for information on the minimum system requirements needed to reliably access your courses in MCC's D2L|Brightspace learning management system.

Minimum Technical Skills:

Students should have basic computer skills, knowledge of word processing software, and a basic understanding of how to use search engines and common web browsers.

Backup Plan for Technology:

In the event MCC's technology systems are down, you will be notified via your MCC student email address. Please note that all assignments and activities will be due on the date specified in the Instructor Plan, unless otherwise noted by the instructor.

Email Policy:

McLennan Community College would like to remind you of the policy (<http://www.mclennan.edu/employees/policy-manual/docs/E-XXXI-B.pdf>) regarding college email. All students, faculty, and staff are encouraged to use their McLennan email addresses when conducting college business.

A student's McLennan email address is the preferred email address that college employees should use for official college information or business. Students are expected to read and, if needed, respond in a timely manner to college emails.

Instructional Uses of Email:

Faculty members can determine classroom use of email or electronic communications. Faculty should expect and encourage students to check the college email on a regular basis. Faculty should inform students in the course syllabus if another communication method is to be used and of any special or unusual expectations for electronic communications.

If a faculty member prefers not to communicate by email with their students, it should be reflected in the course syllabus and information should be provided for the preferred form of communication.

Email on Mobile Devices:

The College recommends that you set up your mobile device to receive McLennan emails. If you need assistance with set-up, you may email Helpdesk@mclennan.edu for help.

Forwarding Emails:

You may forward emails that come to your McLennan address to alternate email addresses; however, the College will not be held responsible for emails forwarded to an alternate address that may be lost or placed in junk or spam filters.

Disclaimer:

The resources and policies listed above are merely for informational purposes and are subject to change without notice or obligation. The College reserves the right to change policies and other requirements in compliance with State and Federal laws. The provisions of this document do not constitute a contract.