**MUS 1217 Enhanced Song Writing**

***Description****:*

This course examines the structures of songs that have been proven successful in the popular music industry, including: country, R&B, Hip-Hop, Folk, Jazz, theatrical, Afro pop etc. Students will discover the shapes and musical constructions that determine the audiences’ physical and emotional responses and attractions to the music, paying careful attention to the creation and development of lyric writing skills and sensibilities, the use and impact of modulations, minor and modal moods and the development of verse, bridge, chorus, hooks and grooves. The students will be expected to create original pieces, under the supervision of the instructor, that demonstrate the understanding of the skills learned in class.

***Objectives:***

1. To fully equip students with the creative approaches and technical skills
2. To offer knowledge on the different sources of textual materials for songs
3. To analyze the different forms of songs
4. To offer tools and skills that will enable students to write songs in a popular music genre

*Course Outline*

Topic 1: Writing a Chorus

Topic 2: Common Verse Types

* Lyric Moves
* Musical Moves
* Varied Repetition
* Phrasing Types
* Overall Verse Chorus Form

Topic 3: Bridge in Verse Chorus Forms

Topic 4: Standard Chorus Types

Topic 5: Chorus—Variations of Standard Chorus Types

Topic 6: Verse—Variations of Standard Types

Topic 7: Modulation in the Verse/Chorus Song Form

* Three Types of Modulation
* Parallel Key
* Relative Key Modulation
* Surprising Key
* Modulation into and out of Two Sections

Topic 8: The Verse/Pre Chorus/Chorus Song (Type 1)

* Writing Process
* Chorus Types
* Verse Types
* Type 1 Pre Chorus
* Surprising Form

Topic 9: Verse/Refrain—Standard Types

* Refrain Line and Lyrical/Musical Form
* Title Placement in the Complete Verse/Refrain Song
* Musical Setups for the Verse/Refrain Lyric
* Verse/Refrain on the 12-Bar Blues
* Tools for First Line Emphasis
* Deemphasizing the Last Line
* Instrumental Hook
* Bridge in the Verse
* Refrain Song Form
* Standard AABA Song Form
* Musical/Lyrical Form

Topic 10: Verse/Refrain: Variations and the Complete AABA Song

* Variations of Standard Verse/Refrain Types
* Change a Phrase Length
* Stack Types Together
* Combine Variation Types
* Two Part Verse/Refrain
* The Complete Verse/Refrain Song without a Bridge

Lesson 11: Combination Form: Verse/Refrain and Chorus

* The Verse/Refrain Structure
* Type 1: Pop Chorus
* Type 2: Country Bridge Chorus
* The Complete Combination Form

*Learning Outcomes*

1. Knowledge about the different sources of text for song
2. Developed skill in writing song lyrics/texts
3. Ability to write songs in the different popular music genres
4. Ability to write different song forms

*Methods of Teaching/Delivery*

Lectures, tutorials, demonstrations, singing, group and individual assignments, and individual instruction

*Modes of Assessment*

Course Work:

Attendance and Participation in class Discussions: 5%

Weekly composition assignments: 20%

Mid-semester test: 15%

Final Examination

Written: 60%

*Selected Readings*

Frederick, Robin. 2008. *Shortcuts to Hit Songwriting: 126 Proven Techniques for Writing Songs That Sell.* Calabasas, CA: TAXI Music Books.

# Oland, Philips Pamela. 1989. *The Art of Writing Great Allworth.* New York: Press.

# Perricone, Jack. 2000. *Melody in Songwriting: Tools and Techniques for Writing Hit Songs (Berklee Guide).*Boston, MA: BerKlee Press.

# Blume, Jason. 2004. *Six Steps to Songwriting Success, Revised Edition: The Comprehensive Guide to Writing and Marketing Hit Songs.* New York: Billboard Books.

# Rooksby, Rikky. 2006. *Lyrics: Writing Better Words for Your Songs (Songwriting).* San Francisco, CA: Backbeat Books.