250L, 251L, 450L, 451L Syllabus: Composition studio of Prof. Brent Dutton

251/251L

Semester I

The specific compositional content of each semester’s study will vary from student to student. The materials explored will deal with all of the elements of sound, harmony, melody, rhythm and growth but they will be explored through the individual student’s music. Stylistic considerations will also be addressed in the same fashion. Listening assignments will be given as deemed appropriate for the individual student.

Note the portfolio jury at the end of semester VI. The student must become very comfortable with their understanding of what is required from them at this important time. Be sure to discuss this with Prof. Dutton during each semester of study.

Musical Form and Musical Performance by Edward Cone pub. Norton

Semester II

Composition Lab M207 is offered every other semester and will be taken by all composition majors regardless of the level of study.

Texts: Techniques of the Contemporary Composer by David Cone pub. Schirmer
The Technique of Orchestration by Kent Kennan pub. Prentice Hall

Semester III

Continue with the elements worked on in semester I and II

A division recital will be performed starting in semester III. See the student handbook and Prof. Dutton for details.

Texts: Twentieth-Century Music by Eric Salzman pub. Prentice Hall, Materials and Techniques of Twentieth-Century Music by Stephan Kostka

Semester IV

Composition lab - see semester II for overview

There will be a divisional recital performed this semester

There will be a junior level review of each student’s portfolio of compositions at the end of this semester. This is a very important jury that will have a direct affect on the student’s advancement to upper division study. Be familiar with the student handbook content on this jury and be in complete accord with Prof. Dutton about your understanding of the requirements.

450/451L

Semester V

Continue with the elements worked on in previous semesters.

There will be a divisional recital given this semester


Semester VI

Composition lab – see semester II for overview

There will be a divisional recital given this semester


A Junior recital is presented this semester. See hansbook for details

Semester VII

Continue with elements worked on in previous semesters

There will be a divisional recital given this semester


Semester VIII
Composition Lab – see semester II for overview

**There will be a Senior Recital given this semester. See the student handbook and Prof. Dutton for details**


A Senior Recital is presented this semester. See student Handbook for guidelines

**Grading will be determined by the student’s ability to progress through the compositional challenges original writing presents. Diligence, originality, musicality and consistency of effort are highly prized.**