



Songwriting



GENERAL INFORMATION

Instructor: <i>Stu Kuby</i>	Course: <i>Songwriting</i>
Instructor of Record: <i>Evren Celimli</i>	
Discussion Group: <i>Open</i>	E-mail: <i>Scholar 360</i>

COURSE DESIGN

This online course is completely virtual, meaning that all course work (100%) will be conducted online and we will never physically meet. The course is also delivered asynchronously; for the most part, you will be able to work on assignments to fit your own personal schedule during the week. However, online courses are not independent study courses. You will be expected to interact online with the instructor and your fellow students; to do assignments; to meet deadlines; and in some cases, to work in virtual groups.

Expectations for performance in fully online courses are the same as for traditional courses; in fact, fully online courses require a high degree of self-motivation, self-discipline, and technology skills that can make them more demanding for some students..

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The goal of this course is to bring together the many aspects of music and words that converge into one complete expression known as a song and to show how these musical qualities interact within the listener as they take on different forms chosen by the songwriter to best express a song's meaning and intention. It is hoped that the student songwriter will develop a greater understanding of how songs are created and crafted as well as a deeper connection with one's own creative process.

The songwriting student will examine the structures of songs that have been proven successful in the popular, country, R&B, Hip-Hop, Folk, Jazz, theatrical and classical worlds. Students will discover the shapes and musical constructions that determine our 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 student will be expected to create original pieces as assigned that demonstrate an understanding of the relevant goals of the instructor. Students will be expected to take quizzes, finish and submit all assignments, complete a mid-term exam, a final project and final exam. Students should be prepared to revise and re-write assignments as required by the Instructor.

UPON COMPLETION OF THIS COURSE

Upon completion of this course the student will:

- Demonstrate an awareness and development of lyric writing skills*
- Musically express the differences between major, minor and modal moods and become familiar with the use and impact of modulations*
- Have a stronger command over the focused creation of verse, bridge, chorus, hook and groove. .*
- It is hoped that the student songwriter will develop a greater understanding of how songs are created and crafted as well as a richer awareness and understanding of one's own creative processes.*

COURSE PROCEDURE

Weekly Guides

In this syllabus and posted on-line you will find weekly guides that detail the week's topics to be discussed, learning objectives, reading assignments and assessments. Students are required to refer to these pages and complete all assigned work to receive full credit. The elements of the weekly guide are explained below.

Weekly Reading Assignments

Each week students are required to complete the reading assignments listed in this syllabus.

Weekly Chapter Outlines

Weekly chapter outlines are provided on the learning management's weekly assignment page to pinpoint the required topics that students should engage from specific chapters of the text each week. Quizzes are derived from the list of topics that are included within the weekly course outlines and from the in-depth information found within the text and material from the Instructor. While students are encouraged to gain the highest educational understanding about each topic as possible, some items within the text chapters have been omitted from the weekly outline in an effort to alleviate the digestion of information that is not relevant for the student's learning experience at hand.

Tutorials

Each week students are required to complete a thorough review of the tutorials listed within the weekly assignment page of the learning management system.

Quizzes

Quiz questions are selected directly from information within the specific reading and tutorial assignments. Quiz questions pertaining to course material are randomly selected by the learning management system that will require students to review and comprehend all topics prior to taking assessments. Quizzes are to be completed by midnight Pacific Standard Time at the end of each week.

Activities

Activities are interactive tutorials geared toward giving hands-on experience to students prior to completing projects. Activities are graded based upon completion in a pass/fail format. In order to receive full credit, students must complete the activity by mid-night Pacific Standard Time at the end of each week.

Exams

Mid-Terms

The course mid-term will be an accumulation of previous quizzes and encompass all text material and tutorials covered throughout weeks 1 through 6. Mid-terms can only be taken once and will count for 150 points

Final

The course final will be an accumulation of all course quizzes and encompass all text material and tutorials covered throughout weeks 1 through 11. Finals can only be taken once and will count for 200 points.

COURSE PREREQUISITES

*It is required that all students have a basic knowledge of musical scales, notation, and an understanding of rhythm, chords and harmony prior to entering this course even though these topics will be reviewed. Therefore, completion of **Modern Musicianship I and II**, or the equivalent courses are required before this course can be taken. All students should be in possession of either a full MIDI keyboard or MIDI guitar synthesizer for playing and documenting assignments. The Instructor prefers audio mixes with vocal and instrumental*

accompaniment for assigned song submissions. If students must submit work in score form, then either a Finale program or a scanner is required. All students' work and assignments must be posted to the Instructor's internet address on Scholar 360 according to the indicated schedules.

Interested students should be excited to begin learning the language of music. Like any language, you must use it to learn it, so you must be ready to commit to spending a little time every day to master the material. The purpose of the amount of material in the quizzes for each lesson set is to give the student more opportunities to practice. Cramming will not make you a better musician. A little bit every day goes a long way.

TEXTBOOK AND COURSE REQUIREMENTS

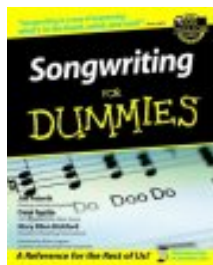


Songwriting – a Complete Guide To The Craft

Written by Stephen Citron

Published by Applause Publishing

ISBN# 0879101377



Songwriting for Dummies

by Jim Peterik, Dave Austin, Mary Ellen Bickford

Publisher: Wiley Publishing, Inc.; 1 edition (2002)

ISBN-10: 0764554042

Read together, as the assignments will indicate, these two books will prove to be great assets to the students' base of understanding of songwriting and its many aspects and faces. These helpful guides will lead us along the path of songwriting knowledge using great examples of hit songs to demonstrate how songwriting works.

Recorded Materials: In order to accomplish tasks and assignments vital to successfully taking this course the following recordings will be required:

Sheila; Sweet Pea ***by Tommy Roe***

Girl; Come Together ***by the Beatles***

Can You Feel the Love Tonight? ***by Elton John***

Circle of Life; ***by Elton John***

Hotel California ***by The Eagles***

Superstition ***by Stevie Wonder,***

Dock of the Bay ***by Otis Redding***

NUMBERS THAT APPEAR AFTER ASSIGNMENTS () INDICATE PERCENTAGE OF FINAL COURSE GRADE VALUE

Equipment and Software for this Course

Hardware:

- *Computer with a CD drive to listen to the CD that comes with the textbook or a standalone CD player.*
- *Headphones or speakers besides the internal one on your computer.*
- *Scanner will be necessary in order to print, complete by hand and then scan and upload .pdf files for the quizzes and exams. The ability to write music down on paper is a dying art and an important skill if there is no computer around.*
- *MIDI Keyboard:*
 - *Minimum: 49key M-Audio Keyboard (USB powered), or any keyboard of 49 keys or more with MIDI output. Note: A non-USB MIDI keyboard requires a MIDI interface. This is not an absolute requirement for Songwriting but you really should have one.*

Software:

Finale Notepad. *If the student is going to submit written scores then this is the program to have. This is a basic music notation application that is easy to use and a free download.*

Please use this link to download your own copy: <http://www.finalemusic.com/notepad/>

ONLINE LEARNING SUPPORT

Please note that we offer our Online Learning Tutorial via the web under the HELP link on the bottom right hand corner throughout Scholar 360. You can also contact your professor for any questions. For further help you may contact Scholar 360 Tech Support or check with a live Advisor or technician located on your schools music program homepage or contact support@mu-ed.com.

E-MAIL AND DISCUSSION FORUM COMMUNICATION

Please post questions concerning course material, class procedures and problems on the Discussion Forum, so that all students can benefit from the discussion. If you can answer a fellow student's question, feel free to post your answer. I will follow the class discussion and help whenever necessary. I will check the Discussion Forum on a daily basis to answer any questions you may have.

A few notes in using email and discussion forum:

1. Please use email in sending personal messages to each other or to me.
2. Post all other messages on the "discussion forum."
3. When you post a message, please be specific and discuss only one issue at time. If you include multiple questions in one message, it discourages others to respond to your message.
4. Be cordial when writing your messages. Rudeness, sarcasm, and ill intended messages will not be tolerated.

Please feel free to contact me via e-mail or via the discussion forum.

COMMUNITIES

The Scholar 360 management system offers the communities feature. This feature allows each individual to be a part of any community depending on interest or just plain curiosity. This feature allows you to post discussions of interest, post materials, and chat with other individuals that are part of your community. If you would like to be part of a particular Community all you have to do is click join. If you would like to start a community please feel free to do so while using proper online etiquette.

WIKI

The WIKI feature on Scholar 360 can be a very useful tool for you. This feature allows the professor and you the student to post definitions or related articles to a certain subject. WIKI can be used a glossary of terms that you will use during the entire semester.

HINT: The feature also allows you to get all the terms on one document so you can print out and have an entire study guide for the Final Exam. The more you put into this feature the more you will get out of it.

STUDENT PROFILE PAGE

Every student should create his/her own student homepage within the Scholar360 system. Please introduce yourself and post a picture, as well. To access directions about student homepages and other features of Scholar360, please check the Help pages and videos.

GRADING AND COURSE EVALUATION

Weekly Reading

Students are expected to complete all of the assigned weekly readings, exercises and practice examples in the textbook.

Assessments

Students are expected to personally complete all assignments listed within the assessment section of each week by midnight Pacific Standard Time at the end of that specific week. For any assignments that require posting, all postings are due by midnight Pacific Standard Time at the end of each week.

In addition there will be the following exams and projects:

MIDTERM	6 th Week: Timed mid-semester Exam on all material to-date.
FINAL	12 th Week: Timed Final Exam on ALL material.

Please familiarize yourself with Scholar360 before submitting any assignment or taking any exam.

At the end of the semester, all your points will be added and expressed as a percentage of the

total possible points. The letter grade which you will receive for the course is based upon the percentage grading scale below.

Course Requirements (STU, EARLIER IN THE SYLLABUS YOU SAID THERE WOULD BE A MIDTERM – PLEASE RECONCILE BELOW)	Percentage
Web Quizzes (2)	10%
Participation and Assignments	35%
Final Project	25%
Final Exam	30%
Total	100%

The letter grade which you will receive for the course is based upon the scale below:

Letter Grade	Grade Level	Letter Grade	Grade Level
A	90-100	C	70-79
B	80-89	D	60-69
		F	0-59

All students are required to pass this course with a C or better.

Posting Grades

Grades will be posted on the student's page no later than one week after the assignment is due.

Late Assignments

Each week's assessments offer ample time for completion therefore late assignments will **Not** be accepted in this course. If there is an emergency that interrupts a student's ability to

complete course work on time, that student is encouraged to make it known via email to the professor.

Extra Credit

There will be no extra credit in this course

ONLINE ETIQUETTE

Please follow the provided tips to interact through email, discussion forums, and other media.

- *Respect others and their opinions, though they may differ from yours in ideological, religious, or environmental perspective.*
- *Consider others' privacy. Ask for permission if you want to forward someone's email messages to third parties.*
- *Pick the right tone. Since we depend on the written word in online learning, it's especially important to choose the right words to get your meaning across.*
- *Keep your writing to the point. Be clear. Mention your topic in the subject line. Keep your posting to no more than three concise paragraphs of text.*
- *Keep attachments as small as possible, given the assignment or context.*
- *Review your writing. Avoid posting highly emotional responses. Offer to talk to the person directly before writing an e-mail.*
- *Stay on topic. Discuss topics that are related to your specific course.*
- *Avoid inappropriate material. Distribution of pornographic material will result in disciplinary action.*
- *Proof read your postings before hitting the send button. Spelling and good grammar count.*

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

This syllabus is a contract of understanding between professor and Student. If the assignments and grading system are not acceptable, then the student needs to negotiate a change by midnight Sunday on the second week of class or accept the rules as written.

Failure to read and follow instructions and directions found in the syllabus will cause for a decrease in your grade. Make sure you read the syllabus very carefully before sending me any questions regarding class procedure. I may consider to reduce your final grade by one point every time you ask a question via the discussion forum or e-mail whose answer can be found in the syllabus.

Statement of Understanding between Professor and Student

Every student must respect the right of all to have an equitable opportunity to learn and honestly demonstrate the quality of their learning. Therefore, all students must adhere to a

standard of academic conduct, demonstrating respect for themselves, their fellow students, and the educational mission of the school. As a student taking this class:

- I will not represent someone else's work as my own*
- I will not cheat, nor will I aid in another's cheating*
- I will be honest in my academic endeavors*
- I understand that if I am found responsible for academic misconduct, I will be subject to the academic misconduct procedures and sanctions by the school.*

Failure to adhere to the guidelines stated above may result in one of the following:

- 1. Expulsion: Permanent separation of the student from the school, preventing readmission to the institution. This sanction shall be recorded on the student's transcript.*
- 2. Suspension: Temporary separation of the student from the school for a specific period of time.*

STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT AGREEMENT

There is a Student Code of Conduct Agreement, which you must agree to in order to continue to be registered in the class. If you fail to submit the Code of Conduct Agreement you will be denied access into the class.

Please take time to read the Student Code of Conduct. A few points to be reinforced here:

- Students are expected to pace their learning according to the posted course assignments.*
- It is expected that interactive learning and teaching will enrich the learning experience of all students, and that each student will work in partnership with the instructor to create a positive learning experience for all. Student engagement is a necessary condition for an effective learning experience, and includes contributions to debate and discussion (if any), positive interactive learning with others, and an enthusiastic attitude towards inquiry. Everyone is expected to be a positive contributor to the class learning community, and students are expected to share the responsibility of teaching each other.*
- There will be no changes made to this syllabus. This is a contract between you and the Instructor. The day you enroll in this class and decide to stay, you are agreeing to this contract. The only way this contract will be amended is if everyone enrolled in this class agrees to the changes.*
- Cheating or plagiarism will result in failure of the course. Plagiarism includes reproduction of web page work or file copying data that is not your own and submitting it as your own.*
- There will be no make-up exams. If you miss a test without making prior arrangements, a grade of zero will be given.*

- *Quizzes and Tests/Exams will not be re-released. You must take them on the assigned dates. If you plan to travel, make sure there is an Internet connection where you will be staying.*

A grade of "incomplete" will be given only in case of documented medical or catastrophic reasons that unexpectedly prevent completion of the course work. Students must request an incomplete from the instructor on or before the day of the final exam. There will be no additional extra credit assignments. Please do not request one.

ADDITIONAL NEEDS

Any student having a need for special accommodations is encouraged to make his/her needs known to the instructor during the first week of the semester.

RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS

The University's policy on religious holidays as stated in the University Catalog and Student Handbook will be followed in this class. Any student may request to be excused from (on-line) class to observe a religious holiday of his or her faith.

COURSE CALENDAR

Most weeks students will find reading assignments of about ninety pages between the two textbooks. An exercise in either lyric or songwriting or both will be assigned that corresponds to the reading assignment. Areas such as hymn and anthem writing, groove based songs and various types of rhymes will be addressed via songwriting assignments as well as many other styles of writing. Nearly each week the student will be assigned creative work to complete and submit that is designed to give the student a sense of what it is like to write songs for the music industry, the pace and style of typical song work. The student should expect some projects to be revised and re-worked over a span of weeks. Definite songwriting challenges and goals will be met by the student as the term progresses. There is a relatively heavy course load of effort and commitment that is required of each songwriting student. Although the course is an elective it is designed for the student who is seriously considering a career in songwriting.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For additional information please refer to the discussion forum.

