

College of San Mateo
Official Course Outline

1. **COURSE ID:** MUS. 130 **TITLE:** Songwriting II
Units: 3.0 units **Hours/Semester:** 40.0-45.0 Lecture hours; 24.0-27.0 Lab hours; 80.0-90.0 Homework hours; 144.0-162.0 Total Student Learning hours
Method of Grading: Grade Option (Letter Grade or Pass/No Pass)
Prerequisite: MUS. 120

2. **COURSE DESIGNATION:**
Degree Credit
Transfer credit: CSU; UC

3. **COURSE DESCRIPTIONS:**
Catalog Description:

A continuation of MUS 120 Songwriting. Students write and perform original compositions and continue to develop their songwriting skills in writing lyrics, chord progressions and melodies, as well as developing an arrangement.

4. **STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOME(S) (SLO'S):**

Upon successful completion of this course, a student will meet the following outcomes:

1. Compose and refine original songs and lyrics to create a songwriting portfolio
2. Perform original songs as a soloist or with an ensemble in a public setting
3. Create an arrangement of an original song
4. Analyze and critique songs with respect to genre, form, structure, lyrical elements, and arrangement

5. **SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONAL OBJECTIVES:**

Upon successful completion of this course, a student will be able to:

1. Compose and refine original songs and lyrics to create a songwriting portfolio
2. Perform original songs as a soloist or with an ensemble in a public setting
3. Develop an arrangement of an original song
4. Analyze and critique songs with respect to genre, form, structure, lyrical elements, and arrangement

6. **COURSE CONTENT:**

Lecture Content:

This course builds upon the theoretical knowledge studied in MUS 120. Students continue to develop their skills to compose and perform original songs. Specific topics covered may include:

1. Theoretical Concepts
 - A. History of songwriting
 - B. Songwriter case studies
 - C. Structure of contemporary songs (form, harmony, rhythm, melody)
 - D. Lyric writing and analysis
 - E. Critical analysis of songs
2. Creative Compositional Processes
 - A. Harmonic models and structures
 - B. Composing the melody
 - C. Use of rhythm
 - D. Creating lyrics
 - E. Arrangement
3. Performance experience - individual and/or ensemble

Lab Content:

1. Listening and discussion of representative songs related to the themes covered in lecture
2. Practical harmony exercises at the keyboard or another instrument - use of basic progressions, keys and modes, borrowed chords
3. Creative prompts to write melodies and lyrics
4. Collaborative work: rehearsing, arranging, and performing
5. Class demonstrations/performances including class discussion/critiques

7. **REPRESENTATIVE METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:**

Typical methods of instruction may include:

- A. Lecture
- B. Lab
- C. Activity
- D. Critique
- E. Discussion
- F. Guest Speakers
- G. Individualized Instruction
- H. Observation and Demonstration

8. REPRESENTATIVE ASSIGNMENTS

Representative assignments in this course may include, but are not limited to the following:

Writing Assignments:

Assignments may include, but are not limited to:

- A. analyses of songs
- B. critiques of songs
- C. lyric writing assignments (titles, verse, chorus)
- D. critiques of fellow students' compositions
- E. song or concert reports or reviews

Reading Assignments:

Weekly reading assignments on relevant topics from the textbook or other sources provided by the instructor.

Other Outside Assignments:

Additional Assignments:

- A. Lab Assignments may include, but are not limited to:
 - a. writing chord progressions
 - b. writing melodies and rhythms
 - c. developing an arrangement
- B. Student Presentations on songwriting topics either assigned by the instructor or chosen by the student:
 - a. songwriter case study
 - b. song case study
 - c. presentation on a songwriting tool or technique

9. REPRESENTATIVE METHODS OF EVALUATION

Representative methods of evaluation may include:

- A. Class Participation
- B. Class Performance
- C. Class Work
- D. Exams/Tests
- E. Final Class Performance
- F. Final Performance
- G. Group Projects
- H. Homework
- I. Lab Activities
- J. Projects
- K. Quizzes

10. REPRESENTATIVE TEXT(S):

Possible textbooks include:

- A. Kachulis, J.. *The Songwriter's Workshop: Hit Song Forms*, ed. Berklee Press, 2023

Origination Date: November 2023

Curriculum Committee Approval Date: December 2023

Effective Term: Fall 2024

Course Originator: Adria Otte