

Prepared by the Department of Mathematics

Date of Departmental Approval: April 1, 2013

Date Approved by Curriculum and Programs: October 9, 2013

Effective: Fall 2014

1. Course Number: MUS205

Course Title: Song Writing

2. Description: Students learn how to compose songs and discover the relationships among melody, harmony, rhythm, and lyrics (when present). Through analysis, students explore why hit songs are successful. Attention is also paid to creating stylistically appropriate introductions and endings, interludes, popular "hooks," and complete arrangements.

3. Student Learning Outcomes (instructional objectives, intellectual skills):

Upon successful completion of this course, students are able to do the following:

- Compose well-crafted melodies.
- Understand the relationship among melody, harmony, and rhythm.
- Create stylistically appropriate chords and chord progressions to enhance melodies.
- Explore and examine the various song forms in order to better assimilate how songs are constructed.
- Analyze standard and contemporary songs harmonically, melodically, and rhythmically.
- Arrange songs by placing special emphasis on techniques and devices such as the following: introductions, endings, interludes, style, form, "arranging hooks," and emotional contour.

4. Credits: 3 credits

5. Satisfies General Education Requirement: No

6. Prerequisite: MUS101

7. Semester Offered: Spring

8. Suggested General Guidelines for Evaluation: Evaluation is based on homework, midterm project, and final project.

9. General Topical Outline: Topics include: pitch, rhythm, tone tendencies, melodic contour, major and minor harmonic progressions, melody/bass relationships, blues/rock modes, and arranging techniques.