

# MUTH 4853: Instrumentation and Orchestration

MWF 1130A - 1220P

CMC 229

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Office Hours: TBA

## **Materials Required:**

Kennan/Grantham: *The Technique of Orchestration*, Fifth Edition

Staff paper, pencil, eraser, non-staff paper

## **Course Objectives:**

Our first objective will be to develop skills in writing appropriately and idiomatically for orchestral instruments. The opportunity to write for symphony orchestra does not come up every day, but you will likely have the chance or need to write for solo or small groups of instruments. Our second objective will be to develop skills in writing clearly and effectively for larger ensembles, especially the symphony orchestra. We will accomplish this through presentations and demonstrations, assignments in composition, listening and score reading, and readings from the book.

## **Assignments:**

Compositions: During the course of the semester I will try to have players representing most of the major orchestral instruments visit our class - some players coming from within the class. For these visits you will be asked to compose a short piece for them to sight read. The player(s) will then give comments on your piece.

Listening with Score: I will assign regular listening/score reading assignments that I will put on reserve in the library. You will be asked to go listen and follow along with the score. Then you will write a short report (one page typewritten) about the orchestration of the piece(s).

Readings: I will assign reading from the Kennan/Grantham textbook, and possibly supplementary readings that I will put on reserve. There will be a short quiz every Friday at the beginning of class over these readings.

**Projects:**

You will have two final projects in lieu of a final exam:

Paper/Presentation: You will write a paper (5 pages) and give a twenty minute in-class presentation on a specific piece or pieces, focusing on orchestrational techniques.

Final Orchestration: This will be an original composition for symphony orchestra, that will be sight read by the OU orchestra at the end of the semester. Because there will probably be no rehearsal on this piece, it should be fairly easy to sight read and put together.

**Approximate Grading Breakdown:**

Assignments and Quizzes	30%
Paper/Presentation	30%
Final Orchestration	30%
Class Participation	10%

**Schedule:**

I will pass out a schedule of weekly assignments and class activities.

**Attendance:**

You are expected to attend all class periods and expected to participate actively in class activities, including discussions and performing other student's assignments. You are only allowed three absences (excused or unexcused). On your fourth absence your overall grade will be lowered one full letter grade. Subsequently on the seventh and tenth absences your grade will also be lowered. Missing class on a day when you are scheduled to perform will count as two absences!

**Final Notes:**

Any student in this course who has a disability that may prevent him or her from fully demonstrating his or her abilities should contact me personally as soon as possible so we can discuss accommodations necessary to ensure full participation and facilitate your educational opportunities.

**Important! This syllabus is subject to change throughout the semester. You are responsible for all the information in this syllabus and any other weekly schedule handouts or announcements made in class, even if you are absent.**