

Syllabus

Title: Beginning Song Writing I and II
Course MUSI D006A61 MUSI D006B61
2024 Spring De Anza | CRN: 48202 |48688
Room: A11
Th 6:30-7:20 Lecture 7:30-9:20 Lab

Instructor: Benett Zussman
zussmanbenett@fhda.edu

Office Hours Th 4:45-5:45 and by appointment

Requisites: Advisory: Ability to play a musical instrument.

Hybrid course. Access to the Internet is required. This class physically meets on Thursdays from 6:30 PM to 9:20 PM. The online portion of the class is conducted via Canvas.

Required Text: Keys, Scarlet. The Craft of Songwriting Boston Berklee Press. 2018

Required access code for OnMusic Fundamentals 4th edition. Purchase access code [here](#)

- Writing Implements
- Music Manuscript paper (or the ability to input information into a notation program)
- Access to acoustic or electronic keyboard or guitar

Description: This course is an introduction to the art and craft of songwriting, and covers musical elements such as melody, harmony, rhythm and form and instrumentation. Students work with choosing text and lyric adaptations. Analysis of existing professionally written song literature is also involved. This course is open to all students. Students with no experience in music theory and/or playing an instrument are welcome and encouraged to focus on the fundamental on line material..

Student Learning Outcome

- Create song(s) which show understanding of songwriting techniques
- Analyze existing song literature and identify stylistic elements in songs

II. Course Objectives

- A. Demonstrate understanding of basic elements of music
- B. Analyze professional level songs
- D. Produce recording and/or live performances of songs

Expanded Description: Content and Form

- A. Demonstrate understanding of basic elements of music
 1. Construct melodies (using major and minor scales)
 2. Understand harmonies (chords and harmonic progressions)
 3. Understand basic aspects of rhythm (note values and time signatures)
 4. Understand form and structure of music (basic song form)
 5. Begin to master concepts of instrumentation (ranges and unique sounds)
 6. Identify song texts to use constructing original music
- B. Analyze professional level songs
 1. Listen to many different songwriters creations
 2. Identify songwriters' techniques
 3. Compare and contrast musical style
- D. Produce recording and/or live performance of songs
 - 1 .Recruit musicians to form band (rehearse and perform)

2. Create electronic version of song (audio and/or video)

Assignments

A. Weekly reading and writing assignments

Course topics include:

1. The Keyboard
2. The Staff
3. Rhythm and Meter
4. Scales and Modes
5. Key Signatures
6. Meter Types
7. Intervals
8. Minor Scales
9. Triads
10. Cadences
11. Textures

B. Bi-weekly meeting between instructor and student to evaluate progress in song

C. Final Song Project

Evaluation & Grading

Grading

A	90-100%
B	80-89.99%
C	70-79.99%
D	60-69.99%

F	Below 60%
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Evaluation

Course Activity	Percentage of Final Grade
22 Quizzes and six comp ex.	30%
Midterm Exam and song	35%
Final Exam and song	35%

Extra Help and Support

At De Anza, you will find people who want to help you succeed, and programs designed for that purpose. Below are some of the resources available for students for more information go to [Student Resources](#) for more information.

Important Dates:

- April 8 First day of classes
- April 19 Last day to add classes
- April 20 Last day to drop classes without a W
- April 22 Census
- May 27 Memorial Day – no classes, campus closed
- May 31 Last day to drop with a W
- June 19 Juneteenth holiday – no classes, campus closed
- June 28 Final Exam (no work will be accepted after this date)
- June 29 Graduation

