

**Syllabus – MUS 498: BFA Composition and Theory Capstone Experience****Spring 2010**

Instructor of Record: Dr. Mark Zanter, Department of Music  
Day/Time: TBA  
Credits: 2 Hours

Course Description

A discipline-based experience designed to combine classroom and studio education in a summarizing project. PR: MUS 304; 401; 8 credits of MUS 380; successful completion of piano proficiency.

Course Goals

1. To present either a public recital of creative work, or a public presentation of theoretical research.
2. To research and write intelligently about creative work or research topic.
3. To compose a recital press release and a one-page professional resume.
4. To pass an oral examination on the genesis of recital works or research.

Course Requirements (students choose one of the following)Composition:

1. A public Senior Recital of the student's own compositions (minimum length 30 minutes).
2. Completion and submission of program notes to be printed in the recital program.
3. Completion and submission of (1) a one-page professional resume and (2) a press release for the recital, including a short bio.
4. Submission of three (3) bound copies of scores to capstone committee
5. Completion of an Oral Examination.

Theory:

1. A public presentation of a research paper (minimum length 30 minutes).
2. Completion and submission of an abstract and research project (description below)
3. Completion and submission of (1) a one-page professional resume and (2) a press release for the recital, including a short bio.
4. Submission of three (3) bound copies of research paper to capstone committee.
5. Completion of an Oral examination.

The Recital Hearing

The recital hearing is to be scheduled in accordance with Music Student Handbook policies. The recital hearing is conducted by a committee of applied faculty as per the policies stipulated in the Music Student Handbook.

Composition Recital

The recital is a public performance subject to the policies outlined in the Music Student Handbook and includes a minimum of 30 minutes of original music composed by the student. The instructor assists the student determine the program, rehearsal schedule, for the recital hearing and concert, and is responsible for grading the recital.

The Written Materials

Students will prepare program notes to be published in the recital program, as well as a one-page professional resume and a press release that includes a short biography. Final revisions to these materials must be approved by the Capstone Committee by or before the date of the recital hearing. The Capstone Committee grades the written materials.

Research Project (Music Theory only)

The capstone research project is an in-depth study of some topic pertaining to musical aesthetics, contemporary practice or schools of thought in composition or theory. The committee chair will provide the student with requirements for the paper and the student is expected to work closely with other committee members in the course of finishing the research paper. The student may choose from the following topics:

- An in-depth study of a single composer—preferably but not limited to the contemporary period. The paper will include the analysis of one work, a portion of a large work, or several short works (approved by the instructor).
- Research in musical aesthetics concerning how aesthetics are tied to artistic production, used to support compositional methods, or ideology.
- Research in contemporary practice in music theory. Such as the application of advanced methods, or trends in music theory research. Comparative analysis and application of methods should constitute a majority of this project.
- Survey of a group or school of composers using comparative analysis of their music to demonstrate similarities and differences.
- An in-depth analysis of a single work from any period using appropriate advanced analytical methods.

#### The Capstone Committee

The capstone committee will be chaired by the applied composition or theory instructor, and will also include one (1) additional faculty member from the music theory area and one (1) faculty member from the music history area. The student and his/her applied instructor will choose the other two members, who must be invited to serve by the student (see deadlines). The student must obtain the signatures of his/her capstone committee members and the department chair by the second Friday of the semester.

#### Course Meeting

The student will attend a meeting with the chair of the Department of Music on or about the second Friday of the semester.

#### The Oral Examination

The student will appear before the Capstone Committee to field questions relating to any aspect of the recital program, including genesis of the student's compositions, historical influences, and theoretical analysis. Students in composition will be expected to outline their creative process and be able to discuss historical composers and works that have been influential in their development. Theory students should expect questions relating directly to their research paper and topics peripheral to their project area. The committee will submit three questions to the student one week in advance of the exam date to serve as a starting point. The Oral Examination may be attempted only twice.

#### Grading

The Capstone Committee will grade the capstone documents and the oral examination. The recital or presentation will be graded by the instructor. The final grade will be averaged as follows:

Grading weight		Grade Scale	
Recital/Presentation	65%	A	90-100
Written materials	25%	B	80-89
Oral Examination	10%	C	70-79

Deadline

End of second week of classes:      Selection of Capstone Committee; submission of tentative recital program, or research topic

Composition:

Date TBA\*\*      All written materials submitted to the Capstone Committee  
Oral Examination  
Recital Hearing; final versions of written documents due

Theory:

Date TBA\*\*      Completed research paper  
Presentation hearing; final versions of written documents due

\*\* The Recital Hearing is to be scheduled according to the Music Student Handbook rules; the written documents will be due at that time.