

**Sul Ross State University**  
**Arranging Syllabus – Spring 2015**  
**MUS4216**

**Instructor:** Chris Dobbins  
**Office:** FAB 103  
**Office Hours:** TBD  
**Phone:** 432-837-8018  
**Email:** cdobbins@sulross.edu

**Course Description**

This course will provide students with all knowledge necessary to provide simple or complex arrangements of instrumental and choral works. Students will develop a background in transposition, instrument ranges, and the use of music notation software.

**Textbook and Materials**

*Instrumentation and Orchestration* by Alfred Blatter, second edition

Notebook or folder for compilation of materials.

Plenty of staff paper.

**Student Learning Outcomes**

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Transpose for common instruments.
2. Work with music notation software to write computer-based arrangements.
3. Arrange pieces written for small groups to be played/sung by large groups.
4. Arrange pieces written for large groups to be played/sung by small groups.
5. Seek out resources to answer questions and problems beyond their knowledge.

**Music Program Learning Objectives**

This course is a required course for a major in instrumental music. As such, it helps the student to meet one or more of the program learning outcomes for the major. These learning outcomes include:

The graduating student will demonstrate:

1. the ability to integrate appropriate musical expression into performance.
2. the ability to prepare appropriate program notes.

3. the ability to evaluate and critique a musical performance.
4. a general knowledge of music history

### **ADA Needs**

It is Sul Ross University policy to provide reasonable accommodations to students with disabilities. If you would like to request such accommodations because of a physical, mental, or learning disability, please contact the ADA coordinator for Program Accessibility located in BAB 206 or call 837-8203.

### **Attendance Policy**

We have relatively few class meetings and a great amount of material to cover, attendance is required. Extenuating circumstances should be discussed with the instructor prior to an absence, or as soon as possible following. Unexcused absences will be treated as follows:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Absence: Warning
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Absence: Lowering of earned grade by one full letter
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Absence: Lowering of earned grade by two full letters
- 4<sup>th</sup> Absence: Lowering of earned grade to an F
- 5<sup>th</sup> Absence: Expulsion from class

### **Tardy Policy**

Being late to class is disruptive to other students, the teacher, and the learning process. If you enter after the start of class, you are tardy. The start of class is defined as the point at which the teacher begins teaching. Every two tardies will be counted as one unexcused absence, and will fall under the attendance policy in effecting your grade. If you are tardy for what you believe is an excusable reason, please speak with the instructor in person after class.

### **Cell Phone Policy**

Class time is limited and use of cell phones causes unneeded distraction to the learning process. Therefore, cell phone use during class is strictly prohibited, and repeated violation of this policy will have an effect on your grade. The following are the grade repercussions for violation of this policy:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Offense – Warning
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Offense – Lowering of earned grade by one full letter
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Offense – Lowering of earned grade by two full letters
- 4<sup>th</sup> Offense – Lowering of earned grade to an F
- 5<sup>th</sup> Offense – Expulsion from class

### **Professional Communication Policy**

All communication with the instructor should be done via email or office phone, both of which are listed at the top of the syllabus, or in person. You will be expected to check your email on a regular basis for communications from me. Contact by cell phone is for *emergency* situations only. Please use text messaging only as a last resort. I reserve the right to not respond to text

messages in non-emergency situations. Facebook is not an acceptable form of professional communication.

## **Grading**

You will be able to earn points in the following areas:

*Typed Chapter Notes* – 10 pts each

*Written Arrangements* – 50 pts each

*Final Project* – 100 pts

*Complete Notebook* – 100 pts

Each element has a point value. The more important the element, the higher the point value. To determine your percentage grade at any time, add up points earned, and divide by points possible. Keep in mind, you EARN points, they are not given. Late assignments will be graded for student learning, but will earn zero points. Plagiarism will not be tolerated and will result in failure of and expulsion from class.

Letter grades will be based on the following percentages:

90-100 = A = Excellent

80-89 = B = Good

70-79 = C = Average

60-69 = D = Poor

Below 60 = F = Failure

I = Incomplete

**Arranging - Spring 2015**  
**All Assignments Due at Beginning of Next Class Period**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Class Topics</b>	<b>Assignment For Next Class</b>
Jan. 21	Syllabus Overview, Finale Tutorial	Read/Notes Chapter 1
Jan. 23	Transposition, Scores, Finale Tutorial cont'd	Transposition/Finale Assignment
Jan. 26	Ch. 1 cont'd	Read/Notes Ch. 2
Jan. 28	Ch. 2 - Orchestra Strings, Finding Music to Arrange	String Arrangement
Jan. 30	Mr. D Out of Town	
Feb. 2	Mr. D Out of Town	
Feb. 4	Mr. D Out of Town	
Feb. 6	Orchestral Strings Cont'd	String Arrangement/Read/Notes Ch. 3
Feb. 9	Listen to Arrangements, The woodwinds	Woodwind Arrangement
Feb. 11	TMEA	
Feb. 13	TMEA	
Feb. 16	The Woodwinds, contd	Woodwind Arrangement
Feb. 18	Listen to Arrangements, Woodwinds, cont'd	Read/Notes Ch. 4
Feb. 20	The Brasses	Brass Arrangement
Feb. 23	The Brasses, cont'd	Brass Arrangement
Feb. 25	Listen to Arrangements, Brasses, cont'd	Read/Notes Ch. 5
Feb. 27	Percussion, Percussion on Finale	Percussion Arrangement
Mar. 2	Percussion, cont'd	Percussion Arrangement
Mar. 4	Listen to Arrangements, Percussion, cont'd	Read/Notes Ch. 6
Mar. 6	Other Instruments	Other Instrument Arrangement
Mar. 9	Other Instruments, cont'd	Other Instrument Arrangement
Mar. 11	Listen to Arrangements, Other Instruments, cont'd	Read/Notes Ch. 7
Mar. 13	The Voice	Voice Arrangement
Mar. 16	Spring Break	

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Mar. 18	Spring Break	
Mar. 20	Spring Break	
Mar. 23	The Voice, cont'd	Voice Arrangement
Mar. 25	Listen to Arrangements, The Voice, cont'd	Read/Notes Chapter 8
Mar. 27	Discussion of Musical Elements	Musical Elements Arrangement
Mar. 30	Musical Elements, cont'd	Musical Elements Arrangement
Apr. 1	Listen to Arrangements, Musical Elements, cont'd	N/A
Apr. 3	Catch-up Day	Read/Notes Chapter 9
Apr. 6	Scoring for Various Ensembles	Unique Ensemble Arrangement
Apr. 8	Scoring for Various Ensembles, cont'd	Unique Ensemble Arrangement
Apr. 10	Listen to Arrangements, Scoring for Various Ensembles, cont'd	Read/Notes Chapter 10
Apr. 13	Transcription	Transcription Assignment
Apr. 15	Listen to Transcriptions, Transcription, cont'd	Read/Notes Chapter 11
Apr. 17	Additional Techniques	Additional Arrangement
Apr. 20	Additional Techniques, cont'd	Additional Arrangement
Apr. 22	Listen to Arrangements, Additional Techniques, cont'd	Read/Notes Ch. 12
Apr. 24	Orchestration	Begin Final Project Proposal
Apr. 27	Orchestration, cont'd, Final Project ?'s?	Final Project Proposal
Apr. 29	Present Proposals, Orchestration, cont'd	Work on Final Project
May. 1	Final Project Workday	Work on Final Project
May. 4	Final Project Workday	Work on Final Project
May. 6	Present Rough Drafts - TURN IN NOTEBOOK!	Final Project
May. 8	Optional Workday at Class Time	N/A
May. 13	Meet at 8:00 am - Final Project's Due	Have a GREAT summer!