

GRAYSON COLLEGE

Course Syllabus

Course Information

MUSC 1321.001-SONGWRITING

T R 2:30-3:45 AC 106

Face-to-Face course

Professor Contact Information

Professor: Dr. Matthew D. Anderson

Email: Canvas or andersonm@grayson.edu

Office: AC 108-B

Office Hours: TBA

If you are contacting me about this course, you use the "message" feature in Canvas for this class, rather than my grayson.edu email. It is listed above in case there are any problems with the message feature. However, for regular communication, please send me a "message" though Canvas.

Sending a message through Canvas Messages is usually the best way to contact me. Although I frequently check Messages, messages that are sent after working hours or on weekends may not be viewed until the next business day.

Course Pre-requisites, Co-requisites, and/or Other Restrictions

None

Course Description – from college catalog

MUSC 1321. Songwriting. (3-0-3). Introduction to the techniques of writing marketable songs including the writing of lyrics and melodies, setting lyrics to music, developing lyrical and musical “hooks,” analyzing the marketplace, and developing a production plan for a song demo.

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Converse, Conceptualize, and Analyze Songs using standard terminology
2. Engage in elements and strategies of music composition
3. Compose and analyze original songs using skills gained in rhythm, lyrics, melody, harmony, and form
4. Understand the historical context of song form as it has existed through western art and popular culture.

Required Textbooks (ISBN # included) and Materials

Teach Yourself Songwriting. Greg Horne. Publisher Alfred's. ISBN: 0-7390-3604-1

This book is not in the College book store but you may order it online.

Two writing notebooks

Pens and Pencils

Recording device (you may use a smart phone)

Suggested Course Materials

Staff paper notebook

USB Flash Drive

Required Assignments & Academic Calendar

In case of inclement weather, emergency closings, or other unforeseen disruptions to scheduled classes, student must log onto their Canvas accounts for directions on where or how to continue their coursework.

* The schedule is subject to change with fair notice announced posted as an announcement in your Canvas shell.

Week	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1 Jan. 13-20	Elements of Music Genre/Artist presentation
2 Jan. 20-27 1/20 No Class MLK	Chapter 3: Way of the Writer
3 Jan. 27- Feb. 3	Chapter 5: The Hook Pattison: Object Writing
4 Feb. 3-10	Chapter 6: Lyrics Part 1 and 2
5 Feb. 10-17	Chapter 6: Lyrics Part 3 and 4
6 Feb. 17-24	Diatonic Harmony
7 Feb. 24- Mar. 2	Chapter 8: Beyond Diatonic Harmony
8 Mar. 2-9	Midterm
Spring Break Mar. 9-13	Spring Break

Week	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
9 Mar. 16-23	Chapter 9: Form Part 1
10 Mar. 23-30	Chapter 9: Connectors and Extenders
11 Mar. 30-Apr. 6	Final Project Apr. 3 Final drop/withdrawal deadline
12 Apr. 6-13	Final Project
13 Apr. 13-20	Final Project
14 Apr. 20-27	Final Project
15 Apr. 27-May 4	Final Project
16 May 4-7	Finals Week

Methods of Evaluation

Grading

Categories	Percentage
Participation/Attendance	20%
Assignments and quizzes	40%
Final Project	40%

Grades will be posted in the Canvas grade book.

Attendance: Your grade is determined by the number of classes you attended divided by the number of classes offered. **Class starts at 2:30!** You are late if you arrive after roll call has been taken. Two late arrivals equal an absence. You will be marked absent if you arrive 15 minutes late or leave early. If you are seen using a cell phone you will be counted as absent for that class.

Participation: Showing up to class with your homework prepared and contributing to class discussion. Homework will be collected at the beginning of class. No late work will be accepted.

Quizzes: May be given at any time.

Methods of Instruction

Face-to-face instruction.

Course & Instructor Policies

There are no make-ups for late homework, missed quizzes or tests!

Class Attendance

Academic success is closely associated with regular classroom attendance and course participation.

All successful students, whether on campus or online, are expected to be highly self-motivated.

All students are required to participate in courses regularly and are obliged to participate in class activities and complete and submit assignments following their professors' instructions. Students taking courses during compressed semester time frames such as mini-mester, summer sessions, and mid-semester should plan to spend significantly more time per week on the course. Responsibility for work missed because of illness or school business is placed upon the student. **In accordance with the College's Developmental Education Plan, students withdrawn from their only developmental course may be withdrawn from all academic courses.** In addition, students' eligibility to receive financial aid or live in a College dormitory can be affected by withdrawal from courses. When administrative withdrawal occurs, any tuition refund would be made in accordance with state regulations.

Student Responsibility

You have already made the decision to go to college; now the follow-up decisions on whether to commit to doing the work could very well determine whether you end up working at a good paying job in a field you enjoy or working at minimum wage for the rest of your life. Education involves a partnership that requires both students and instructors to do their parts. By entering into this partnership, you have a responsibility to show up for class, do the assignments and reading, be engaged and pay attention in class, follow directions, and put your best effort into it. You will get out of your experience here exactly what you put into it – nothing more and nothing less.

Student Conduct & Discipline

1. Leave outside conflicts at the door.
2. Bring a good attitude and hard work ethic to class every day.
3. Respect everyone; we are all equals. Gossip and disrespectful comments hurt the class.
4. Songwriting should be just as important as your other classes. Remember ...you chose to be here.
5. At no time will a student be allowed to sleep, lay his or her head down during lecture, or interrupt the flow of the class through casual chatting, playing piano or other disruptive behavior.
6. Cell phones are to be silenced and left alone during class time. No Texting!
7. No eating or drinking in class. Beverages must be in a spill proof container and left at the door.
8. At any time, the instructor has the authority to ask a student to leave the classroom for any infraction of the above and this expulsion will be treated as an absence for that particular class.

Grayson College is not responsible for illness/injury that occurs during the normal course of classroom/lab/clinical experiences.

These descriptions and timelines are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor.

Grayson College campus-wide student policies may be found on our Current Student Page on our website: <http://grayson.edu/current-students/index.html>