MUS 660: Honors Research – Composition
Course Syllabus
Course Meeting Time: TBA
Room: Patterson Hall, Studio E

Professor:
Dr. Daniel Perttu
Chair, Department of Music
Associate Professor of Music
Music Theory/Composition Area Head
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Course Description: MUS 660 is a tutorial setting in which the student’s original compositions are critiqued and evaluated. In order to encourage the student to develop his or her own individual voice, suggestions for improvement will be based on the extent to which the compositions cohere within their own logic.

Course Outcomes:
By the end of this course, students will be able to

- Plan an original composition of varying scope and size depending on the student’s level of advancement
- Use relevant music theories based on the student’s knowledge and skill level to develop an original composition
- Compose an original composition based on the above principles

Grading:
Evaluation in this course will consist of the following components:

1. The ability of the student to create a significant original composition (or to have made significant progress on a composition) by the end of the semester that coheres effectively within its own logic (50% of final grade)
2. The ability of the student to defend his or her compositional choices (25% of final grade)
3. The student’s willingness to consider suggestions for improvement, and, if the student chooses to reject the suggestions, his or her ability to defend this choice (25% of final grade)

Textbook, Course Readings, and Listening Material:
Score study and listening are required of the student and will be adjusted to fit the student’s unique needs.

Attendance Policy: Students are encouraged to compose every day and are required to attend each weekly meeting with the professor. If the student is unable to complete satisfactory material in a given week, he or she may ask for a score(s) to study and to bring in to discuss during the lesson time. If the student must miss a lesson, he or she must notify the professor by e-mail or phone before the lesson is to occur. Whether or not the absence will be excused is up to the discretion of the professor. More than two unexcused absences will result in a lowered grade by 10 percent for each lesson missed.