

Burman University

Division of Arts - Department of Music

**Orchestration — MUCT 367 (3 credits)
TR (9:30–10:50am) — West Hall Room 302**

Course Outline

INSTRUCTOR: Cristian Neacsu
OFFICE: West Hall, Room 205
Office Hours: Mon. & Wed. 2:30-4:00pm
Wed. 5:00-6:00pm
Tue. & Thu. 6:00-7:00pm
PHONE: (403) 782-3381 Ext. 4072
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TEXTBOOK: Kennan and Grantham, The Technique of Orchestration, 6th edition

COURSE OBJECTIVE:

In this course you will learn the fundamentals of instrumentation and arranging for orchestral instruments and band. The study of basic elements, such as the range, transposition, timbre and idiomatic capabilities of each instrument will be followed by examination and analysis of orchestration 'problems' and solutions from repertoire, and by your composition and/or arranging exercises for ensembles of various sizes. At the conclusion of this semester, you will have the primary tools needed for arranging/re-arranging and writing music for a variety of instrumental ensembles.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES: Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to:

- Discuss and reconstruct the range, tuning, technical abilities, limitations, registral characteristics, and common techniques for all standard orchestral instruments, in order to create musically appropriate orchestrations
- Demonstrate a functional knowledge of SATB choral writing
- Demonstrate, through complete, notated arrangements, a fundamental understanding of proper arranging and orchestration techniques for

orchestral and choral groups, knowing that those skills are routinely used by professional performers, composers, and music educators

- Understand and implement appropriate music and computer notation practices in order to produce professional-quality printed sheet music

COURSE FORMAT:

Orchestration will be a combination of lectures, score examination, quizzes, assignments (3), participation and a final project.

QUIZZES

Four quizzes will be given after each large section of the course is completed (e.g. strings, winds, brass and percussion).

ASSIGNMENTS

Three assignments will consist of orchestrating a hymn/chorale of your choice for strings, winds and brass. See the following guidelines:

- use computer software such as Finale or Sibelius
- save in .mus format and turn in the assignment by email
- consider the registers and capabilities of the instruments for playability and balance making sure the melody is heard above accompaniment
- mark dynamics, bowings and articulations
- consider the timbre of the instruments for blending & balance
- at least two verses in length
- double the parts in unison or at the octave, usually melody
- the instruments don't all have to play at the same time
- assign the melody to different instruments
- include short interlude in between, perhaps modulate to a new tonality

FINAL PROJECT

Final project, which will have to be approved in advance, will consist of either writing your own composition or arranging a hymn for the full orchestra between 5 and 15 min. in length.

EVALUATION:

1. Attendance and Participation 10%
2. Assignments (3) 30%
3. Quizzes (4) 20%
4. Final Project 40%

GRADE ASSIGNMENTS:

A+	98-100%	C+	75-79
A	94-97	C	65-74
A-	90-93	C-	60-64
B+	87-89	D+	57-59
B	84-86	D	50-56
B-	80-83	F	0-49

ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION:

Attendance is 10% of your grade and will be taken in the beginning of class. For your benefit class participation is encouraged through both asking questions and participating in the meaningful dialog. There are no makeup exams unless there is a serious reason (death in the family, illness). Doctor notes are required for absences due to illness.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY:

Remember, if you are dishonest, and it is not noticed, your dishonesty primarily affects you. By *you* I mean your character or personhood. Instances of academic dishonesty will be handled according to the guidelines set forth in Burman's "Academic Calendar" on page 25.

DELIMITATION:

I reserve the right to change any detail of this course outline. However, know that if I do so, it is only because the instruction, flow of the class, and your education will be enhanced by this change!

CLASS SCHEDULE

Week 1

Jan. 9 - Introduction & Course Outline
Jan. 11 - Introduction to Finale

Week 2

Jan. 16 - Chapter 2 - *The Strings*
Jan. 18 - Chapter 3 - *The String Orchestra*

Week 3

Jan. 23 - Chapter 4 - *Bowing and Special Effects*
Jan. 25 - Chapter 11 - *Problems in Transcribing Piano Music*
Quiz 1 strings

Week 4

Jan. 30 - Chapter 5, -*The Woodwinds*
Assignment 1 Due, Strings
Feb. 1 - Chapter 6 - The Woodwind Section

Week 5

Feb. 6 - Chapter 7 - The Horn
Quiz 2 Woodwinds
Feb. 8 - Chapter 8 - The Trumpet, Trombone, and Tuba
Assignment 2 Due, Woodwinds

Week 6

Feb. 13 - Chapter 9 - The Brass Section

Feb. 15 - Chapter 10 - Scoring Chords

Quiz 3 Brass

Week 7

Feb. 20 - NO CLASS! – Reading Day

Feb. 22 - Chapter 12 - Scoring for Woodwinds, Horns, and Strings

Assignment 3 Due, Brass

Week 8

Feb. 27 - Chapter 13 - Percussion: Instruments of Definite Pitch

Mar. 1 - Chapter 14 - Percussion: Instruments of Indefinite Pitch

Week 9

Mar. 6 - Chapter 15 - The Harp, Celesta, and Piano

Quiz 4 chapters 13-15

Mar. 8 - Chapter 16 - Scoring for Full Orchestra

Week 10

Mar. 13 - Chapter 17 - Special Devices

Mar. 15 - Chapter 19 - Scoring for High School Orchestra

Week 11

Mar. 20 - Chapter 20 - Writing Score and Parts, Publishing

Mar. 22 - Chapter 18 - Infrequently Used Instruments

Week 12

Mar. 27 - NO CLASS! – Reading Break

Mar. 29 - NO CLASS! – Reading Break

Week 13

Apr. 3 - Chapter 21 - Non-Orchestral Instrumental Groups

Apr. 5 - **Review & Catch-up!**

Week 14

Apr. 10 – Final project consultations

Apr. 12 – Final project consultations

Week 15

Apr. 23 – **Final project Due 5:00PM!**