

Advanced Undergraduate Composition (MUS 157) Spring 2008
Michael Dessen, University of California, Irvine
Syllabus

Course meets: Individual times (groups of 2 students, one hour per group per week)

Course syllabus: <http://music.arts.uci.edu/mdessen>

My office: MM 105

Phone: (949) 824-0386

Office hours: Thursday 11am-1pm, and by **appointment**

Email: mdessen@uci.edu

About this course

MUS 157 is an advanced undergraduate composition course for students who have already completed MUS 150 (Undergrad Composition). In Spring 2008 this course will be run as weekly small group lessons.

Assignments

The main assignments are 2 short composition projects. For each, you will compose the music and organize rehearsals and an in-class performance. These will likely be solo, duo or at most trio pieces. For the first project you may compose any kind of music you wish. For the second, I will provide specific materials and ideas for you to work with. The goal is to create space to pursue your own creative direction, while also challenging you to infuse it with something new.

There will also be regular listening and reading assignments which we will discuss in class.

Grading

Your grade will be calculated as follows:

Completion of 2 composition projects @ 40% each: 80%

Participation and informed discussion of listening and reading assignments: 20%

There is no final exam for this course.

Late/makeup/absence policy

Extensions on deadlines (which will be set in the first 2 weeks) is only for severe emergencies. Unexcused absences or late work will severely affect your grade.

Special needs

If you have a disability that affects your ability to complete the assignments or tests on time, you must come see me at the beginning of the semester to make advance arrangements.

Office hours and getting help

If you have any trouble with the course, I urge you to seek help early rather than wait until the end of the quarter. If you want to meet but cannot make my office hours, please **email me** some times you are free.