

## Syllabus

### **Instrumentation & Orchestration MUS 334**

Instructor: Robert E. Thomas, Ph.D.

Email: [REDACTED]; Phone: [REDACTED]

Office Hours: Mondays & Wednesdays, 10:00 – 11:30

I also have a box in Madison 1006 (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor) where messages can be left.

#### **Required Course Materials:**

Scores: Rimsky-Korsakov: Scheherazade ISBN: 978-0-486-24734-2  
Tchaikovsky: Fourth, Fifth, and Sixth Symphonies ISBN: 978-0-486-23861-6

Pencils  
Paper  
Straight-edge

#### **Supplementary Materials:**

Samuel Adler, *The Study of Orchestration*  
Alfred Blatter, *Instrumentation and Orchestration*  
Henry Brant, *Textures and Timbres: An Orchestrator's Handbook*

Elaine Gould, *Behind Bars*  
Gardner Reed, *Music Notation: A Manual of Modern Practice*  
Kurt Stone, *Music Notation in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century: A Practical Guidebook*  
micrologus.retmusic.com  
Notation Software (Finale, Sibelius, MuseScore [available for free download at musescore.org])

#### **General Goals:**

- Exposure to the workings of most of the instruments of the modern symphony orchestra
- Learn the basic skills of combining the various choirs
- Orchestrate one selection for full orchestra
- Orchestrate one selection for concert band
- Develop orchestrational listening skills
- Familiarity with important orchestral repertoire
- Further development of the tastes and refinements of the individual

#### **Activities**

- Written assignments
- Orchestration Exercises
- Reading Sessions: You will orchestrate projects for orchestra and concert band. The orchestra work will be read. *Attendance at the reading session is required*

## Attendance

Attendance is very important and will alter your final percentage grade. Promptness and attendance is expected as a demonstration of your commitment. Excuses absences must be documented with a physician's note or a letter from your academic adviser. You are entitled to one unexcused absence, after which three points will be deducted from your final grade for each subsequent unexcused absence.

## Homework

- Homework will be assigned. Most of it will be graded. If homework is not taken up at the end of one class or if homework is not graded for several classes, do not assume (a) that it will never be taken up and throw it away or forget to bring it to class, or (b) homework due the next class will not be taken up either.
- Homework will not be accepted late unless you **pre-approve** it with the professor or your excuse is extraordinary.
- Any work that is handed in must be done in **pencil** (ink will not be accepted). It must also be **very neat** – done with a ruler or appearing to be done with a ruler.
- Absence from class is not an excuse for not completing assignments.

## Tests and Exams

There will be three tests, a midterm, and a final exam. Tests will not be made up unless **pre-approved**. The final exam will be given during finals week according to the College schedule.

## Grading Scale

<b>A</b>	95-100%
<b>A-</b>	90-94%
<b>B+</b>	87-89%
<b>B</b>	83-86%
<b>B-</b>	80-82%
<b>C+</b>	75-79%
<b>C</b>	70-74%
<b>D</b>	65-69%
<b>F</b>	0-64%

## Grading Percentage Breakdown

Grades will be given for all work as follows:

<b>Homework</b>	15% (the lowest grade will be dropped)
<b>Tests</b>	15%
<b>Band Project</b>	15%
<b>Orchestra Project</b>	20%
<b>Midterm</b>	15%
<b>Final</b>	20%

**Use of Computers or other Electronic Devices in Class is Prohibited.**

## **Email & Blackboard**

Blackboard will be used to disseminate course materials like handouts and assignments. Other course materials (e.g., the syllabus) will also be posted there.

The college provides all students with a college email address. Please note that non-college email addresses *cannot* be used for correspondence. Students should check their email regularly.

## **Disability Statement**

If you are a student with a documented disability and require academic accommodation, please register with [REDACTED], the Director of Services for Students with Disabilities, located in the Academic Support Center on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of St. Joseph Hall (campus extension [REDACTED]) for disability verification and determination of recommended reasonable academic accommodations. After you have made arrangements with that office, please see me to discuss your accommodations. Please remember that timely notice will help avoid a delay in your receipt of accommodations.

## **Academic Integrity**

Students at [REDACTED] are expected to be honest in every aspect of their academic work. Plagiarism, cheating, academic misconduct, or any other submission of another's work as one's own is not acceptable. In a situation where the course instructor determines that, more likely than not, a breach of academic integrity has occurred, the incident will be reported according to the Policy on Plagiarism and Academic Integrity (see the appropriate passages in the Undergraduate Student Handbook).

## Tentative Course Outline

<u>Week #</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Exercises</u>
Week 1 (Aug. 27, 29)	Orientation Instrumental Ranges Clefs & Transpositions Preparation of Scores & Parts	
Week 2 (Sept. 3, 5)	Preparation of Scores & Parts Strings	Handout #1 – Strings Handout #2 – Harmonics Score Study: Tchaikovsky Score Study: Rimsky-Korsakov
Week 3 (Sept. 10, 12)	Scoring for Strings TEST #1 – Strings	String Orchestration
Week 4 (Sept. 17, 19)	Woodwinds	Handout #3 – Woodwinds
Week 5 (Sept. 24, 26)	Scoring for Woodwinds TEST #2 – Woodwinds	Woodwind Orchestration
Week 6 (Oct. 1, 3)	Brass	Handout #4 – Brass Score Study: Rimsky-Korsakov
Week 7 (Oct. 8, 10)	Scoring for Brass TEST #3 – Brass	Brass Orchestration Score Study: Tchaikovsky
Week 8 (Oct. 15, 17)	Percussion	Score Study: Schwantner
Week 9 (Oct. 22, 24)	Percussion MIDTERM	
Week, 10 (Oct. 29, 31)	Orchestration – Tone Qualities Scoring for Orchestra Orchestration – Closely Related Timbres	
Week 11 (Nov. 7)	Piano Transcription Damper Pedal Equivalents Orchestration – Wind Timbres	Score Study: Schnittke
Week 12 (Nov. 12, 14)	Orchestral Transcription Orchestration – Percussion Timbres	Score Study: Debussy
Week 13 (Nov. 19, 21)	Preparation for Orchestra Reading Orchestration – Wind Groups and Strings	Score Study: Tchaikovsky
Week 14 (Nov. 26)	Orchestration – Tutti Formations	Score Study: Tchaikovsky
Week 15 (Dec. 3, 5)	Final Project Review for Final Exam	Score Study: Rimsky-Korsakov
Week 16	<b>FINAL EXAM: Thursday, Dec. 12, 1:30-4:00</b>	