

San José State University
School of Music and Dance
Music 102, Orchestration, Spring, 2018

Instructor:	Dr. Mauricio Rodriguez
Office Location:	Music 158
Email:	mauricio.rodriguez@sjsu.edu
Office Hours:	TuTh, 10:30 – 11:30, and by appointment
Class Days/Time:	MW, 12:00 – 1:15 PM
Classroom:	Music 211
Prerequisites:	Music 4 A+B; Music 13, <u>music engraving experience</u>

Course Description

Music 102 is designed to help students develop:

1. a fundamental knowledge of orchestral instrumentation
2. the technique of transcribing or arranging music for solo and ensemble performance

Notational practice and aspects of performance as they relate to orchestration will be a primary part of the information set.

Course Goals and Student Learning Objectives

Students will learn the technical requirements of orchestral instruments and voice. If students submit all assignments in time, study the textbook sections associated with each instrumental group, successfully pass class exams, and successfully complete all assignments, students will learn (with 70% accuracy or better):

- . individual instrument techniques (strings, percussion, brass, voice and choir, etc.) as related to orchestration.
- . fundamental principles of orchestration.
- . how to transcribe short piano compositions or excerpts for chamber ensembles.
- . how to transcribe a short piano composition for full orchestra.

This class is based on active student participation during lectures, successful completion of assignments, and participation in assigned demonstrations and reading sessions.

Class members will be asked, on a regular basis, to complete assignments for performance, as well as to perform assignments in class. Demonstration of individual instruments will also be an expectation for all participants (ex., a flute player demonstrates in class the technique of playing that instrument).

In-class performance of assignments constitutes a major part of the learning process. Because performance is such an integral component of the learning process, it is very important that students participate so as to bring maximum value to the class.

Required Texts & Computer Notation Software

1. *The technique of Orchestration*, Kennan.

Optional

2. *Orchestral Technique*, Gordon Jacob.

3. *Essential Dictionary of Orchestration*, Alfred Publishing Co. Can be purchased from any online retailer (\$6.50 approx).

In general, the course will cover topics in an order similar to the course textbook but not always. Students are responsible for studying the sections in the course textbooks that cover each topic, whether specifically assigned or not.

4. Music engraving software. The full version of Finale costs approx. \$275. There are less expensive versions, albeit with fewer capabilities. Students will be required to submit a full orchestral arrangement or transcription at the end of the semester, so purchase a version that can help you do this. Please check for specific version types and cost.

Alternatively, students may use the computer lab in room #213. However, it is not open at all times. Please check current lab hours posted on the door.

Instrument requirement

Students can expect to conduct or perform assignments in class (their own assignments or those of classmates), so be prepared to have your instruments close by. If you are a singer, be ready to sing in class if required.

Classroom Protocol

Use of mobile communications devices in class is not allowed, especially during exams and class performances. If you need to make or receive calls of any nature, please go outside.

If you are late and music is being played in class (recordings or live), please wait outside until playing has stopped.

Dropping and Adding

Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drops, academic renewal, etc. [Information on add/drops are available at http://info.sjsu.edu/web-dbgen/narr/soc-fall/rec-324.html](http://info.sjsu.edu/web-dbgen/narr/soc-fall/rec-324.html) . [Information about late drop is available at http://www.sjsu.edu/sac/advising/latedrops/policy/](http://www.sjsu.edu/sac/advising/latedrops/policy/) . Students should be aware of the current deadlines and penalties for adding and dropping classes.

Assignments and Grading Policy

Assignments will be given on a regular basis. Completion of all quizzes and assignments on the due dates will constitute 70% of the course grade. The last assignment will be your final project/examination and will be worth 30%. Late assignments are not accepted.

There will be some performance assignments during the semester. Students will be expected to conduct their own arrangements on performance days. Independent score reading and listening will be necessary for familiarity with style and conventions in orchestration.

Assignments will be graded on clarity, how well the student adheres to each assignment's instructions including engraving, and how successful the orchestration is. When individual parts are required they must be printed with the same care as any score, be clear and easy to read. Late homework will not be accepted and an "F" will be recorded.

Students are responsible for content in the course textbook that corresponds to class discussions and assignments, and should expect information in those sections to be included in any test or assignment.

Quizzes based on lectures/demonstrations and the textbooks will be given throughout the semester including un-announced (pop) quizzes, which will be based on material from the previous class meetings.

There are no make-up provisions for quizzes and Mid-term or Final exams except for compelling reasons as stated in university policy [see schedule of classes]. Unannounced quizzes on the topics discussed in previous class sessions may be given at any time.

Letter grades are assigned on a 10-point scale, with “+” and “-” used as appropriate. All assignments, quizzes, and exams are graded on a normalized 100-point basis, so that letter grades correspond to the following GPA and percentage points:

Letter Grade	GPA	%
A+	4.0	99 - 100
A	4.0	93 - 98
A-	3.7	90 - 92
B+	3.3	88 - 89
B	3.0	84 - 87
B-	2.7	80 - 83
C+	2.3	78 - 79
C	2.0	74 - 77
C-	1.7	70 - 73
D+	1.3	69 - 69
D	1.0	64 - 67
D-	0.7	60 - 63
F	0.0	0 - 59

NOTE: Effective Fall 2017, all MUSC courses carry a final course grade requirement of C or better (not C-) to be considered a passing grade within the School of Music and Dance.

Engraving Requirements (score & parts preparation)

Clean and easy-to-read scores and parts are essential. Computer notated assignments should not compromise the clarity of the score or individual parts. Class members may use the notation programs in the Music CAI lab to complete their assignments. An entrance card must be obtained from the instructor. Hand produced materials are not acceptable.

Assignments submitted without following proper engraving requirements will not be accepted and an “F” will be recorded.

University Policies

“University Policies: The Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs maintains university-wide policy information relevant to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, etc.” You may find all syllabus related University Policies and resources information listed on GUP’s Syllabus Information we page at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/>

Music Use Fee

Music majors and minors must pay a music equipment use fee of \$30 each semester. The fee must be paid directly to the Cashier's Office, and you must bring the receipt to the Music Office before completing registration. Applied music instruction will not be authorized until this fee is paid. Music 10B students, or students enrolled in any sound recording course, must pay a fee of \$22 each semester that they are enrolled in one or more of these classes. The fees are included in the student's bill, with other registration fees.

Music 102 / Orchestration, Schedule of Topics & Projects

The semester will begin with a general discussion of instrumentation and orchestration. Notational practice will accompany this discussion as a preamble to assignments.

Class lectures and demonstrations will cover, in successive order:

INSTRUMENTATION (study of individual instruments, how they work, and how to write for them):

String instruments

Woodwinds

Brass

Percussion

BASICS of MUSIC ENGRAVING (tutorials in conjunction with each arrangement project)

Score preparation

Instrument parts

ORCHESTRATION (how to combine instrumental color, including orchestra):

Writing for chamber ensembles: observe all instrumental techniques discussed in class, including use of best registers, etc.

Simple, four-part assignment

Complex, inc. octave doublings, register substitution

Examples from the literature (in both piano and orchestral versions)

Chamber and simple orchestral arrangements of short piano pieces

Final project: arrangement of a short piano piece for full orchestra.

ORCHESTRA READING SESSION (final project)

Tentative day & time: TBA, depending on orchestra availability

This is a **REQUIRED ATTENDANCE**: Plan ahead with your other classes and ensembles. If there is a conflict, bring this to my attention right away (not at the end of the semester) so alternate arrangements can be made.

Once the date is set, please, check your calendars and potential conflicts with other final exams and extra ensemble rehearsals and let me know a.s.a.p.