

Duke Ellington School of the Arts

Vocal Music Department Course Syllabus

UF3-08 - Music Composition/ Songwriting

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Period: 8
Room: 308

Course Description

This course is designed to provide students with a solid foundation to the creative process of songwriting (lyrics, rhythm, melody harmony and structure). Students will explore and compose music in several distinct styles, demonstrating creativity and a broader scope of the theoretical aspects of music composition. Students are expected to notate, transpose and or arrange music for various combinations of voice and acoustic, as well as digital/electronic instruments.

Artistic Merit

While students are encouraged to discover their own unique voice in the music world, it is to be understood that a measurable degree of growth, artistic integrity, and sound musicianship are most essential to this course. Therefore, students are challenged to compose proficiently in a variety of idioms, styles, and or genres.

National Music Content Standards

Improving melodies, variations, and accompaniments
Composing and arranging music within specific guidelines
Reading and notating music
Listening to analyzing, and describing music
Understanding relationships between music, the other arts, and disciplines outside the arts

Required Materials

Manuscript book (12-staff paper), Pencil, Journal, USB Flash Drive

Software

Music notation: Sibelius 6
Electronic Music: Logic Pro 9

Grading

Weekly Assignments – 15%
Class Participation – 10%
Quizzes – 10%
Exams – 15%
Mid-term Project – 20%
Final Project – 30%

Academic Honesty

For many years, composers have used motifs and fragments taken from a work not their own. However, there is a distinct difference in referencing another work and out-right plagiarism. The latter will result in an automatic failure of the course.