



Department of Music/

MUT 490 – Special Studies in Music Theory

2 Units

MUC 495 – Seminar in Composition

1 Unit

Spring 2018

Meeting days: TR	Instructor title and name: Dr. Victor Labenske
Meeting times: 8:30 AM	Phone: (cell) 619-602-1690
Meeting location: CM 011	E-mail: victorlabenske@pointloma.edu
Final Exam: Tuesday, May 1, 7:30 AM	Office location and hours: CM 214 T 9:30-10, 3-3:30, 4-4:30; W 9:30-9:45, 10:30-11, 2-2:30 R 9:30-10; F 9:30-9:45, 10:30-11; we might also arrange to meet in the Dining Commons for lunch

PLNU Mission

To Teach ~ To Shape ~ To Send

Point Loma Nazarene University exists to provide higher education in a vital Christian community where minds are engaged and challenged, character is modeled and formed, and service becomes an expression of faith. Being of Wesleyan heritage, we aspire to be a learning community where grace is foundational, truth is pursued, and holiness is a way of life.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Writing and arranging for voices in various combinations; study of the range, color, and technical possibilities of various voices; analysis of standard choral works.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

Students will synthesize the following musical grammar and technical components with their own original thought as evidenced in their compositions; At a minimum for each area below, students should be at the proficient level in at least 3 of the following areas:

- Voice leading
- Accompaniment
- Harmonic progression

- Neatness/Notational accuracy
- Creativity of arrangement
- Expressive markings

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

a. Weekly arranging assignments 20%

These assignments are due most Tuesdays. These assignments should be completed using Finale. See Canvas for instructions.

b. Reading quizzes & group or take-home assignments 20%

c. Major projects 60%

Two or three major projects are to be completed. All assignments must be completed using Finale. Include measure numbers. Both a hard copy and a copy uploaded to Canvas must be submitted. The details for each assignment are as follows:

- Major project #1 – due March 1 at class time. Write a complete choral arrangement for SATB voices (accompanied). Selection of project tune must be approved by Feb 13. A rough draft should be presented in class on Feb. 27. Permission must be received for the use of copyrighted tunes (this may take up to six weeks).
- Major project #2 – due April 26 at class time. Write a complete choral arrangement for either SATB, SSAA or TTBB voices (accompanied). Selection of the project tune must be approved by April 10. A rough draft should be presented in class on April 24. Permission must be received for the use of copyrighted tunes (this may take up to six weeks).
- Major project #3 (for 3 unit enrollment only) – due May 1 at 10:00 AM (Final Exam). Write a complete choral arrangement for either SATB, SSAA or TTBB voices (accompanied). Include optional instruments such as handbells, C instrument or brass ensemble. Selection of the project tune must be approved by April 28. Permission must be received for the use of copyrighted tunes (this may take up to six weeks). Option for composers: An original work may be substituted for Major Project #3. The use of an original composition must be approved in advance in writing by the instructor.

Late Work Policy: Late take-home work and weekly arranging projects will lose one letter grade for each calendar day late. This type of regularity allows the students to receive prompt feedback. Major projects will lose one letter grade for each day late (the final major project will not be accepted after the final examination time).

Make-up Policy: Expect that no quizzes or in-class work will be made up.

REQUIRED TEXTS AND RECOMMENDED STUDY RESOURCES

- Ades, Hawley. Choral Arranging. Expanded edition. Delaware Water Gap, PA: Shawnee Press, 1966.
- Sing to the Lord. Kansas City, MO: Lillenas Publishing Company, 1993.

ASSESSMENT AND GRADING

Grading components (details below):	grading scale:	
Weekly Arranging Assignments 20%	A=93-100	C=73-76
Reading quizzes/group & take-home assignments 20%	A-=90-92	C-=70-72
Major projects 60%	B+=87-89	D+=67-69
	B=83-86	D=63-66
	B-=80-82	D-=60-62
	C+=77-79	F=0-59

FINAL EXAMINATION POLICY

The final examination will consist of submitting Major Project #3 (students registered for 3 units) or submitting revisions of Major Project #2 (students registered for 2 units).

PLNU COPYRIGHT POLICY

Point Loma Nazarene University, as a non-profit educational institution, is entitled by law to use materials protected by the US Copyright Act for classroom education. Any use of those materials outside the class may violate the law.

PLNU ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY

Students should demonstrate academic honesty by doing original work and by giving appropriate credit to the ideas of others. Academic dishonesty is the act of presenting information, ideas, and/or concepts as one's own when in reality they are the results of another person's creativity and effort. A faculty member who believes a situation involving academic dishonesty has been detected may assign a failing grade for that assignment or examination, or, depending on the seriousness of the offense, for the course. Faculty should follow and students may appeal using the procedure in the university Catalog. See [Academic Policies](#) for definitions of kinds of academic dishonesty and for further policy information.

PLNU ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS POLICY

If you have a diagnosed disability, please contact PLNU's Disability Resource Center (DRC) within the first two weeks of class to demonstrate need and to register for accommodation by phone at 619-849-2486 or by e-mail at DRC@pointloma.edu. See [Disability Resource Center](#) for additional information.

PLNU ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION POLICY

Regular and punctual attendance at all classes is considered essential to optimum academic achievement. If the student is absent from more than 10 percent of class meetings, the faculty member can file a written report which may result in de-enrollment. If the absences exceed 20 percent, the student may be de-enrolled without notice until the university drop date or, after that date, receive the appropriate grade for their work and participation. See [Academic Policies](#) in the Undergraduate Academic Catalog.

CLASS SCHEDULE

week of:	reading (due Thursday)	short arranging project (due Tuesday)
1/8	CH 1-2	
1/15	CH 3-4	x
1/22	CH 5-6	x
1/29	CH 7-8	x
2/5	CH 9-10	x
2/12		
2/19	Ch 17	
2/26	Major project #1 due on 3/1	
3/5	SPRING BREAK	
3/12	CH 13-14	x
3/19	CH 11-12 (if SSA/TTBB)x	
3/26	CH 19-20	x
4/2		x
4/9		
4/16	CH 18 (if instruments)x	
4/23	Major project #2 due on 4/26	

FINAL EXAM: Tuesday, May 1, 2018 7:30 AM

The final examination will consist of turning in Major project #3 (for 3 unit enrollments) or revisions of Major project #2 (for 2 unit enrollments).

A short written exam may also be included.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Davidson, Archibald T. *The Techniques of Choral Composition*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1945. 784.068 D265t

Ostrander, Arthur E. *Contemporary Choral Arranging*. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice-Hall, 1986. 784.1 O85c

Pooler, Frank. *New Choral Notation: A Handbook*. New York: Walton, 1971. 784.94 P822n

Wilson, Harry R. *Choral Arranging for Schools, Glee Clubs and Publication*. New York: Robbins Music Corp., 1949. 784.6 W751c

