

NorthWest Arkansas Community College  
Division of COMMUNICATION & ARTS

Course Number and Title--MUSI 1643 Beginning Music Composition

Catalog description: (On Demand) An introduction to the art of music composition. Activities will involve listening to selected compositions from music literature, analyzing their structures, and studying the compositional processes used to create the music. Students will then write original compositions using the selected pieces as models.

Prerequisite--None

Credit/Contact/Load Hours—(3 Credit/ 1 Contact / .5 Load per student)

Target audience and transferability: Music Majors. Transfers to most universities as 3 hour course for music majors.

Learning Outcomes—Students completing this course will:

- analyze effectively several classical compositions
- recognize elements involved in creating music
- show competence in using those elements in writing three works

Topics—Musical elements, form analysis, compositional techniques. This course is taught as a private lesson, just as lessons are taught on piano or on other instruments. Specific assignments will depend on the entry level ability of each student. Typically, each student will complete the study of three models and the writing of three original pieces during a semester, with each project requiring approximately one-third of the term.

Forms of Assessment—Student work in the course will be assessed for adherence to models. Instructor will also evaluate individual compositions and the work process of the student.