

# Applied Composition—540:X54:03

## Spring 2011

### Chris Merz

#### Goals

The first assignment will be to establish goals and a timeline to be used throughout the semester. We will work together to set up realistic expectations for number and type of pieces to be written, as well as timelines for completion.

#### Objective

Students will create original compositions in a variety of styles, for a variety of instrumentations. Prior to passing on to 100 level, the focus is to generate pieces for the portfolio. Once at 100 level, the focus shifts to the development of a personal voice.

#### Grading

Students are expected to make steady progress, as per the timeline, toward accomplishment of goals. Weekly meetings will be held. I expect students to be able to play their pieces at the piano and/or to have a cd of a MIDI realization of the work in progress for every lesson. Due to the low quality of sound of most MIDI files, I strongly prefer piano. I do not have minidisk playback capability.

Music is meant for the ears, not the eyes. I expect students to have pieces played upon completion, preferably on the Student Composers' Concert near the end of the semester, or other suitable forum. Students are responsible for organizing ensembles to perform their works. This organization includes contacting the appropriate players, providing clear, correct parts well in a timely fashion, and rehearsing the work(s).

Grading will be based on achievement of goals and getting pieces played (or at least read). A weekly grade will be given, as well as an overall grade for the semester's portfolio. In addition, each composition student will present a portfolio of the semester's work at a jury examination during finals week. The jury will consist of members of the composition faculty, including the student's applied instructor and others.

All Applied Composition students are expected to attend Composition Seminar each Friday at 2 PM, and to attend all composition area events. This semester the jazz and composition divisions are hosting Kenny Wheeler April 20-22. Plan to attend all activities during this residency. Students in my section may be invited to create pieces to feature Mr. Wheeler during his residency.

#### Notes

No qualified individual with a disability shall, by reason of such disability, be excluded from participation in or be denied the benefits of the services, programs, or activities of the University, or be subjected to unlawful discrimination by the University. This policy applies to all aspects of campus activities including employment, education, student programming, and services provided to the community at-large. Students: In order to receive assistance with requests for accommodations, a student with a disability must contact [Student Disability Services](http://www.uni.edu/resources/disability), <http://www.uni.edu/resources/disability>.

Disruptive behaviors in the classroom will not be tolerated. Students may be reported to the Director of the School of Music, Dean of Students or UNI Police for possible disciplinary action(s).

Cell phones should be turned off or set to the silent or vibration mode while in class.