

## MUSIC176 : Introduction to Songwriting

### General Information

Author:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Tobin Sparfeld</li></ul>
Course Code (CB01) :	MUSIC176
Course Title (CB02) :	Introduction to Songwriting
Department:	MUSIC
Proposal Start:	Fall 2024
TOP Code (CB03) :	(1005.00) Commercial Music
CIP Code:	(10.0203) Recording Arts Technology/Technician.
SAM Code (CB09) :	Clearly Occupational
Distance Education Approved:	No
Will this course be taught asynchronously?:	No
Course Control Number (CB00) :	CCC000565052
Curriculum Committee Approval Date:	12/13/2023
Board of Trustees Approval Date:	01/09/2024
Last Cyclical Review Date:	12/13/2023
Course Description and Course Note:	MUSIC 176 is designed for students who would like to acquire the skills to write a popular song. Students learn how the components of lyrics, melody, harmony, rhythm and form fit together within the structure of a popular song. In addition, students will become aware of the stylistic elements of different types of popular music and songs. The course will survey the history of songwriting, career opportunities, and business issues relevant to songwriters including copyright law. During the semester students write songs in different styles and learn how to make simple recordings of their songs. Original compositions and performances are expected from all students.
Justification:	Mandatory Revision
Academic Career:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Credit</li></ul>
Author:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Tobin Sparfeld</li></ul>

### Academic Senate Discipline

Primary Discipline:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Music</li></ul>
Alternate Discipline:	
Alternate Discipline:	

## Course Development

### Basic Skill Status (CB08)

Course is not a basic skills course.

Allow Students to Gain Credit by Exam/Challenge

### Course Special Class Status (CB13)

Course is not a special class.

### Pre-Collegiate Level (CB21)

Not applicable.

### Grading Basis

- Grade with Pass / No-Pass Option

### Course Support Course Status (CB26)

Course is not a support course

## Transferability & Gen. Ed. Options

### General Education Status (CB25)

Not Applicable

### Transferability

Transferable to both UC and CSU

### Transferability Status

Approved

C-ID	Area	Status	Approval Date	Comparable Course
CMUS	Commercial Music	Approved	08/30/2021	CMUS 150 X - Songwriting

## Units and Hours

### Summary

<b>Minimum Credit Units (CB07)</b>	3
<b>Maximum Credit Units (CB06)</b>	3
<b>Total Course In-Class (Contact) Hours</b>	54
<b>Total Course Out-of-Class Hours</b>	108
<b>Total Student Learning Hours</b>	162

### Credit / Non-Credit Options

#### Course Type (CB04)

Credit - Degree Applicable

#### Noncredit Course Category (CB22)

Credit Course.

#### Noncredit Special Characteristics

No Value

#### Course Classification Code (CB11)

Credit Course.

Variable Credit Course

#### Funding Agency Category (CB23)

Not Applicable.

Cooperative Work Experience

Education Status (CB10)

### Weekly Student Hours

### Course Student Hours

<b>In Class</b>	<b>Out of Class</b>		<b>Course Duration (Weeks)</b>	18
Lecture Hours	3	6	<b>Hours per unit divisor</b>	0
Laboratory Hours	0	0	<b>Course In-Class (Contact) Hours</b>	
Studio Hours	0	0	Lecture	54
			Laboratory	0
			Studio	0
			<b>Total</b>	54
			<b>Course Out-of-Class Hours</b>	
			Lecture	108
			Laboratory	0
			Studio	0
			<b>Total</b>	108

### Time Commitment Notes for Students

No value

### Units and Hours - Weekly Specialty Hours

Activity Name	Type	In Class	Out of Class
No Value	No Value	No Value	No Value

### Pre-requisites, Co-requisites, Anti-requisites and Advisories

#### Advisory

MUSIC101 - Music Fundamentals

##### Objectives

- Write, count and perform examples of rhythms and meters.
- Implement basic harmonic analysis skills.
- Construct and identify major and minor scales and key signatures.
- Identify and write pitch and melody in treble and bass clefs.

### Entry Standards

Entry Standards

Recognize and follow musical terminology and symbols.

Write accurate examples of scales, intervals, chords, key signatures and rhythms.

## Course Limitations

Cross Listed or Equivalent Course

No value

## Specifications

### Methods of Instruction

Methods of Instruction                      Lecture

Methods of Instruction                      Discussion

Methods of Instruction                      Multimedia

Methods of Instruction                      Collaborative Learning

Methods of Instruction                      Demonstrations

Methods of Instruction                      Field Activities (Trips)

Methods of Instruction                      Guest Speakers

Methods of Instruction                      Presentations

### Out of Class Assignments

- Reading
- Listening and song analysis (e.g. analyzing the form of lyrics in the blues)
- Songwriting exercises (e.g. writing a verse in a specific form that expresses the emotion of longing)
- Songwriting projects (e.g. creating an entire song in the country music style including melody, harmony, and lyrics)

**Methods of Evaluation****Rationale**

Other	Class discussions
Project/Portfolio	Midterm project evaluations
Exam/Quiz/Test	Midterm examinations
Exam/Quiz/Test	Final examination
Project/Portfolio	Final original project evaluation

**Textbook Rationale**

These are classic textbooks related to songwriting

**Textbooks**

Author	Title	Publisher	Date	ISBN
Stolpe, Andrea	Beginning Songwriting: Writing Your Own Lyrics, Melodies, and Chords	Berklee Press	2015	9780876391631
Clive Harrison	The Songwriting Labyrinth: Practical Tools to Decode the Mysterious Craft	CreateSpace Independent	2015	9781508655466
John Braheny	The Craft and Business of Songwriting	Writer's Digest Books	2007	9781582974668

**Other Instructional Materials (i.e. OER, handouts)**

No Value

**Materials Fee**

No value

# Learning Outcomes and Objectives

## Course Objectives

Identify distinguishing characteristics of popular songs in different styles.

Compose original songs and lyrics in specified genres.

Analyze songs for genre, form, structure, groove, and lyrical elements.

Perform original songs as a soloist or with an ensemble.

Create a lead sheet for original compositions.

Explain the history and evolution of songwriting.

## SLOs

### Demonstrate the ability to distinguish common song forms, genres, subject matter, and harmonic patterns in popular music.

Expected Outcome Performance: 70.0

*MUSIC*  
Music - AA-T Demonstrate and understanding of the common elements and organizational patterns of music and their interaction, and the ability to employ this understanding in aural, verbal, and visual analyses.

Demonstrate fundamental theoretical and historical analytical music score skills.

*MUSIC*  
Music - Certificate Demonstrate and understanding of the common elements and organizational patterns of music and their interaction, and the ability to employ this understanding in aural, verbal, and visual analyses.

Demonstrate fundamental theoretical and historical analytical music score skills.

*MUSIC*  
Music - A.A. Degree Major Demonstrate and understanding of the common elements and organizational patterns of music and their interaction, and the ability to employ this understanding in aural, verbal, and visual analyses.

Demonstrate fundamental theoretical and historical analytical music score skills.

*MUSIC*  
Music - A.S. Degree Major Demonstrate and understanding of the common elements and organizational patterns of music and their interaction, and the ability to employ this understanding in aural, verbal, and visual analyses.

Demonstrate fundamental theoretical and historical analytical music score skills.

### Create original lyrics and melodies using a variety of compositional techniques.

Expected Outcome Performance: 70.0

*MUSIC*  
Music - AA-T Demonstrate and understanding of the common elements and organizational patterns of music and their interaction, and the ability to employ this understanding in aural, verbal, and visual analyses.

Demonstrate fundamental theoretical and historical analytical music score skills.

*MUSIC*  
Music - A.A. Degree Major Demonstrate and understanding of the common elements and organizational patterns of music and their interaction, and the ability to employ this understanding in aural, verbal, and visual analyses.

Demonstrate fundamental theoretical and historical analytical music score skills.

---

*MUSIC*  
Music - A.S. Degree  
Major

Demonstrate and understanding of the common elements and organizational patterns of music and their interaction, and the ability to employ this understanding in aural, verbal, and visual analyses.

---

Demonstrate fundamental theoretical and historical analytical music score skills.

---

*MUSIC*  
Music - Certificate

Demonstrate and understanding of the common elements and organizational patterns of music and their interaction, and the ability to employ this understanding in aural, verbal, and visual analyses.

---

Demonstrate fundamental theoretical and historical analytical music score skills.

---

**Complete a demonstration recording of an original song written during the course.**

Expected Outcome Performance: 70.0

---

*MUSIC*  
Music - Certificate

Demonstrate and understanding of the common elements and organizational patterns of music and their interaction, and the ability to employ this understanding in aural, verbal, and visual analyses.

---

Demonstrate fundamental theoretical and historical analytical music score skills.

---

*MUSIC*  
Music - A.A. Degree  
Major

Demonstrate and understanding of the common elements and organizational patterns of music and their interaction, and the ability to employ this understanding in aural, verbal, and visual analyses.

---

Demonstrate fundamental theoretical and historical analytical music score skills.

---

*MUSIC*  
Music - A.S. Degree  
Major

Demonstrate and understanding of the common elements and organizational patterns of music and their interaction, and the ability to employ this understanding in aural, verbal, and visual analyses.

---

Demonstrate fundamental theoretical and historical analytical music score skills.

---

*MUSIC*  
Music - AA-T

Demonstrate and understanding of the common elements and organizational patterns of music and their interaction, and the ability to employ this understanding in aural, verbal, and visual analyses.

---

Demonstrate fundamental theoretical and historical analytical music score skills.

---

## Additional SLO Information

**Does this proposal include revisions that might improve student attainment of course learning outcomes?**

No

**Is this proposal submitted in response to learning outcomes assessment data?**

No

**If yes was selected in either of the above questions for learning outcomes, explain and attach evidence of discussions about learning outcomes.**

No Value

**SLO Evidence**

No Value

## Course Content

Lecture Content

**History and Evolution of Songwriting (3 hours)**

**Analysis of Current Songs in Different Styles (10 hours)**

- The evolution of popular styles
- Harmonic, rhythmic, melodic, and lyrical analysis
- Form, structure, and groove analysis

- Genre and market (intended audience) analysis

### **The Process of Songwriting (6 hours)**

- Inspiration, ideas, and creativity
- Collaboration
- Songwriting activities and exercises

### **Song Elements and Craft (10 hours)**

- Forms
- Repetition and contrast
- Necessary music theory for songwriters
- Melody
- Harmony
- Groove
- Lyrics

### **Creation, Performance, and Recording of Original Songs (22 hours)**

- Original song or songs are written by each student
- Performance of original songs
- Discussion and feedback
- Revisions as needed
- Demo recording creation
- Lead sheet creation

### **Brief Survey of Music Industry Topics for Songwriters (3 hours)**

- Publishing
- Copyright
- Performance rights societies
- Networking

**Total hours: 54**