

USC Thornton School of Music

Syllabus

SCOR 512: Entrepreneurialism for the Screen Composer (2 units)

Meets: Wednesdays 5:00-6:50pm

Location: Carson Building, G-150

Instructor: Richard McIlvery

E-mail: mcilvery@usc.edu

Mailbox: TMC 118

Office Hours: Mondays 10:15-11:45pm in MUS 103; Tuesdays 2:00-3:45pm in MUS103 or by email appointment.

Department Phone: (213) 740-3224

Course Description: This class is an introduction to the pertinent and practical business issues facing today's composers of music for the visual media.

Learning Objectives:

- An understanding of important involving income streams
- An understanding of contracts including:
 - credit
 - copyright ownership
 - publishing ownership and distribution
- Legal issues
 - Composer contracts
- Production procedures and costs
- Home studio issues
 - Costs
 - Installation
 - Maintenance
 - Running your own business
 - Tax concerns
- Money management
 - Accounting
 - DBA
 - Invoicing, Statements, Taxes
- How to run a recording session

Prerequisites: N/A

Concurrent Enrollment: Students must be enrolled in the Screen Scoring Master's Program

Recommended Preparation: N/A

Course Notes: Letter grade. You must get a B or better to pass the course and remain in the program!

Technological Proficiency and Hardware/Software Required: N/A

CLASS TEXT: **Richard Mcllvery**, *The Business of Music to Picture* (Sound Chamber Publishing, Los Angeles, 2016) ISBN: 9781535386319
Christopher Brooks, *Music for Filmmakers* (Crossfade Publishing, Los Angeles 2014) ISBN: 9781502319142

Meeting	Date	Topic	Reading
1	8/23/17	Course Introduction Copyright: Six rights, what's covered, who is covered, term limits, licenses, what is infringement; Recording and Film Contracts; term, points, all-in deals, fee + expense deals,	Mcllvery Chapter 12
2	8/30/17	Publishing, BMI/ASCAP, Licensing & Songs; How are songs licensed & from whom; how are fees determined, etc.	Mcllvery Chapter 22
3	9/6/17	Overview of the Music Industry in Film & Television: Scores; songs; production; mixing; delivery formats; Chris Horvath	Handouts
4	9/13/17	How We Get Paid; When We Get Paid; income sources; publishing income; domestic; foreign; licensing; Chris Horvath , Guest Speaker	Handouts
5	9/20/17	Procedures of Film & Scoring & Personnel: Spotting; Composing; Scoring; The Dub; Director, Producer, Pre-production; Post Production; Music editor; Orchestrator, copyist, scoring engineer	Mcllvery Chapter 15
6	9/27/17	Composers' Legal Issues and Financial aspects of scoring; Work-for-hire; publishing ownership; score ownership; services unique; package fee structure	Mcllvery Chapters 24-25
7	10/4/17	Musicians' Union: Music Contracting; Budgeting a Scoring Session; Scale, doubling, doubles, leaders, double scale; non-union issues	Mcllvery Chapter 19
8	10/11/17	Musicians' Union (continued) Reggie Wilson, VP Disney, Union Contractor, CEO of Guardian Music.	Mcllvery Chapter 19
9	10/18/17	Song production for film; pre-production, studios, musicians, what studios should be hired: the home studio; etc. Eddie Arkin guest	

10	10/25/17	Introduction to Budgets: How much will a composer make on an all-in budget? Orchestrator, engineer, musicians, stage, music editor, cartage, rentals, etc.; Spreadsheets	Mcllvery Chapter 29
11	11/1/17	Budgets (cont.)	PowerPoint Handouts
12	11/8/17	Operating your own business. Home businesses, studio, city regulations; tax issues; employee issues; charging for studio time; DBA; banking; invoicing, statements and payments.	PowerPoint Handouts
13	11/15/17	Composers' Conundrum: Chris Horvath	Handouts
14	11/22/17	Thanksgiving Holiday	
15	11/29/17	Music Supervisor: Rebecca Rienks: Duties of supervisor; selection and clearance of songs; negotiations of facilities; studios, scoring stages; pre-record management, etc.	Mcllvery Chapter 23
16	12/13/17	Final Exam 4:30-6:30 pm	

Description and Assessment of Assignments: There will be one mid term and a Final Exam. The tests will contain mostly short answer and some multiple choice. Tests must be taken during the scheduled times and cannot be made up at a later date.

Grading Breakdown:

· <i>Final Exam</i>	<i>50%</i>
· <i>Mid Term</i>	<i>40%</i>
· <i>Class Participation</i>	<i>10%</i>

Assignment Submission Policy: Assignments are required to be returned at the beginning of the subsequent class meeting.

Additional Policies: Professional responsibility, courtesy, and respect for one's instructor, guest speakers, and fellow students requires that all members of the class attend all sessions and arrive in time to be sitting at their desk or workstation at the scheduled start of class. Students who violate this custom will receive reduced grades in participation.

Course Schedule: (NOTE: Because of availability of scoring stages, studios and guest-speaker schedules, the following schedule is bound to change; so all students must check for such change postings on Blackboard.)

Statement on Academic Conduct and Support Systems

Academic Conduct

Academic Conduct:

Plagiarism – presenting someone else’s ideas as your own, either verbatim or recast in your own words – is a serious academic offense with serious consequences. Please familiarize yourself with the discussion of plagiarism in *SCampus* in Part B, Section 11, “Behavior Violating University Standards” <https://policy.usc.edu/scampus-part-b/>. Other forms of academic dishonesty are equally unacceptable. See additional information in *SCampus* and university policies on scientific misconduct, <http://policy.usc.edu/scientific-misconduct>.

Support Systems:

Student Counseling Services (SCS) - (213) 740-7711 – 24/7 on call

Free and confidential mental health treatment for students, including short-term psychotherapy, group counseling, stress fitness workshops, and crisis intervention. <https://engemannshc.usc.edu/counseling/>

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline - 1-800-273-8255

Provides free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. <http://www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org>

Relationship & Sexual Violence Prevention Services (RSVP) - (213) 740-4900 - 24/7 on call

Free and confidential therapy services, workshops, and training for situations related to gender-based harm. <https://engemannshc.usc.edu/rsvp/>

Sexual Assault Resource Center

For more information about how to get help or help a survivor, rights, reporting options, and additional resources, visit the website: <http://sarc.usc.edu/>

Office of Equity and Diversity (OED)/Title IX compliance – (213) 740-5086

Works with faculty, staff, visitors, applicants, and students around issues of protected class. <https://equity.usc.edu/>

Bias Assessment Response and Support

Incidents of bias, hate crimes and microaggressions need to be reported allowing for appropriate investigation and response. <https://studentaffairs.usc.edu/bias-assessment-response-support/>

Student Support & Advocacy – (213) 821-4710

Assists students and families in resolving complex issues adversely affecting their success as a student EX: personal, financial, and academic. <https://studentaffairs.usc.edu/sssa/>

Diversity at USC – <https://diversity.usc.edu/>

Tab for Events, Programs and Training, Task Force (including representatives for each school), Chronology, Participate, Resources for Students

Final Examination Policy for all Fall and Spring Courses Scheduled in Standard Sessions

For courses scheduled in a session that has a final examination week from December 7-14, a final examination or other final summative experience is required during the published final examination week.

Final examinations or other final summative experiences may not be scheduled during the Study Days period.

No deviations from the published examination period are permitted for courses scheduled in a standard session during the fall and spring semesters, unless faculty have authorization in advance from the Committee on Academic Policies and Procedures (CAPP). CAPP will not consider any faculty request for rescheduling a final examination without unanimous written consent of all students in the class. Contact the Registrar's Office (213-740-4623 or registrar@usc.edu) for the request form and procedures.

Student Scheduling Conflicts

No student is permitted to omit or anticipate a final examination and no instructor is authorized to permit a student to do so.

Students should plan in advance to avoid scheduling conflicts in their final examinations. If a student is scheduled for two final examinations at the same time, the student should request to take one of the examinations on a different day or time. If a student is scheduled for more than two final examinations in one day, the student may request to take one of the exams on a different day or time. In either situation the student must contact the professors involved no later than two weeks prior to the scheduled examination date and request an accommodation. If an accommodation cannot be arranged, the student should contact USC Testing Services at testing@usc.edu or (213) 740-7166 for assistance.