

Elementary Orchestration

Course Syllabus • Fall 2009

MUCO 338x (42952)
Class Date/Time: M/W, 11:00-11:50
Class Location: MUS 213
Dr. Brian Shepard, Instructor

Office Location: LPB G103 **Office Phone:** 213.821.4152 **Email:** brian.shepard@usc.edu
Office Hours: Monday 1-3 and by appointment

Goal: It is the goal of Elementary Orchestration that each student—upon successful completion—gains a working knowledge of the basic characteristics of the instruments used in the standard symphony orchestra. Among the characteristics to be learned are the range, timbral palette and technical idiosyncrasies of individual instruments, as well as fundamental techniques in combining instruments in settings for various ensembles. To reach this goal, each student must successfully accomplish the objectives described below. Accomplishment will be measured by quizzes, evaluation of student assignments, and projects.

Objectives:

- Demonstrate the correct range and transposition for each instrument of the standard symphony Orchestra
- Correctly define common English and non-English orchestral terms
- Use correct notational techniques when writing musical manuscripts
- Describe the various sounds and timbres of each orchestral instrument
- Properly write for the various instruments of the orchestra—both singularly and in combination with other instruments

Required Text: *The Study of Orchestration 3rd Edition* by Samuel Adler (you do not need the workbook). You are to read the appropriate sections and complete the associated online quiz **BEFORE** the class session in which that subject will be presented. **Bring your book to class. It will be needed for most class sessions.**

Online Access and Materials: In-class handouts, audio examples and other supplemental materials and readings may be accessed in Blackboard (<https://blackboard.usc.edu/>). I will only use your USC email to contact you and send any notifications, so please check that account regularly.

Grade Breakdown:	Online Reading Quizzes*	10%
	Score Identification Assignment	5%
	Bowings Assignment	5%
	Transposition Assignment	5%
	Horn Notation Assignment	5%
	String Project	15%
	Woodwind Project	15%
	Brass Project	15%
	Final Orchestra Project	25%

Due Dates: Online Reading Quizzes* must be completed before the class for which the reading assignment has been made in the course outline. Quizzes not completed by 11:00am on the date due will be graded as a zero. Written Assignments will be collected at the beginning of class on the date indicated in the course outline. Assignments turned in after they have been collected will be considered late and will be penalized 10% for that day as well as 10% for each additional day or portion of a day that they are late. Due to the importance of hearing what you have orchestrated, String, Woodwind and Brass Projects will not be performed if they are turned in late. Any orchestration project (String, Woodwind, Brass, Full Orchestra) turned in late will be penalized at a rate of 20% per day or portion of a day that it is late.

Academic Dishonesty will not be tolerated in any part of this course (assignments, quizzes, projects, etc.) If you are not sure what violates the University code, please read the pertinent sections of *SCampus* or see me. Ignorance of the rules will not be an excuse.

Disabilities Policy: Any student requesting academic accommodations based on a disability is required to register with Disability Services and Programs (DSP) each semester. A letter of verification for approved accommodations can be obtained from DSP. Please be sure the letter is delivered to me as early in the semester as possible. DSP (213-740-0776) is located in STU 301 and is open 8:30 am-5:00 pm, Monday through Friday.

Course Outline Fall 2009

Date	Class Topic**	Reading*	Assignment Due
8/24	Policies, Procedures, and Introduction to the Orchestra		
8/26	Scores, Parts, Manuscript, Proofreading	pp. 3-6, 757-771	
8/31	String Overview	pp. 7-16	Score Identification
9/2	Bowings, Articulations, Special Effects	pp. 17-41	
9/7	No Class (Labor Day Holiday)		
9/9	Harmonics	pp. 41-50	
9/14	Violin, Viola	pp. 51-72	Bowings
9/16	Violoncello, Contrabass	pp. 75-88	
9/21	Scoring for Strings	pp. 111-163	
9/23	Woodwind Overview	pp. 164-166, 170-179	
9/28	<i>Listen to String Projects</i>		String Project
9/30	Flute, Piccolo	pp. 180-193	
10/5	Oboe, English Horn	pp. 193-201	
10/7	Transpositions	pp. 167-170	
10/12	Clarinet, Bass Clarinet	pp. 205-217	Transposition
10/14	Bassoon, Contrabassoon	pp. 221-228	
10/19	Scoring for Woodwinds	pp. 229-294	
10/21	Brass Overview	pp. 295-307	
10/26	<i>Listen to Woodwind Projects</i>		Woodwind Project
10/28	Horn	pp. 312-325	
11/2	Trumpet, Mutes	pp. 325-340, 307-311	Horn Notation
11/4	Trombone, Tuba	pp. 340-356	
11/9	Scoring for Brass	pp. 357-430	
11/11	Percussion Overview, Timpani	pp. 431-436, 445-448	
11/16	<i>Listen to Brass Projects</i>		Brass Project
11/18	Pitched Percussion	pp. 437-443	
11/23	Non-Pitched Percussion	pp. 452-467	
11/25	Scoring for Orchestra	pp. 547-665	
11/30	Scoring for Orchestra	pp. 666-756	
12/2	Arranging for Orchestra		
12/9	11:00 AM (NO FINAL EXAM!)		Final Orchestra Project

*All reading assignments are from *The Study of Orchestration* (3rd Edition) by Samuel Adler. The reading must be completed before coming to class that day. For each reading assignment there will be a brief (5 question) quiz in Blackboard to help reinforce the material. **The online quiz must be completed before 11:00am on the day the reading is due. Failure to complete the quiz by that time will result in a zero grade for that particular quiz.**

**Should the needs of the class so dictate, I reserve the right to change this course outline. You will be notified in advance of any substantive schedule changes.