

THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA THORNTON SCHOOL OF MUSIC

# MUCO 140

## MUSIC FOR DANCERS / SPRING 2018

2 UNITS

**INSTRUCTOR:** BRYAN CURT KOSTORS

**ROOM:** KDC 104

**MEETING TIME:** MODAY, 5-6:50pm

**FINAL:** WEDNESDAY, MAY 7TH, 4:30-6:30pm

**OFFICE HOURS:** TUESDAY 10-11AM / OR BY APPOINTMENT

**[kostors@usc.edu](mailto:kostors@usc.edu)**

### COURSE DESCRIPTION:

MUCO 140 is designed to give dancers a practical understanding of music that can be used to further develop movement, choreography, and collaborative work. The class will cover a wide range of historical styles of music, often presented through the use of dance music of various kinds; notation and score reading skills, form and analysis, music theory and aural skills, as well as a number of other aspects of music training that can be directly applied to the process of dance and choreography will be covered. Vocabulary (and a development and understanding of appropriate terms and ideas) is an important component of the course, as it directly relates to the process of collaborative work between dancers, musicians, and composers.

### GRADING SCHEME:

Quizzes: 12%

Homework: 32%

Final project: 12%

Midterm: 22%

Final: 22%

### GRADE DISTRIBUTION (IN PERCENTAGES):

A 93+	B+ 87-89	C+ 77-79	D+ 67-69	F <60
A- 90-92	B 83-86	C 73-76	D 63-66	
	B- 80-82	C- 70-72	D- 60-62	

### ATTENDANCE:

The nature of music theory, form, and analysis training and musical development in this class is cumulative - topics and techniques introduced throughout the semester build on the materials that have been covered previously. Therefore, it is imperative that you attend all classes in order to fully understand the course materials. It is understood that there may be, at times, conflicts due to performances. **Please do everything you can to avoid conflicts with class, and arrange well in advance for any such conflicts that come up.**

### DUE DATES:

Homework is generally due the following week after it is assigned. Late homework is not accepted.

Quizzes must be completed on the the date they are given. **Late quizzes will not be administered. The**

**midterm and final cannot be taken early and will only be rescheduled for extremely extenuating circumstances.** Sicknesses must be excused for the midterm and final with a doctor's note. It is the student's responsibility to make sure there are no conflicts during exams; requests for exam scheduling changes within two weeks of the test will not be accommodated.

## **COURSE SCHEDULE (SUBJECT TO ADJUSTMENTS AS NEEDED)**

- 1/8 - **Introduction to notation and score reading**  
Topics: Notation; clefs; instruments; vocabulary; rhythms; scales
- 1/15 - *No class / Martin Luther King Day*
- 1/22 - **Dance music in the Renaissance and Baroque**  
Topics: 3/4 meter; modal melodies and harmonies  
Examples: Basse Danse; Chaconne
- 1/29 - **Dance music in the Renaissance and Baroque**  
Topics: Early Baroque harmony; 17th century counterpoint; compound meter; simple forms  
Examples: Allemande; Courante; Sarabande; Gigue; Gavotte; Menuet
- 2/5 - **Dance music in the classical period**  
Topics: Larger formal structures; basic orchestration; score reading  
Examples: Minuet
- 2/12 - **Dance music in the classical period**  
Topics: Opera; Notation of rhythms and rhythmic phrases; expressions and articulations  
Examples: Ballet
- 2/19 - *No class / President's Day*
- 2/26 - **Dance music in the Romantic period:**  
Topics: Extended tonal harmony; chromaticism; instrumentation; timbre  
Examples: Country dances; Mazurka; Waltz; Polka
- 3/5 - **Midterm**
- 3/12 - *No class / spring recess*
- 3/19 - **The 20th Century:**  
Topics: Jazz forms; Improvisation; jazz notion  
Examples: Ragtime; Broadway; Charleston
- 3/26 - **The 20th Century:**  
Topics: Neo-classicism; complex rhythmic structures; mixed meter  
Examples: Ballet
- 4/2 - **The 20th Century:**  
Topics: Non-tonal harmonic practices; extended and non-tonal scales  
Examples: Ballet

(Course schedule, cont.)

4/9 - **The Avant-garde in Europe and America**

Topics: twelve-tone music; non-standard notation; aleatory; electronic music and notation; performance art / Fluxus

4/16 - **Late 20th Century music:**

Topics: Minimalism; pan diatonicism / new tonal harmony

4/23 - **Late 20th Century music / 21st Century:**

Topics: Rock and popular music in America  
Song forms

4/30 - *No class / study week*

5/7 - **Final**

**DISABILITY SERVICES AND PROGRAMS:**

[http://sait.usc.edu/academicsupport/centerprograms/dsp/home\\_index.html](http://sait.usc.edu/academicsupport/centerprograms/dsp/home_index.html) provides certification for students with disabilities and helps arrange the relevant accommodations. If an officially declared emergency makes travel to campus infeasible, USC Emergency Information <http://emergency.usc.edu/> will provide safety and other updates, including ways in which instruction will be continued by means of blackboard, teleconferencing, and other technology.

**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/student/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>.

Discrimination, sexual assault, intimate partner violence, stalking, and harassment are prohibited by the university. You are encouraged to report all incidents to the *Office of Equity and Diversity/ Title IX Office* <http://equity.usc.edu> and/or to the *Department of Public Safety* <http://dps.usc.edu>. This is important for the health and safety of the whole USC community. Faculty and staff must report any information regarding an incident to the Title IX Coordinator who will provide outreach and information to the affected party. The sexual assault resource center webpage <http://sarc.usc.edu> fully describes reporting options. Relationship and Sexual Violence Services <https://engemannshc.usc.edu/rsvp> provides 24/7 confidential support.

**SUPPORT SYSTEMS:**

A number of USC's schools provide support for students who need help with scholarly writing. Check with your advisor or program staff to find out more. Students whose primary language is not English should check with the *American Language Institute* <http://ali.usc.edu>, which sponsors courses and workshops specifically for international graduate students. *The Office of Disability Services and Programs* <http://dsp.usc.edu> provides certification for students with disabilities and helps arrange the relevant accommodations. If an officially declared emergency makes travel to campus infeasible, *USC Emergency Information* <http://emergency.usc.edu> will provide safety and other updates, including ways in which instruction will be continued by means of Blackboard, teleconferencing, and other technology.