

MC 110 Intro. to Composition

Final Project Assignment – Due May 19th 2011

Your final assignment is to write a complete piece of music. There is no restriction as to genre, instrumentation, duration, etc. You could write a pop song or a symphony, a string quartet or a big band chart... I have left what you must write intentionally vague because I realize that everyone has their own individual voice and I hate the idea of telling someone what they should write.

So what is expected of you from this project? Mostly effort and thought. I want to see that you have made an effort to think about what you are writing and to be able to explain why you have written it. Additionally I want you to have gone through the process of producing a finished project that you could hand to someone as an example of your work.

Aside from the finished project, there are two additional components that go into this assignment:

1. You must turn in a very brief proposal for the piece you intend to write. The piece you end up writing may be nothing like your proposal at all, and that's ok. Ideas always tend to change during the creative process. The purpose of this proposal is to mostly make sure that you are on track and don't get stuck having to begin a whole piece in the last week of classes. This proposal may be informal...a paragraph or two will be fine and sending these via email is sufficient and helpful (this way I can easily respond if I have any questions or thoughts). This is due no later than March 10th.
2. Instead of a regular lecture on April 14th, you will all have an individual 5 minute meeting with me. Everyone will sign up for an arranged time slot ahead of time (Also, to fit all of you in, these meetings will have to start or end slightly before or after our regularly scheduled class time....I am hoping that a few of you will be able to come at this time). You are expected to have some portion of the final project completed at this meeting. Again, this doesn't mean things can't change, but there's no point in meeting if there's nothing to show. The point of this meeting is to allow you to ask questions regarding things that you've thought about while working on your piece and for me to make observations and suggestions. Think of this meeting as a low stress mid-term discussion.

The format for your final project is somewhat up to you, but it should be appropriate for the kind of piece you have written. If your final composition works best as a score, that's fine. If it works better as a recording, that's ok too. However, what ever you turn in should be legible and in a format that is easy for me to deal with (recorded pieces must be turned in on CD; no mp3s or digital formats will be accepted) as well as clearly labeled with your name and the piece title. It is your work with your name on it, so take some pride in it.

Also, just to be clear, you must turn in this final project in order to pass to class, and it must be turned in on time. No exceptions.