

JAMESTOWN COMMUNITY COLLEGE
State University of New York

INSTITUTIONAL COURSE SYLLABUS

Course Title: Intro to Songwriting

Course Abbreviation and Number: MUS 1400

Credit Hours: 2

Course Type: Lecture

Course Description: Students will receive guided instruction in the application and synthesis of compositional techniques toward the creation of effective original songs in popular styles. Students will write several songs during the term, and through these efforts they will gain a familiarity with the creative process as well as begin to explore their own musical voice. Students will apply techniques of form, melody, harmony, rhythm, and lyric writing learned through the study of well-known songs by major figures in the popular music world. The course will be structured around hands-on creative projects, and will include discussion, lecture, critical music listening and analysis.

No requisites.

General Education Requirements Met

Student Learning Outcomes:

After successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate a working knowledge of at least one element of music production.
2. Demonstrate a working knowledge of compositional techniques used by master songwriters.
3. Apply and synthesize compositional techniques and ideas to create effective original songs.

Topics Covered:

- Song forms
- Originality and the creative voice
- Writing and/or collaboration
- Master songwriters and their songs
- Creativity and the creative process
- Melodic, harmonic and rhythmic techniques
- Techniques of lyric
- Critical listening and analysis of songs

Information for Students

- Expectations of Students
 - [Civility Statement](#)
 - [Student Responsibility Statement](#)
 - [Academic Integrity Statement](#)
- [Accessibility Services](#)
Students who require accommodations to complete the requirements and expectations of this course because of a disability must make their accommodation requests to the Accessibility Services Coordinator.
- [Get Help: JCC & Community Resources](#)
- [Emergency Closing Procedures](#)
- Course grade is determined by the instructor based on a combination of factors, including but not limited to, homework, quizzes, exams, projects, and participation. Final course grade can be translated into a grade point value according to the following:

A=4.0	B+=3.5	B=3	C+=2.5	C=2	D+=1.5	D=1	F=0
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- Veterans and active duty military personnel with special circumstances (e.g., upcoming deployments, drill requirements, VA appointments) are welcome and encouraged to communicate these to the instructor.

Effective Date: Fall 2024