



# MUSI 10300 4 - Introduction to Music: Materials and Design - Instructor(s) - Anh Vu

Project Title: **College Course Feedback - Spring 2024**

Number Enrolled: **17**

Number of Responses: **12**

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## Report Comments

Opinions expressed in these evaluations are those of students enrolled in the specific course and do not represent the University.

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Creation Date: **Thursday, July 11, 2024**

**What are the most important things that you learned in this course? Please reflect on the knowledge and skills you gained.**

Comments
Musical history and composition skills.
I came into this class as a non–classically trained musician. I enjoyed gaining a foundation in classical music theory and composition, as it allowed me to understand music from a different, more well–defined perspective.
music theory and how to compose
a lot of music theory, how to critically listen to pieces of music, how to compose a piece
Music theory, composition techniques, forms of music notation
I learned a lot about music theory (notes, rhythms, musical techniques, etc.) as well as larger compositional ideas (ex. different types of music). I learned how to compose different types of music and use various music software.
Basic music theory and composition skills; Including things from circle of fifths, triads, chords, roman numeral analysis, figured bass plus various music vocabulary and classification terms. Also, we learned basic composition techniques using programs like Sibelius for classical music and Reaper for electronic
I learned so so much. From a deeper understanding of keys and chords to different types of music and a variety of genres. I loved learning about types of songs, rhythms, pitches, rhythm conversions, and more. By far the most valuable part of this class was learning how to make my own music. Outside of a bit of improvisation I've done for Jazz, I have not ever composed music. Now I know how to, at least a little bit :)
The most important thing I've learned in this course is a far better understanding of music theory. I've played piano for most of my life but have never cared to figure out the technical aspect of why certain things sound one way or another (in simplified terms). This course has given me a far better appreciation for the details of Western music.
composition and musical components
Music theory, compositional aspects of music, overall development of music knowledge

**Describe how aspects of this course (lectures, discussions, labs, assignments, etc.) contributed to your learning.**

Comments
As an instrument player, it was interesting to learn about orchestration, if I ever want to take further music classes.
The lectures and composition assignments both contributed to my learning. The readings were beneficial during the first couple of theory–heavy weeks.
lectures were good and the weekly composition assignments were really helpful
she was really good at explaining musical concepts, she really liked to engage with her students, i also really liked the guest lecturers
The lectures were really good about teaching the material in a way that was accessible for people who already had some music knowledge and I felt like I was exposed to a lot of new genres of music. The composition assignments were a lot of fun and a really good way to practice the theory we learned in class.
Lectures and in–class discussions were very helpful for me to learn music theory and music composition.
The lectures and homework were the most helpful for me. During the lecture, I got to interact with the content initially, and then learn how to apply it on the composition assignments. The way of learning on paper than putting it into practice myself was very helpful especially for something abstract such as music.
Composition assignments were really helpful. The readings were good and interesting, and sometimes philosophical. Quizzes were not too stressful at all; basic preparation and attention in class more than prepares you.
The lectures were very helpful, especially when we were asked to demonstrate as a class whatever we were learning.
the lectures and homework assignments were particularly enriching

### Please respond to the following:

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
This course challenged me intellectually.	4.17	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	8.33%	66.67%	25.00%
I understood the purpose of this course and what I was expected to gain from it.	4.58	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	41.67%	58.33%
I understood the standards for success on assignments.	4.58	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	41.67%	58.33%
Class time enhanced my ability to succeed in graded assignments.	4.58	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	41.67%	58.33%
I received feedback on my performance that helped me improve my subsequent work.	4.75	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	25.00%	75.00%
My work was evaluated fairly.	4.58	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	41.67%	58.33%
I felt respected in this class.	4.67	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	33.33%	66.67%
Overall, this was an excellent course.	4.67	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	33.33%	66.67%

### Additional comments about the course:

Comments
definitely challenging with no background experience
i
This was a really good course!
Very fair grading. If you do the work, put in a basic good standard of work, there is no doubt you will be happy with your performance.
Dr. Vu is awesome! She's always kind and constructive. She understands that this is an introductory course and doesn't expect anything groundbreaking from you. This class is a great way to become acquainted with composition and bolster your music theory knowledge.
Professor Vu is an excellent instructor, her passion for this subject and course is clear in every class. It was great to see all her own work at the end of the course

### I would recommend this course to:

	No	Yes
Highly-motivated and well-prepared students	9.09%	90.91%
Anyone interested in the topic	0.00%	100.00%

## Thinking about your time in the class, what aspect of the instructor's teaching contributed most to your learning?

Comments
The professor held engaging lecture discussions.
Ania is very knowledgeable and has a lot of experience as a composer and player of music. She was able to answer all of my questions articulately.
the lectures
her lectures
Professor Vu was great about explaining complex music theory topics in approachable ways, using examples from popular music to demonstrate the same techniques in classical works. I also thought the time spent in small groups was good to try out topics from the lessons before graded homeworks.
Ania did a fantastic job being available and patient whenever we had questions. She was always willing to give us feedback on our assignments and was a fair grader. She did a good job explaining music theory concepts given the fast pace of the class.
Prof. Vu's analysis of pieces that we listened to in class was really beneficial to understanding the content. She would often utilize just the audio first and then back up the observation using the sheet music which allowed for the bridge between the lecture and learning to be made.
Lectures! Ania lectures wonderfully and clearly loves teaching and music in general. Also, very available over email and for meetings.
Her lectures were thorough and clear.
Lectures

## What could the instructor modify to help you learn more?

Comments
It would be helpful if lectures are more aligned with content listed on the syllabus.
I feel like the first 3 weeks could have been better taught in 4 weeks. Sometimes it felt like we were rushing through integral theory. The more obscure topics we covered (looking at you, John Cage) could have been taught in shorter chunks rather than spending entire classes on them.
go a bit slower on some music theory topics
i think what Dr. Vu could do better for next time is that she should go a little bit slower/into more detail about the basic music theory concepts. As a person with little music experience, it felt like these concepts were rushed since a lot of people in the class already had a well established musical background
Maybe a more diverse set of pieces that we listen to in class? My background is in musical theatre so I was always excited when those pieces came up, though it was only a couple of times.
N/A
Nothing that I can think of. She always provided a lot of examples and resources if anything she did in class wasn't sufficient.
Not much. Maybe a bit more advanced music theory after the initial few weeks. The final weeks were really fun and discussed more creative aspects of music, though, which was super fun as well.
Having fewer people present at the beginning of class or only if there are volunteers. It was a bit nervewracking when she would randomly select a piece to present
Have more live compositional components to help do better on homeworks

## The Instructor . . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Organized the course clearly.	4.33	4.50	0.00%	8.33%	0.00%	41.67%	50.00%	0.00%
Presented lectures that enhanced your understanding.	4.58	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	41.67%	58.33%	0.00%
Facilitated discussions that were engaging and useful.	4.33	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	8.33%	50.00%	41.67%	0.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the course.	4.42	4.50	0.00%	0.00%	8.33%	41.67%	50.00%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.42	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	58.33%	41.67%	0.00%
Helped you gain significant learning from the course content.	4.50	4.50	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	50.00%	50.00%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.67	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	33.33%	66.67%	0.00%
Motivated you to think independently.	4.50	4.50	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	50.00%	50.00%	0.00%
Worked to create an inclusive and welcoming learning environment.	4.58	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	41.67%	58.33%	0.00%
Overall, this instructor made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.58	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	41.67%	58.33%	0.00%

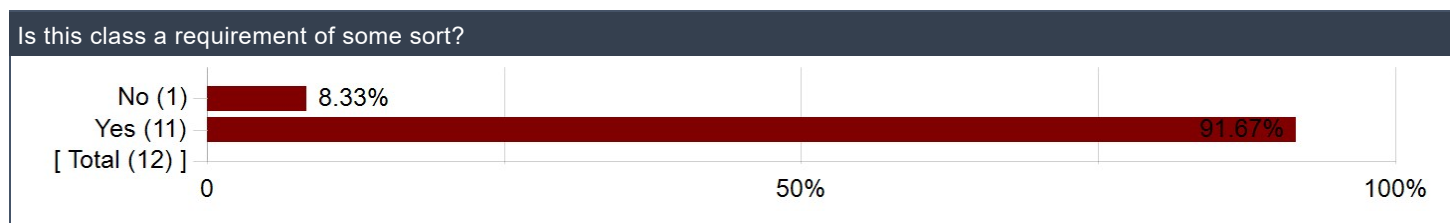
## How much did the following elements of the course contribute to your learning gains?

	Mean	Median	No Gain	A Little Gain	Moderate Gain	Good Gain	Great Gain	N/A
Laboratory Experience	4.00	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	33.33%	0.00%	66.67%
Field Trips	4.00	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	66.67%	0.00%	33.33%
Library Sessions	4.00	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	33.33%	0.00%	66.67%
Review Sessions	4.00	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	33.33%	0.00%	66.67%
Writing Seminars	4.00	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	33.33%	0.00%	66.67%

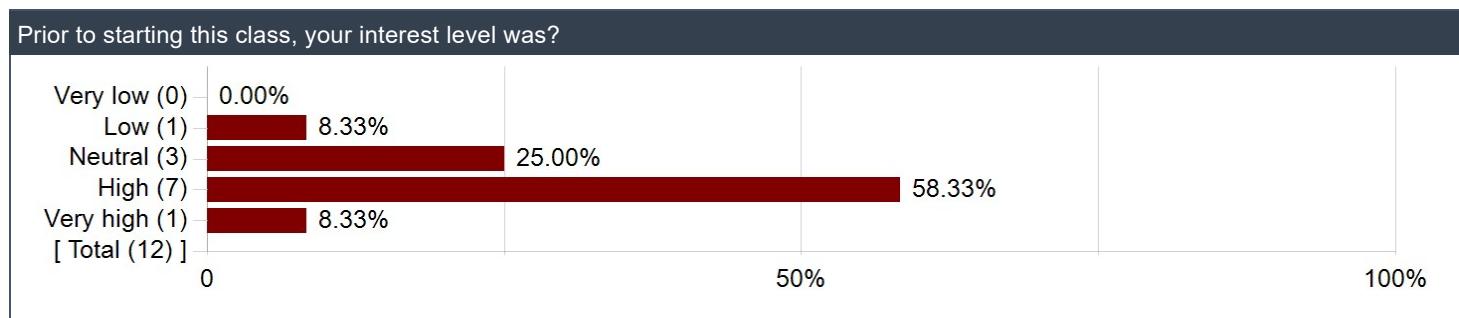
## Other course elements not mentioned above:

Comments
required concert
mandatory concert viewing at Logan center (happened friday before finals for us, which is a little bit unfortunate)! Haven't viewed it at the time of writing this, so can't evaluate it :)

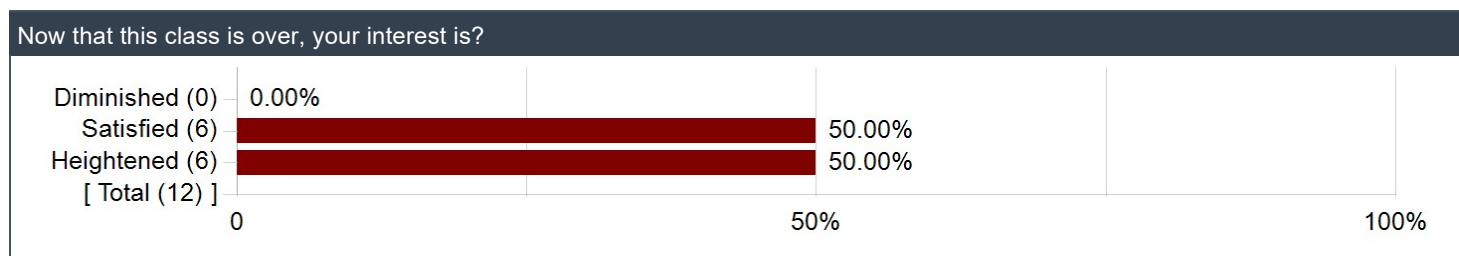
## Is this class a requirement of some sort?



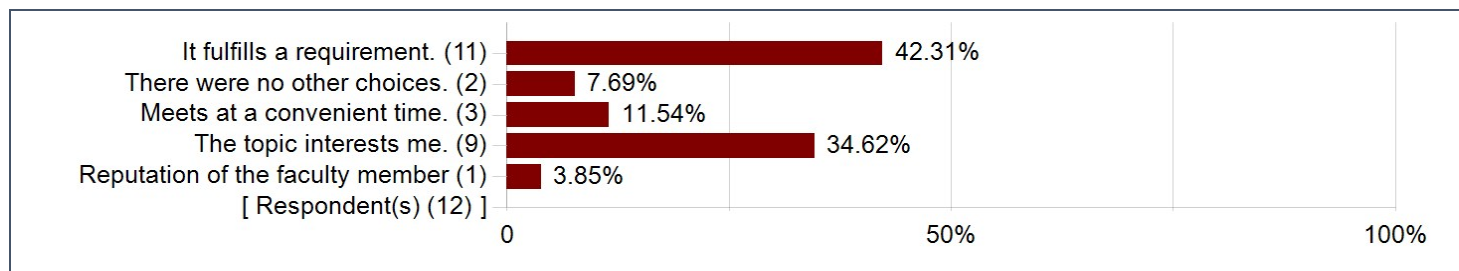
## Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?



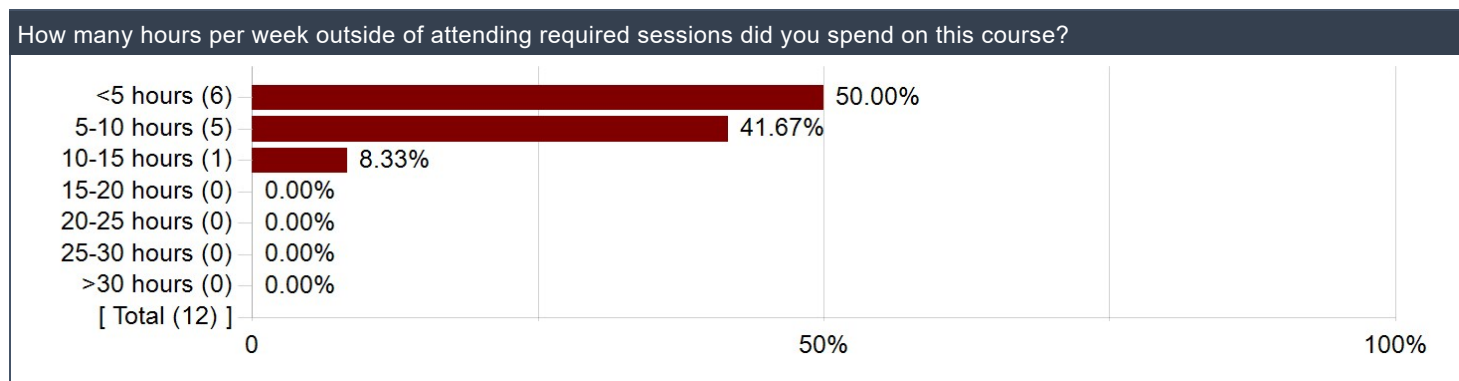
## Now that this class is over, your interest is?



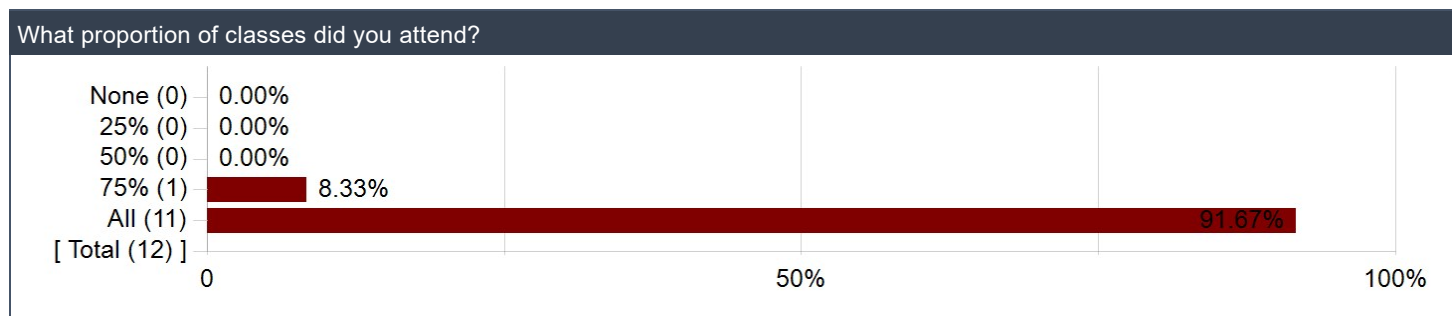
## Why did you choose to take this course? (Select all that apply)



## How many hours per week outside of attending required sessions did you spend on this course?



## What proportion of classes did you attend?



## Please comment on the level of difficulty of the course relative to your background and experience.

Comments
Stress-free but still engaging.
pretty hard giving with no experience
at first, it seems like the music theory concepts go by very fast and you may need to do a lot of self-studying
I did not find the class particularly difficult given I have been practicing music for a long time, but it was still interesting.
I cannot stress enough how important it is to have at least a little bit of experience in music theory before you take this class. It is supposed to be an intro class but it moves so fast that not having that background will make the class a lot harder than it has to be. I have approximately ten years of experience in playing instruments and music theory and I felt the class was very manageable and doable. It will be harder if you don't have experience, though.
Before the course, I had played an instrument for years as well as taken some basic music theory already. This made the content easier to pick up as I was already familiar with some of it, but she provided music textbook resources if needed for those less familiar.
Not difficult. If you pay attention, you will do really well. I did not have much experience in music composition whatsoever.
As someone with no prior experience, the course was hard initially but eventually eased out

## How did the in-class activities contribute to your learning ? Which ones were the most helpful?

Comments
lectures were the most helpful
i liked how we had to compose short pieces in the class to present
Small group activities were good, sometimes the lectures were a bit long and I didn't care for the guest lectures.
The listening activities were helpful because I got to hear various musical techniques being applied in actual music, which was really cool.
They helped to actually formalize what we had learned in theory and build confidence. The ones where we would get established pieces of music and work with them such the roman numeral analysis or the orchestration practice were most helpful as we saw things that we learned in lecture in practice.
Useful!

## Which of the weekly composition assignments helped you internalize the topics covered in lectures the most?

Comments
i think i really liked the reaper one because it gave me creative freedom, but also allowed me to apply the skills i learned in the class
the one that helped me internalize the topics covered in lecture was the canon assignment
I really liked the AABA song assignment as well as the canon, I felt like I learned a lot trying to compose those and I was able to combine artistic value and theory in a fun way.
I liked Composition Assignment #4 (the first Sibelius assignment) because it helped me learn how to use a musical notation software.
The first two where there were multiple little tasks helped me to really grasp the topics and set me up well for the longer form assignments later in the quarter. I was able to learn the basics in a low stakes environment and receive feedback which was really helpful.
Themes and Variations, Round and Canon one.
I think composition assignment #5 helped me to comprehend the concepts the most.
All

## What did you think of the guest lecturers? Were they informative, inspiring, helpful?

Comments
They were really cool and loved hearing they talk about their experiences
really helpful to hear and learn from them!
I didn't really like them, they were kind of boring and I didn't always see the relevance for the class.
The guest lecturers were very nice to listen to. I enjoyed learning about the different types of music from the experts in their respective fields.
I really liked it! It was really interesting to hear another musical perspective.
Yes! It was fun. The pianist was very very knowledgeable and interesting to listen to.
Yes, both guest lecturers were informative and helpful