



# ITHACA COLLEGE

Department of Music Theory, History and Composition

## Composition

MUTH 24100/24200 – MUTH 34100/34200 – MUTH 44100/44200

Fall 2025 Spring 2026

**Class days/time:** arranged

**Location:** JJWCM 3109

**Instructor:** Dr. Jorge Grossmann

**Office:** JJWCM 3109

**e-mail:** [jvgrossmann@ithaca.edu](mailto:jvgrossmann@ithaca.edu)

**Phone:** (607) 274-3790

**Office Hours:** T 10-10:50 AM; R 1-2 PM

## Recommended Writing Materials:

- Manuscript paper such as *Carta* No. 27 16-staff score pad, 18x12
- Pencils or mechanical pencils (0.9 mm lead thickness recommended)
- Computer notation software

## Recommended Reference Materials:

A list of materials on contemporary/extended techniques is available from the instructor.

A recommended listening list and other composition resources is available at

<http://faculty.ithaca.edu/jvgrossmann/docs/compresourc/>

The student handbook and responsibilities can be found here:

<http://www.ithaca.edu/sacl/handbook/> and here: <http://catalog.ithaca.edu/undergrad/student-information/responsibilities/>

The degree requirements for Composition Majors (normal, vocal, keyboard and instrumental) can be found here:

<http://catalog.ithaca.edu/undergrad/schools/school-music/music-theory-history-composition/composition-major-bm/#normaltext>

## Course description:

Study and application of the techniques necessary for coherent expression in creative musical work. Students are assigned original compositions to explore motivic, harmonic, and formal design, as well as style, idiom, and orchestration, in order to create effective and meaningful works. Registration is based on previous written work and the permission of the instructor. Private tutorial instruction and one class meeting per week. 3 credits. (F-S)

## Student Learning Outcomes:

Student will develop, under the guidance and supervision of the instructor, an individual plan of study focusing on his/her particular technical needs and creative aspirations. It is expected from the student to write a total of **10 min.** of approved music, depending on the scope and instrumentation of pieces. The instructor may require technical work including short composition

exercises, listening and analysis assignments to help in the student's development of specific writing skills.

**Attendance policies:**

Attendance is **mandatory** for all lessons, seminars (Wednesdays 12:00-12:50) and all events listed on the Composition Seminar Syllabus. The student is expected to show up for his/her weekly lesson at the arranged day and time. There will be no changes to this arranged time once the semester begins. Make-up lessons will be offered under special circumstances only (student's illness or family emergency, instructor's unavailability due to travel). Students are responsible for making up the missed work. Tardy arrivals will be counted as absences. **Four or more total absences (lessons and/or seminar) will result in a drop of a letter grade (10% penalty on the final grade.)**

Please refer to the Undergraduate Catalog for the attendance policies at Ithaca College.

<http://ithaca.smartcatalogiq.com/en/2013-2014/Undergraduate-Catalog/Academic-Information/Registration-and-Course-Information/Attendance-Policy>

If extra help is needed, the student is welcome to come in during the instructor's office hours.

**Course activities:**

Compositional work, ancillary exercises on specific techniques, listening and analysis of works from the literature.

**Assignments:**

It is expected from the student to complete all composition projects by the final exam date or the last day of classes.

**Composition Seminar:**

All composition majors are **required** to attend Composition Seminar on Tuesdays at 1:05 p.m. Seminars offer an excellent opportunity to interact with other composition students and attend lectures/presentations by established composers.

**Composition Premieres:**

All composition majors are required to present at least one work in one of the student composer concerts each semester.

**Entrepreneurship:**

The instructor encourages students to seek opportunities to expose their work on and off campus. Entrepreneurial activities for an emerging composer include, but are not limited to submitting scores to off-campus performers/ensembles, festivals, calls-for-scores and competitions; engaging in interdisciplinary collaborative projects, participating in new music events; and starting/maintaining a composer's website. Students are required to submit a list of semester entrepreneurial activities by Monday of finals week, via e-mail.

**Mid-Point Portfolio Evaluation (Concerns 24100 / 24200):**

At the end of Sophomore year, all composition students will meet with the composition faculty to evaluate their progress toward successful completion of the Composition Portfolio and to check their progress toward the composition degree. **Should progress be insufficient, the student may be given advice on what areas to improve. In case the student's performance is considered severely deficient, the student may be advised to withdraw or change his/her major.** It is expected that by the end of the Sophomore year, students should have completed at least two compositions that will be part of their final portfolio evaluation.

**Final Portfolio Evaluation (Concerns 44100 / 44200):**

At the end of senior year, all composition students are required to submit a portfolio in electronic format to the composition faculty. **A passing grade in Composition/senior level- Spring (MUTH 44200) will be contingent upon a passing grade on the Composition Portfolio.**

Should the student be given a failing grade for his/her Composition Portfolio, he/she will receive a failing grade in MUTH 44200. Students are advised to check with their instructors to ensure they are making adequate progress toward the successful completion of the Composition Portfolio.

Portfolio consists of:

1. A solo piano work
2. A solo voice collection with accompaniment
3. A work for one or more strings
4. A work involving electronic media
5. A chamber work
6. A large ensemble work
7. A choral work

NOTE: a piece may only fulfill one category; e.g. a string quartet may fulfill “work for one or more strings” or “chamber work” but not both.

**Grading:**

Composition projects	80%
Attendance lessons and seminar	10%
Listening quizzes	5%
Entrepreneurship (with proof of entrepreneurial activities)	5%

\* = see attendance policies

Compositions will be graded based on its creativity, technique, successful structure shape and form, idiomatic awareness, sophistication of the compositional language used, and notation.

**E-mail Communication:**

Students are strongly advised to check their IC e-mail account periodically. The instructor will only send e-mail communications to IC accounts.

**College Academic Policies and Resources:****Attendance Policy**

Current Ithaca College [Attendance Policy](#)

Students at Ithaca College are expected to attend all classes, and they are responsible for work missed during any absence from class. At the beginning of each semester, instructors must provide the students in their courses with written guidelines regarding possible penalties for failure to attend class. These guidelines may vary from course to course but are subject to the following conditions:

- In accordance with Federal Law, students with a disability documented through Student Accessibility Services (SAS) may require reasonable accommodations to ensure equitable access. A student with an attendance accommodation, who misses a scheduled course time due to a documented disability, must be provided an equivalent opportunity to make up missed time and/or coursework within a reasonable time-frame. An accommodation that affects attendance is not an attendance waiver and no accommodation can fundamentally alter a course requirement. If a faculty member

thinks an attendance-related accommodation would result in a fundamental alteration, concerns and potential alternatives should be discussed with SAS.

- In accordance with New York State law, students who miss class due to their religious beliefs shall be excused from class or examinations on that day. The faculty member is responsible for providing the student with an equivalent opportunity to make up any examination, study, or work requirement that the student may have missed. Any such work is to be completed within a reasonable time frame, as determined by the faculty member.
- Any student who misses class due to a family or individual health emergency or to a required appearance in a court of law shall be excused. If the emergency is prolonged or if the student is incapacitated, the student or a family member/legal guardian should report the absence to the Dean of Students or the Dean of the academic school where the student's program is housed. Students may consider a leave of absence, medical leave of absence, selected course withdrawals, etc., if they miss a significant portion of classwork. (Note: Graduate students may not take a leave of absence.)
- A student may be excused to participate in local, state, or federal elections. The student is responsible to make up any work that is missed due to the absence. Any such work is to be completed within a reasonable time frame, as determined by the faculty member.

A student may be excused for participation in College-authorized co-curricular and extracurricular activities if, in the instructor's judgment, this does not impair the specific student's or the other students' ability to succeed in the course.

For all absences except those due to religious beliefs, the course instructor has the right to determine if the number of absences has been excessive in view of the nature of the class that was missed and the stated attendance policy.

Students should notify their instructors as soon as possible of any anticipated absences.

### **Accommodations for Students via Student Accessibility Services**

In accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act, reasonable accommodations will be provided to qualified students with documented disabilities through an interactive process. Students seeking accommodations must register with [Student Accessibility Services](#) and provide appropriate documentation before accommodations can be provided. Please note that accommodations are not retroactive, so timely contact with Student Accessibility Services is encouraged. To discuss accommodations or the accommodation process, students should schedule to meet with a SAS specialist. 607-274-1005 | [sas@ithaca.edu](mailto:sas@ithaca.edu).

Students may register with SAS at the following link:

<https://elbert.accessiblelearning.com/Ithaca/ApplicationStudent.aspx>

### **Ithaca College Standards of Academic Conduct**

The Ithaca College Policy Manual describes the Standards of Academic Content embedded in the Student Code of Conduct. It is the responsibility of every student and faculty member to be familiar with, and comply with, these expectations for rigor, authenticity, trust, and honesty in academic work. You may find the full policy at the following web link:

<https://www.ithaca.edu/policy-manual/volume-vii-students/71-general-student-policies/714-standards-academic-conduct>

We will discuss this policy more thoroughly in our course. As the Policy Manual states, “Because Ithaca College is an academic community, ignorance of the accepted standards of academic honesty in no way affects the responsibility of students who violate standards of conduct in courses and other academic activities.”

### **Mental Health and Stress Management Support via CAPS:**

The Ithaca College [Center for Counseling and Psychological Services](#) (CAPS) promotes and fosters the academic, personal, and interpersonal development of Ithaca College students by providing short-term individual, group, and relationship counseling, crisis intervention, educational programs to the campus community, and consultation for faculty, staff, parents, and students. Their team of licensed and licensed-eligible professionals value inclusivity, and they are dedicated to creating a diverse, accessible, and welcoming environment that is safe and comfortable for all those they serve and with whom they interact. CAPS sees students in-person at their offices in the Hammond Health building (side entrance), but Telehealth meetings through Zoom can be arranged in some circumstances.

Staff in the office will answer questions by phone at 607-274-3136; please leave a voicemail if you do not reach a live person. You can also reach the office via email at [counseling@ithaca.edu](mailto:counseling@ithaca.edu). CAPS hours remain Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. After-hours connections to a live counselor are available by calling the CAPS number and following the prompts.

In the event I suspect you need additional support, expect that I will express to you my concerns. It is not my intent to know the details of what might be troubling you, but simply to let you know I am concerned and that help, if needed, is available. Remember, getting help is a smart and courageous thing to do.

### **Title IX**

Please note that if you disclose to your professor any experience related to sex-based harassment (including sexual assault, dating violence, and/or stalking, sexual harassment or sex-based discrimination), your professor will inform the Title IX Coordinator, [lkoenig@ithaca.edu](mailto:lkoenig@ithaca.edu), of all relevant information, including your name. The Title IX Coordinator may contact you to inform you of certain rights and resources and the College may take initial steps to address health or safety concerns. The college will take initial steps to address the incident(s), protect, and, support those directly affected, and enhance the safety of our community. The Title IX Coordinator will work with you to determine the best way to proceed.

Please also be aware that if you disclose to your professor that you are pregnant or have a pregnancy related condition, your professor should make you aware of the Title IX Coordinator's name and contact information, Linda Koenig ([lkoenig@ithaca.edu](mailto:lkoenig@ithaca.edu)) so that you may contact her to discuss available supportive resources and rights. Your professor will also direct you to <https://www.ithaca.edu/sexual-harassment-and-assault-response-education/supportive-resources-and-options/information-pregnant-students> to help you be aware of your rights and resources.

Information shared in class assignments, class discussions, and at public events do not constitute an official disclosure, and faculty and staff do not have to report these to the Title IX Coordinator. Faculty and staff should be sure that access to campus and community resources related to sexual misconduct are available to students in the case these subjects do arise. Any other disclosure to faculty and staff needs to be reported to the Title IX Coordinator.

For more information: <https://www.ithaca.edu/share>.

**Academic Advising Availability**

Students are asked to consult with their faculty advisor, or the advising contact within their school, for all advising matters. Faculty advisors will be able to assist students with most advising questions, or they may collaborate with the dean's office for more complicated matters.

Students can find the name of their assigned faculty advisor in Homer or in Degree Works. Additionally, below is a list of advising contacts in deans' offices.

<b>School</b>	<b>Email address</b>	<b>Contact person</b>
Business	<a href="mailto:bizhelp@ithaca.edu">bizhelp@ithaca.edu</a>	Katy Hall, Academic Services Coordinator
H&S	<a href="mailto:hsadvising@ithaca.edu">hsadvising@ithaca.edu</a>	Jim Riegel, Academic Services Coordinator
HSHP	<a href="mailto:hshpdean@ithaca.edu">hshpdean@ithaca.edu</a>	Michelle Lang, Academic Services Coordinator
Park	<a href="mailto:commdeansoffice@ithaca.edu">commdeansoffice@ithaca.edu</a>	Kristin Morse, Academic Services Coordinator
Center for Music - Music, Theatre, & Dance	<a href="mailto:mtdacademicsupport@ithaca.edu">mtdacademicsupport@ithaca.edu</a>	Shannon Hills, Academic Services Coordinator
Center for Theatre - Music, Theatre, & Dance	<a href="mailto:scheideg@ithaca.edu">scheideg@ithaca.edu</a>	Mary Scheidegger, Theatre Operations Coordinator

## **Composition Projects for 2021-2022**

**Fall:**

**Spring:**

## PORTFOLIO REQUIREMENTS

COMPOSITION STUDENT: \_\_\_\_\_

EXPECTED DATE OF GRADUATION: \_\_\_\_\_

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### WORKS COMPLETED TOWARD THE PORTFOLIO

#### CHORAL WORK

Title \_\_\_\_\_ (date completed) \_\_\_\_\_

#### SOLO VOICE COLLECTION WITH ACCOMPANIMENT

Title \_\_\_\_\_ (date completed) \_\_\_\_\_

#### SOLO PIANO WORK

Title \_\_\_\_\_ (date completed) \_\_\_\_\_

#### WORK FOR ONE OR MORE STRINGS

Title \_\_\_\_\_ (date completed) \_\_\_\_\_

#### WORK INVOLVING ELECTRONIC MEDIUM

Title \_\_\_\_\_ (date completed) \_\_\_\_\_

#### CHAMBER WORK

Title \_\_\_\_\_ (date completed) \_\_\_\_\_

#### LARGE ENSEMBLE WORK

Title \_\_\_\_\_ (date completed) \_\_\_\_\_

#### OTHER WORKS

Title \_\_\_\_\_ (date completed) \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_ (date completed) \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_ (date completed) \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_ (date completed) \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_ (date completed) \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_ (date completed) \_\_\_\_\_

#### Piano proficiency exam

TAKEN (date) \_\_\_\_\_

PASSED (date) \_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_