



ITHACA COLLEGE

Department of Composition and Music Studies

Composition

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

Fall 2026 Spring 2027

Class days/time: arranged

Location: JJWCM 3109

Instructor: Dr. Jorge Grossmann

Office: JJWCM 3109

e-mail: jvgrossmann@ithaca.edu

Phone: (607) 274-3790

Office Hours: TBA

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:

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

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

<https://catalog.ithaca.edu/undergrad/schools/school-music-theatre-and-dance/music-composition-music-studies/composition/>

Composition Handbook:

<https://www.ithaca.edu/academics/school-music-theatre-and-dance/departments-composition-and-music-studies/bm-composition/composition-student-resources>

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:

At the end of this course, the student will:

- demonstrate the ability to compose music that displays creativity.
- demonstrate the ability to compose music that is technically adept.
- demonstrate the ability to compose music in a variety of media and genres.
- demonstrate the ability to compose music that is musically sophisticated.

- demonstrate the ability to compose music that displays professional notation/presentation.

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 required events per the policies in the Composition Handbook. 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 Ithaca College attendance policies below.

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 Mondays at 12:00 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.

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:

- 75% Composition Projects
- 5% for Listening Quizzes given in seminar
- 5% for required performance by last day of classes
- 5% for required completed piece by last day of classes
- 10% for attendance of:
 - Lessons
 - Composition Seminar
 - Husa masterclass, lecture, and composer talk
 - Required concerts specified in the Composition Seminar syllabus

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

Students at Ithaca College are expected to attend all classes, and they are responsible for work missed during any absence from class. 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. 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; see [Attendance Policy](#) for more detailed information.

Accommodations for Students

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 (SAS) is encouraged. To discuss accommodations or the accommodation process, students should schedule to meet with a SAS specialist.

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. 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. 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. You may reach out by phone 607-274-3136 or email: counseling@ithaca.edu.

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 and gender-based discrimination), your professor will inform the Title IX Coordinator, 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) 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 professional staff within the [Academic Support Center](#) for all advising matters. Faculty advisors assist students with most advising questions, and they collaborate with staff in the Academic Support Center. Students can find the name of their assigned faculty advisor in Homer or in Degree Works. Students can email staff within the Academic Support Center (academicsupport@ithaca.edu).

Use of AI in this Class

[URL for AI Use, Option 1 \(for use where AI use will be prohibited\)](#)

This class, and composition instruction in general terms, is designed to help you develop the creative imagination, technical skills, musical judgment, and individual artistic voice necessary to become an independent composer and artist. The work you produce in this course is not simply an exercise in generating musical material; it is part of the process through which you discover how you think, hear, create, revise, and make artistic decisions.

For this reason, **the use of generative artificial intelligence (AI) to create, generate, transform, or substantially develop musical material is not permitted in this course.**

This policy applies to AI systems that generate musical ideas, melodies, harmonies, rhythms, formal structures, orchestrations, scores, or other compositional material, as well as systems that substantially alter or develop your own musical work.

Basic Needs Awareness

- [See here.](#)

Bias Impact Reporting Form

- [See here.](#)

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Please learn more about Ithaca College's commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion:

<https://www.ithaca.edu/diversity-and-inclusion/diversity-statement>

Health and Safety

- [See here.](#)

Religious Observances

- [See here.](#) If religious observances will conflict with attendance or assignments, please share the potential dates with me **by the first week of classes** so we can plan for your success in our class.

Peer Tutoring and Coaching Services

- [See here.](#)

Writing Center

- [See here.](#)

Mathematics Support Center

- [See here.](#)

COMPOSITION PROJECTS:

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 _____