

COURSE ABSTRACT

Mulroy, Conor D. *On The Creative Process*.

This course examines the different lenses artists see the creative process through. The content is writings from individuals who share their experience about the methods they use. Learning about an artist's routine, regardless of whether or not you are influenced by or familiar with their work, can impact how you approach your own creative process. This course is designed to expose people to the various methods artists from different mediums use to realize their ideas.

Readings

Goldstein, Gil. *Jazz Composer's Companion*. Germany: Advance Music, 1993.

King, Stephen. *On Writing*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 2000.

The fifth chapter of Gil Goldstein's book presents essays from sixteen composers. The essays are short enough to be read aloud and discussed in class. Even though the medium is music, people can apply the ideas to their own practice from analyzing the essays.

Stephen King's book *On Writing* examines the creative process through the medium of writing. There are examples of authors and their methods as well as illustrations of the editing process. He uses his own works as well as examples from

other writer's to show the different approaches you can use to create an effective narrative. This provides insight into the practice and gives readers different lenses to see the creative process through.

There will be weekly papers due each week in which students will discuss the readings. The final paper will be a short essay. Students will analyze and critique the material they encountered and use the following questionnaire as a rough guideline to describe how they approach their own work.

1. Mention Influences, important learning experiences, and people that you feel had an impact on your development as an artist.
2. What time of schedule (if any) do you follow? How often do you compose (create)? Does it come in spurts or is it fairly evenly distributed? How do external stimuli such as deadlines and other demands affect your work?
3. What kind of preparation do you go through (conscious or unconscious, mental or physical) before sitting down to compose (create)?
4. Describe the "normal" compositional process. Cite examples of music (or art) you have written (created) and describe how they came into being. Can you think of infrequent processes which have worked for you in producing music (or art)?
5. Rank the musical elements of rhythm, harmony, and tone color in terms of importance each has in your work?
6. How does improvisation affect your composition (creation)?

Weekly Schedule

Week 1

Mon - Carla Bley (84-86)

Wed "On Writing" -20- (55-58), And Furthermore Part 1 (271-284)

Fri - Assignment 1 and discussion

Week 2

Mon - Richie Beirach/Randy Brecker (87-89)

Wed "On Writing" - 23 - poetry

Fri - Assignment 2 and discussion

Week 3

Mon - Chick Corea (90-91)

Wed "On Writing" What Writing Is (103-107)

Fri - Assignment 3 and discussion

Week 4

Mon - Bill Evans (92-94)

Wed "On Writing" Toolbox (111-137)

Fri - Assignment 4 and discussion

Week 5

Mon - Mike Gibbs/Eric Kloss (95-99)

Wed "On Writing" On Writing Part 1-4 (141-157)

Fri - Assignment 5 and discussion

Week 6

Mon - Pat Metheny/Barry Miles (100-101)

Wed "On Writing" On Writing Part 1-4 (141-157)

Fri - Assignment 6 and discussion

Week 7

Mon - George Russell (104)

Wed "On Writing" On Writing Part 4-5 (157-173)

Fri - Assignment 7 and discussion

Week 8

Mon - Horace Silver (105)

Wed "On Writing" On Writing Part 6-7 (173-189)

Fri - Assignment 8 and discussion

Week 9

Mon - Steve Swallow (106-107)

Wed "On Writing" On Writing Part 8-9 (189-200)

Fri - Assignment 9 and discussion

Week 10

Mon - Ralph Towner (108-110)

Wed "On Writing" On Writing Part 10-11 (200-220)

Fri - Assignment 10 and discussion

Week 11

Mon - Anthony Davis (110-111)

Wed "On Writing" On Writing Part 12-14 (220-236)

Fri - Assignment 11 and discussion

Week 12

Mon - Lyle Mays (112-113)

Wed "On Writing" On Writing Part 15-16 (237-249)

Fri - Assignment 12 and discussion

Week 13

Mon - Herbie Hancock (114-115)

Wed "On Writing" On Writing -On living Part (253-270)

Fri - Assignment 13 and discussion

Week 14

Mon - On pre-composition - Arvo Pärt "24 Preludes for a Fugue" film screening

Wed - Kurt Vonnegut - examples of writers breaking the rules

Fri - Assignment 14 and discussion

Week 15 - Exams week

Mon - Individual meetings to discuss final paper due Friday

Wed - Individual meetings to discuss final paper due Friday

Fri - FINAL PAPER DUE