

# Orchestration Syllabus

<https://hansenmedia.net/courses/orchestration/>

## COURSE GOALS AND PEDAGOGY

The primary goal of the course is for each student to develop the skills and knowledge needed to score music for instruments. Students will also study historically significant orchestral music by examining scores while listening to them. The pedagogical tenets applied in the course are these:

1. We learn by doing. Therefore, we will engage in activities that directly apply the processes involved in scoring.
2. Immediate feedback is necessary, both through evaluation of written work and by hearing scores performed.
3. One does not write for instruments; one writes for performers who play instruments. Empathizing with the challenges each performer faces is the key.
4. Learning about instruments should take place whenever musicians participate in performances or rehearsals. Active listening to tone colors, rather than pitch or rhythm, is a good way to continuously develop a perspective on scoring.
5. Listening to recordings while following the score is a very useful way to learn about arranging. Learning first-hand from live musicians is critical.
6. We learn from one another.

## STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Upon successful completion of this course you will be able to transcribe music for any set of orchestral instruments at your disposal. You will also be able to identify the transposition and useful range of the orchestral instruments, and know more about the limitations and strengths of each instrument. You will gain practical experience in perceiving how instruments work together if you are able to hear your score performed. You will learn the standard conventions of notating scores and parts by hand, but you are encouraged to master computer applications for music printing. Finally, you will develop a deeper appreciation for master orchestrators by evaluating notable examples drawn from a wide range of literature.

## ATTENDANCE AND GRADING POLICIES

Attendance is required. The final grade will be the average of these four components:

Participation:	20%
Worksheets:	20%
Midterm:	20%
Scoring Projects	40%

Assignments are only accepted at the time they are due. Projects must be performed or delivered on the scheduled date, unless you have a documented excuse. Written assignments and arrangements are evaluated on both objective and creative merit. Letter grades will be given according to the scale below, with the upper three points in each range earning a "+" and the lower three points earning a "-."

A	-	90 – 100%
B	-	80 – 89%
C	-	70 – 79%
D	-	60 – 69%
F	-	59% or below

It is possible for every student in this course to earn an "A". You will need to attend regularly and participate, deliver assignments on time, and demonstrate your knowledge on tests projects. Your effort will be rewarded by your increased appreciation of music and the ability to score for instruments.

## **COURSE OUTLINE**

- 1 Acoustics, Tunings, Manuscript, Transposition, Score Reading
- 2 Orchestral Strings, The Section, Terms, Effects, Bowings
- 3 Woodwind Instruments, The Section, Conventions, Articulations
- 4 Brass Instruments, The Section, Effects, Mutes
- 5 Percussion, The Section, Basic Strokes, Instruments
- 6 Other Instruments, Harp, Guitar, Piano, Accompaniments  
Midterm Exam
- 7 Scoring for Orchestra, Transcription, Lines, Chords
- 8 Orchestral Styles, Classical, Romantic, Contemporary
- 9 Play/Share Projects in class, short transcriptions
- 10 Play/Share Projects in class, short transcriptions
- 11 Play/Share Projects in class, short transcriptions
- 12 Play/Share Final Projects in class