

025:156 COMPOSITION SEMINAR

Lawrence Fritts

lawrence-fritts@uiowa.edu

lawrence.fritts@gmail.com

www.lawrence-fritts.com

621-6651 cell

Office hours: MW, 5:00 PM. Best to email for appointments.

Please email or text message me if you will be late or miss class.

Fall 2011

Goals: The main topic of this seminar's semester is the presentation and discussion of recent works of the Masters and PhD composition students.

Presentation Format of Written Materials: Each student should distribute handouts containing the following: a composer biography, a comprehensive list of works, and program notes for each piece presented. If desired, but not required, a technical overview, discussion of aesthetics or influences, and analysis may be included. In addition to the handout, the student should distribute copies of the score for each piece presented. Preferably, one score for each seminar participant would be distributed. However, it is acceptable that fewer scores would be presented. For purely electronic works, no score is necessary.

Presentation Format of Audio Materials: Recordings of performances are greatly preferred over MIDI recordings. If a MIDI playback must be used, it should be in the format of an audio file. Do not use realtime performances in Sibelius or Finale. The recordings should either be on CD, or on the computer before class. Do not waste class time downloading files from email or transferring files from a Flash drive during the presentation. Adhering to this format will add to the professionalism of the presentation.

Presentation Style: Consider this presentation a dry run of a presentation during a job interview. Speak loudly and clearly, and look and act the part of a job candidate that someone would want to hire. The layout of the studio often makes standing awkward. Therefore, it is permissible to sit in front of the participants. Try to use the white board during the presentation. This should be used whenever a composer's name or title of a work is mentioned that is not in the handout. It is often very helpful in a presentation to have this kind of information written on the board.

Discussion Format: You may open the floor to discussion either after each piece has been presented, or after all of the pieces have been presented. Seminar participants should be respectful, but are encouraged to press the presenter on different aspects of the work and presentation. The presenter should listen to questions and suggestions with interest, and show little or no sign of defensiveness.

Length of Presentation: Each presentation should be 40-45 minutes in length. About 15 minutes will be used for playing music, and the rest will be verbal presentation and discussion.

Grading: Letter grades or Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory will be given to students registered for credit. Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory grades will be given to students registered for 0 credits.

Outside Visitors and Activities: Some of these are listed in the calendar below. However, it frequently happens that visitors will be brought in, sometimes on short notice. This will require student presentations to be rescheduled and possibly compressed.

Attendance of Performances: Concerts of the Center for New Music, Composers' Workshop, UISCI, and Electronic Music Studios are presented throughout the semester. Often, the single most important thing a student composer can do, is attend as many concerts of recent music as possible. Hearing how instruments and electronics sound in a concert setting provides invaluable lessons in instrument technique, orchestration, technology, and compositional approaches.

Calendar

- Aug. 26 Introductions.
- Sept. 2 Meet in 2742 UCC for demonstration by David Gompper of new equipment for scores and parts printing and binding.
- Sept. 9 _____ JASON _____
- Sept. 16 _____
- Sept. 23 Cellist/composer Nickolai Kolarov.
- Sept. 30 _____
- Oct. 7 _____
- Oct. 14 _____
- Oct. 21 _____ BRIAN _____ WILL _____
- Oct. 24 Lecture by James Dashow. 3:30 p.m., 221 Becker Building.
- Oct. 28 Guest composer Payton MacDonald.
- Nov. 4 _____ YUNSOO _____ DAN _____
- Nov. 11-12 MidWest Composers Symposium, Indiana University.
- Nov. 18 Class discussion of topics in recent and current composition. No presentations.
- Nov. 25 Thanksgiving Break. No class.
- Dec. 2 Guest composer Leslie Hogan.
- Dec. 9 _____ STEPHANIE _____ STAS _____
- TBA Jack Quartet reading session of student works for string quartet.
- TBA Composition lessons with James Dashow.

Concerts

- Sept. 24 CNM presents the BALKANICUS: Contemporary Music from Bulgaria. Saturday. 7:30 p.m. UCC Recital Hall.
- Oct. 2 CNM presents the Orchid Ensemble. 2:00 p.m., Old Capitol Museum Senate Chamber.
- Oct. 4 CNM presents the Body Electric with guest pianist Oni Buchanan. 7:30 p.m., UCC Recital Hall.
- Oct. 10 CNM presents guest pianist Randall Hall. 7:30 p.m., UCC Recital Hall.
- Oct. 23 EMS Concert, featuring the music of James Dashow. 7:30 p.m., Becker Auditorium.
- Oct. 27 CNM Ensemble in conjunction with the conference, Re-creation: Musical Reception of Classical Antiquity. 8:00 p.m., Old Capitol Museum Senate Chamber.
- Oct. 30 CNM recital with guest violinist Wolfgang David. 2:00 p.m., Old Capitol Museum Senate Chamber.
- Oct. 30 CNM presents guest string quartet the Jack Quartet. 7:30 p.m. Riverside Recital Hall.
- Nov. 6 Composers Workshop I. 7:30 p.m., Riverside Recital Hall.
- Dec. 3 Composers Workshop I. 7:30 p.m., Riverside Recital Hall.
- Dec. 4 CNM Ensemble. 7:30 p.m., Riverside Recital Hall.
- Dec. 11 EMS Concert. 7:30 p.m., Becker Auditorium.

Administrative Home: The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences is the administrative home of this course and governs matters such as the add/drop deadlines, the second-grade-only option, and other related issues. Different colleges may have different policies. Questions may be addressed to 120 Schaeffer Hall, or see the CLAS Student Academic Handbook.

Electronic Communication: University policy specifies that students are responsible for all official correspondences sent to their University of Iowa e-mail address (@uiowa.edu). Faculty and students should use this account for correspondences. (Operations Manual, III.15.2. Scroll down to k.11.)

Accommodations for Disabilities: A student seeking academic accommodations should first register with Student Disability Services and then meet privately with the course instructor to make particular arrangements. See www.uiowa.edu/~sds/ for more information.

Academic Fraud: Plagiarism and any other activities when students present work that is not their own are academic fraud. Academic fraud is a serious matter and is reported to the departmental DEO and to the Associate Dean for Undergraduate Programs and Curriculum. Instructors and DEOs decide on appropriate consequences at the departmental level while the Associate Dean enforces additional consequences at the collegiate level. See the CLAS Academic Fraud section of the Student Academic Handbook.

CLAS Final Examination Policies: Final exams may be offered only during finals week. No exams of any kind are allowed during the last week of classes. Students should not ask their instructor to reschedule a final exam since the College does not permit rescheduling of a final exam once the semester has begun. Questions should be addressed to the Associate Dean for Undergraduate Programs and Curriculum.

Making a Suggestion or a Complaint: Students with a suggestion or complaint should first visit the instructor, then the course supervisor, and then the departmental DEO. Complaints must be made within six months of the incident. See the CLAS Student Academic Handbook.

Understanding Sexual Harassment: Sexual harassment subverts the mission of the University and threatens the well-being of students, faculty, and staff. All members of the UI community have a responsibility to uphold this mission and to contribute to a safe environment that enhances learning. Incidents of sexual harassment should be reported immediately. See the UI Comprehensive Guide on Sexual Harassment for assistance, definitions, and the full University policy.

Reacting Safely to Severe Weather: In severe weather, class members should seek appropriate shelter immediately, leaving the classroom if necessary. The class will continue if possible when the event is over. For more information on Hawk Alert and the siren warning system, visit the Public Safety web site.