



Course syllabus

Faculty of Arts and Humanities

Department of Music and Art

1MU850 Verktyg för populärmusikalisk komposition, 15
högskolepoäng

Tools for Composing Popular Music, 15 credits

Main field of study

Music

Subject Group

Music

Level of classification

First Level

Progression

G1N

Date of Ratification

Approved by Faculty of Arts and Humanities 2016-01-25

The course syllabus is valid from autumn semester 2016

Prerequisites

General entry requirements. and a passed result in a special entrance test.

Objectives

After completing the course, the student should be able to:

- create and produce their own songs in various genres, including lyrics, melodies, chords and arrangements,
- use digital tools in their artistic process,
- identify forms and structures in lyrics and music-making,
- account for artistic conditions concerning instruments and ensembles, and take these into consideration in their own work,
- discuss various techniques and tools for writing lyrics and music-making,
- discuss diversity and the development of artistic expressions in the composition of popular music,
- discuss and evaluate choices of artistic methods and references.

Content

In this course the students discuss, evaluate and apply various methods for composing popular music. This includes theoretical tools such as music theory, form, structure and analysis and critical discussion of artistic references. It also includes technical tools in various digital music programs.

The students also discuss various methods for musical harmonisation and analyse and apply structures and forms in popular music. Large parts of the course consist of instrumentation and arrangements for ensembles, and various types of instruments and

ensembles are discussed.

The course also discusses strategies for writing lyrics, for example concerning language rhythm and melody. Throughout the course, the students practise writing their own lyrics to be used when composing popular music.

Theoretical and historical perspectives on composing popular music are discussed, and the students analyse and critically discuss musical material relevant to their own music-making. The course also discusses artistic, methodological and creative choices made in writing lyrics and producing music in various genres.

Practical parts of the course are compulsory, in consultation with the examiner.

Type of Instruction

Teaching is delivered in the form of lectures, seminars, supervision, group exercises and practical applications in the form of laboratory sessions or workshops.

A major part of the course includes individual studies.

Examination

The course is assessed with the grades A, B, C, D, E, Fx or F.

The course is examined through digital assignments on music production, written and oral examinations and seminars. In order to receive the grade of Pass, the student must achieve the objectives. The grade A is the highest grade and the grade E is the lowest grade for passing the course. The grade F means that the student's performance is assessed as failed. For students who do not pass the first examinations, retake examinations are provided in accordance with local regulations at the university.

Course Evaluation

At the end of the course, a course evaluation is conducted. Results and analysis of the course evaluation are communicated to the students who have taken the course and the students who are taking the course when it is offered the next time. The evaluation is anonymous. The course evaluation is filed according to departmental regulations.

Credit Overlap

This course cannot be part of a degree in combination with another course in which the content fully or partly correspond to the content of this course: 1MU802, 1MU807, 7.5 credits.

Other

Any costs in connection to assignments etc. are paid by the student.

Assessment criteria for the A–F scale are communicated to the students in a separate document. The students are informed about the assessment criteria when the course starts, at the latest.

Required Reading and Additional Study Material

Required Reading

Hillared, Eva. *Lathund för låtskrivare*. Förlaget Singing Songwriting Studio. 263 p. The latest edition.

Pattison, Pat. *Writing Better Lyrics – The Essential Guide to Powerful Songwriting*. Writer's Digest Books. 304 p. The latest edition.

Musical material and references are chosen in consultation with the examiner.