Campuses:
Levelland

COURSE SYLLABUS

COURSE TITLE: MUSC 1321.001   Songwriting

INSTRUCTOR: Chris Hudgins
OFFICE LOCATION   CB 152
PHONE/E-MAIL   (806) 716-2474   E-mail: chudgins@southplainscollege.edu
OFFICE HOURS: As Posted

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GENERAL COURSE INFORMATION
A   Course Description: Introduction to the techniques of writing marketable songs including the writing of lyrics and melodies, setting lyrics to music, developing lyrical and musical "hooks", analyzing the marketplace, and developing a production plan for a song demo. This course can be repeated for credit.

B.   Course Learning Outcomes: The student will develop skills to compose marketable melodies with commercial music, form, and harmony: set lyrics to a song; create lyrical, melodic, and harmonic "hooks"; and devise a production plan for a song demonstration.

C.   Course Competencies: Students must develop and demonstrate competency in the following areas:
    A) Song development
    B) Song construction
    C) Lyric characteristics
    D) Studio production
    E) MIDI applications
    F) Songwriting business

D.   Academic Integrity Refer to College Catalog p.22.

E.   SCANS and Foundation Skills: This course will provide the following SCANS skills: C-1 - 20; and the following foundation skills: F-1, 2, 5 - 17. (Note: a complete list of SCANS competencies and foundation skills is located on the reverse side of the title page.)

F.   VERIFICATION OF WORKPLACE COMPETENCIES: successful completion of this

course will equip the students with many of the skills necessary to complete part of the capstone experience presented at the end of the second semester of study for certificate candidates and at the end of the fourth semester of study for degree candidates.

II. SPECIFIC COURSE / INSTRUCTOR REQUIREMENTS:

A.   Textbook and Other Materials: *The Craft And Business Of Songwriting*, by John Braheny. Instructor will provide handouts and other materials. Subject outlines, and a reading list will be included. I recommend (but don't require) that you purchase both a rhyming dictionary and a thesaurus.

B.   Attendance / Tardiness Policy. The South Plains College attendance policy is stated in the General Catalog. Punctual and regular attendance in class is required of all commercial music students. Each student is responsible for all class work covered while he or she was not in class. At the discretion of the instructor, a student may complete make-up work assignments for unavoidable absences. I generally don't grade on "attendance", but on your daily participation (stuff grade). However, 4 successive absences (2 weeks) will be grounds to drop. In the event a student is not able to complete course work, he or she is expected to initiate a student withdrawal prior to the last drop day.

C.   Assignment Policy. Students will be required to prepare and submit the following as part of their final grade:
1) To write a) research paper as assigned to be graded on form, content, and presentation of paper OR b) full book report OR c) personal interview with transcription.
2) To prepare a casebook on current and past articles relating to the writing of songs and/or the business of songwriting. A minimum of 20 (twenty) articles will be collected and compiled in a single subject spiral notebook "scrapbook" style.
3) To compose original lyrics as assigned, and present them. This will include exercises and other assignments.
4) To submit 2 (two) original songs, fully produced, as a final project. Songs may be recorded in any of the 3 recording studios in the creative arts building or off campus if appropriate facilities are available to you. Productions must include a full ensemble, or full MIDI orchestration along with a lead vocal track. *Material recorded prior to the present semester will not be accepted.* *All assignments are due at their specified times.

D.   Grading Policy/Procedure and/or methods of evaluation.

Casebook	5%	Research Paper	15%
Home Work (stuff)	20%	Song Projects*	30%
Midterm Exam	15%	Final Exam	15%

*Song projects only amount to 30% of the cumulative grade, but failure to turn in a song project (on CD) will result in a FAILING GRADE.

III. COURSE OUTLINE BY WEEKS:

A) Week 1: Orientation / introduction to songwriting.
B) Week 2-7: Instruction proceeds with weekly assignments; details for research paper, casebook, and song projects given.
C) Week 8: Midterm exam
D) Week 9-14: Instruction proceeds with research completion, preparation of song projects and review for final exam.
E) Week 15: Song project CD reviews.
    *Week 16: Final exam, calculate final grade.

IV.   ACCOMMODATIONS - South Plains College strives to accommodate the individual needs of all students in order to enhance their opportunities for success in the context of a comprehensive community college setting. It is the policy of South Plains College to offer all educational and employment opportunities without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, gender, disability or age (SPC Equal Opportunity Policy--General Catalog).

V.   DISABILITY STATEMENT: Students with disabilities, including but not limited to physical, psychiatric or learning disabilities, who wish to request accommodations in this class should notify the Special Services Office early in the semester so that the appropriate arrangements may be made. In accordance with federal law, a student requesting accommodation must provide acceptable documentation of his/her disability to the Special Services Coordinator. For more information, call or visit the Special Services Office in the Student Services Building, 894-9611 ext. 2529, 2530.

VI.   DIVERSITY STATEMENT
In this class, the teacher will establish and support an environment that   values and nurtures individual and group differences and encourages engagement and interaction. Understanding and respecting multiple experiences and perspectives will serve to challenge and stimulate all of us to learn about others, about the larger world and about ourselves. By promoting diversity and intellectual exchange, we will not only mirror society as it is, but also model society as it should and can be.