Course and Contact Information

Instructor: Dr. Fred Cohen
Office Location: Music 179
Telephone: 408-924-4673
Email: Fred.Cohen@sjsu.edu
Office Hours: Tba—call or email for an appointment
Class Days/Time: MW 9:00-10:15AM
Classroom: Music 213
Prerequisites: ENGL 1B (with a grade of C or better); Completion of core GE, satisfaction of Writing Skills Test and upper division standing. Note: Must be passed with C or better to satisfy the CSU Graduation Writing Assessment requirement (GWAR).

GE/SJSU Studies Category: Z

Canvas

Course materials such as syllabus, handouts, notes, assignment instructions, etc. will be found on the Canvas learning management system course website. You are responsible for regularly checking with the messaging system through MySJSU to learn of any updates.

Course Description

Catalog description: “Examines the process of critique, creative description, research, and professional communications central to the performing arts. Students develop writing skills through the study of varied formats focused on the arts.”
MUSC 100W is an advanced writing course for majors in the School of Music and Dance. It is a career-oriented course designed to aid students in the development of a self-confident and appropriate English prose style. The course will emphasize both research skills and practical writing tasks that might be encountered by a professional in the performing arts. You will find that writing is an essential form of self-presentation. The goal of this class is to increase your written effectiveness and thus enhance your self-presentation as a writer. Good professional writing requires you to understand thoroughly whatever it is you need to write about and then present your ideas clearly and persuasively through appropriate language that is accessible and communicative to its audience.
Learning Outcomes and Course Goals

GE Learning Outcomes (GELO)
Students will develop advanced proficiency in college-level writing and appropriate contemporary research strategies and methodologies to communicate effectively to both specialized and general audiences. Written Communication II should reinforce and advance the abilities developed in Written Communication I (A2) and Critical Thinking and Writing (A3) courses, and broaden and deepen these to include mastery of the discourse peculiar to the discipline in which the course is taught.

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:
1. produce discipline-specific written work that demonstrates upper-division proficiency in
   a. language use
   b. grammar
   c. clarity of expression;
2. explain, analyze, develop, and criticize ideas effectively, including ideas encountered in multiple readings and expressed in different forms of discourse;
3. organize and develop essays and documents for both professional and general audiences;
4. organize and develop essays and documents according to appropriate editorial and citation standards;
5. locate, organize, and synthesize information effectively to accomplish a specific purpose, and to communicate that purpose in writing.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Engage in thoughtful and civil criticism and discourse (in-class writing, performance reviews, program notes, research paper).
- Assess, criticize, and support their individual aesthetic appraisal of works in the performing arts (performance reviews, program notes).
- Develop, organize, and write using correct grammar, appropriate language, constructing effective arguments, pertinent supporting material, and including, where appropriate, correct editorial mechanics and standards for citing primary and secondary sources (in-class writing, performance reviews, program notes, research paper).
- Write more correctly, clearly, and concisely; tailor your writing to specific audiences, including the general public and fellow performing arts professionals; distinguish between primary and secondary sources and make astute use of both (in-class writing, program notes, performance reviews, research paper).
- Observe and be able to explain ethical standards for citation and the use of intellectual property (in-class writing).

Textbook

- No required text; reading to be made available via Canvas.

Other equipment / material requirements (optional)

- A writing journal

Library Liaison

- Prof. Toby Matoush <Toby.Matoush@sjsu.edu>
Course Requirements and Assignments

SJSU classes are designed such that in order to be successful, it is expected that students will spend a minimum of forty-five hours for each unit of credit (normally three hours per unit per week), including preparing for class, participating in course activities, completing assignments, and so on. More details about student workload can be found in University Policy S12-3 at http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf.

People involved in the performing arts pay close and skillful attention to the world around them. Writing can sharpen that ability, while your artistic skills can lead more effective writing. To develop artistic attention, our course will be focused on works of art around us on the campus and the near-by city. We will work hard on description and analysis and will develop research skills in order to improve our understanding of things in our environment. We will write descriptive exercises (LO 1), artistic (music and/or dance) analysis papers (LO 1), a research paper (LO 1, 2 and 3) and a resume (LO 1). In-class work will emphasize reading comprehension, performance art-based analysis, brainstorming, the research process, editing and revision and selected issues of grammar and professional English style.

NOTE that University policy F69-24 at http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F69-24.pdf states that “Students should attend all meetings of their classes, not only because they are responsible for material discussed therein, but because active participation is frequently essential to insure maximum benefit for all members of the class. Attendance per se shall not be used as a criterion for grading.”

Final Examination
Thursday, Dec. 15; 7:15AM-9:30AM

Grading Policy

Grading is based on satisfactory performance of the course requirements. Assignments will be graded according to the following categories:

1. Reading, listening, and viewing of assigned materials
2. Correct usage and spelling of names, dates, titles, technical terms, and concepts
3. Correctly following assignment prompts, guidelines, questions, and length requirements.
4. Quality, originality, and accuracy of content
5. Legibility, neatness, and completeness

Method and Frequency of Evaluations:

- Article summaries and reflections 30%
- In-class writing 10%
- Performance Reviews, Program notes 25%
- In-class presentation 5%
- Research Paper 30%
  - See “Research Paper Guidelines”

Grade Scale and Percentage System

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<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>96-93%</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>92-90%</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
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<td>B</td>
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<td>B-</td>
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<td>C+</td>
<td>79-77%</td>
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<td>C</td>
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<td>D-</td>
<td>62-56%</td>
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<td>F</td>
<td>55 % and below</td>
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MUSC 100W, Fall 2016   Page 3 of 6
This course must be passed with a C or better as a CSU graduation requirement.

Late Work

Assignments are collected at the beginning of class on the due date. Work turned in during class after it is collected is considered late, and will be penalized a half a grade. Assignments received after class on the date that it is due will be penalized a full grade. Late work will be penalized a full grade for each day after that, and late work will be accepted only until the next class meeting after its due date. No late work will be accepted after the final meeting.

Due to their ongoing nature, which includes class discussion, in-class writings will not be accepted after the class in which they are done.

University Policies

Per University Policy S16-9, university-wide policy information relevant to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, etc. will be available on Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs’ Syllabus Information web page at http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/”

SJSU Writing Center

The SJSU Writing Center is located in Clark Hall, Suite 126. All Writing Specialists have gone through a rigorous hiring process, and they are well trained to assist all students at all levels within all disciplines to become better writers. In addition to one-on-one tutoring services, the Writing Center also offers workshops every semester on a variety of writing topics. To make an appointment or to refer to the numerous online resources offered through the Writing Center, visit the Writing Center website at http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter.

SJSU Counseling Services

The SJSU Counseling Services is located on the corner of 7th Street and San Fernando Street, in Room 201, Administration Building. Professional psychologists, social workers, and counselors are available to provide consultations on issues of student mental health, campus climate or psychological and academic issues on an individual, couple, or group basis. To schedule an appointment or learn more information, visit Counseling Services website at http://www.sjsu.edu/counseling.
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<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines</th>
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| 1    | Aug 24   | Introduction; Majoring in the Performing Arts-1; Kinds of Writing & Criticism  
Read: “Dues Ex Musica” Summary Due Aug. 29 |
| 2    | Aug 29/31| Majoring in the Performing Arts-2; Writing about music & dance; analysis  
Read: “Beethoven’s Kapow” Summary, Due Aug. 31  
Read: “A Critic’s Manifesto” Summary, Due, Sept. 5 |
| 3    | Sept 5-7 | Majoring in the Performing Arts-3; Practical writing  
Read: “Why So Serious” Summary, Due Sept. 7  
Read: “The Bells” Summary, Due Sept. 12 |
| 4    | Sept 12-14| Majoring in the Performing Arts-4; Opinion and essay writing  
Read: “The Death of the American Dance Critic” Summary Due Sept. 14  
Read: “Giant Steps” Summary Due Sept. 19  
2-5 sentence description of your chosen research subject area, Due Sept. 21 |
| 5    | Sept 19-21| Research in Music & Dance-1 CLASS MEETS IN MLK, rm. 213  
Guest instructor: Toby Matoush, SJSU Music Librarian  
Assignments tba |
| 6    | Sept 26-28| Research in Music & Dance-2  
Read: “Discussing the Undiscussable” Summary, Due Sept. 21  
Read: “Every Good Boy Does Fine” Summary, Due. Sept. 26  
Revised thesis statement and Initial bibliography, Due Oct 3. |
| 7    | Oct 3-5  | Writing in style-1  
**Mandatory Concert:** Sphinx Virtuosi, Oct. 5 (Hammer Th)  
**Mandatory Concert:** Sean Dorsey Dance, Oct. 8 (Hammer Th)  
Performance Review 1(Sphinx Virtuosi) due Oct. 10 |
| 8    | Oct 10-12| Writing in style-2  
Read: “What It Is Like To Like” Summary, Due Sept. 28  
Performance Review 2 (Sean Dorsey) due Oct. 12 |
| 9    | Oct 17-19| Additional readings as assigned  
Program Notes 1 due |
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| Oct 24-26  | Additional readings as assigned Building your image—creating professional materials-1
|            | **Prospectus and Bibliography due Oct. 24**                                  |
|            | **Performance Review 3 due Nov. 2**                                          |
|            | **Required concert: UDT, Oct. 27, 27, 28**                                    |
| Oct. 31-   | Additional readings as assigned Building your image—creating professional materials-2 |
| Nov. 2     |                                                                                   |
| Nov. 9-7   | Building your image—creating professional materials-3                           |
|            | **Performance Review 3 & Promotional Materials due Nov. 9**                    |
| Nov. 14-16 | Reviews of Research paper drafts                                               |
|            | **First draft of research paper due Nov. 21**                                  |
| Nov 21     | Class Presentation Drafts of Research Projects                                |
| Nov. 28-30 | Readings/writing assignments as assigned                                       |
|            | **Program Notes 2 due Dec. 5**                                                 |
| Dec 5-7    | Readings/writing assignments as assigned                                       |
|            | *(Possible Class Presentations, Dec. 7)*                                       |
| Dec. 12    | Class Presentations Final-1                                                    |
|            | **Final draft of research paper due Dec. 12**                                  |
| Dec. 15    | Class Presentations Final-2                                                    |
|            | **Performance Review 4 due Dec. 15, 7:15AM**                                   |
| Final Exam |                                                                                |

**Exam Dec. 15 7:15-9:30AM**