



MUSI 4301.002 – TOPICS IN MUSIC STUDIES – FALL 2026

COURSE INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Martha Saywell

COURSE NUMBER: 14059

DEPARTMENT: Language, Literature, and Arts

EMAIL: martha.saywell@tamusa.edu

PHONE: 210-784-2563

OFFICE LOCATION: Classroom Hall 314H

OFFICE HOURS: Monday from 9:30-10:30, Wednesday from 9:30-11:30 or by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Selected rotating topics in music. May be repeated for credit when topics change.

COURSE GOALS AND ASSESSMENT:

- This class functions as an independent study course. Students will select their specific area(s) of interest and create, in conjunction with the instructor, a course plan and outcomes appropriate to the area(s) of interest.
- Students will supplement and expand knowledge and skill sets beyond traditional MUSI course offerings.
- Students will present a culminating project, appropriate to their area of interest, to a public audience near the end of the semester.

TEXTBOOK: There is no official textbook for this class. Students will be provided with any necessary course materials specific to their area of interest.

GRADING SCALE:

- 90% or higher = A
- 80% to 89% = B
- 70% to 79% = C
- 60% to 69% = D
- Below 60% = F

COURSE SCHEDULE:

- Individual students will work with the instructor to select a weekly meeting time.
- All students will present their respective culminating projects on Tuesday, December 8 at 5:00pm in Classroom Hall 301.

- Students whose area of interest is applied music are also invited (not required) to perform at the University Voices concert on Friday, November 13.

ADDITIONAL MUSIC OPPORTUNITIES:

- Interested in mariachi? **Mariachi Los Jaguares Del Sur** is dedicated to honoring and preserving the art of mariachi music. The group prides itself on a shared love of music, performance, and Mexican culture. If you are interested in joining, visit JagSync 2.0 to sign up and/or email advisor Amelia Guzman at aguzman@tamusa.edu for more information.
- Interested in band? The **San Antonio Community Wind Ensemble** meets in the TAMUSA Auditorium on Sunday afternoons and gives several concerts throughout the year. Membership dues are waived for all TAMUSA students. If you are interested in joining, email director Albert Aguilar at sacwe@crossmen.org for more information.
- Interested in choir? **University Voices** is comprised on students, alumni, and staff who have a shared love of singing. The ensemble performs at university-sponsored events such as Lights of Esperanza, Jaguars Remembered, etc. in addition to presenting a featured public concert each semester. No audition required. If you are interested in joining, email director Dr. Martha Saywell at Martha.Saywell@tamusa.edu.

INTERDISCIPLINARY MINOR IN CREATIVE ARTS AND PERFORMANCE STUDIES:

The interdisciplinary Creative Arts and Performance Studies (CAPS) program encompasses visual art, music, theatre, and creative writing. It prepares students to participate in arts fields, both as working artists, musicians, writers, and performers, and in nonprofit, public, and private sectors. Emphasis on public art and arts administration prepares students to work as arts educators, curators, content creators, and administrators. The CAPS program also provides opportunities for the community to attend arts events on campus including concerts, exhibits, and other performances, thus reinforcing the relationship between the university and the community. Firmly rooted in San Antonio's flourishing arts community, CAPS offers particular emphasis on Hispanic and Indigenous artistic traditions, and promoting diverse, multilingual approaches and performances. Broadly, this program increases access and exposure to a range of art forms.

ADDITIONAL UNIVERSITY RESOURCES:

Additional university resources and policies can be found on Blackboard in the Additional University Resources module. These include, but are not limited to, accommodations for persons with disabilities, counseling and mental health resources, the Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center, Military Affairs, and important dates. Links to helpful websites are also provided in the module.

DISCLAIMER: This syllabus is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor. Students will be notified as soon as possible of any changes.