

# Course Syllabus

MUSC 1321 (3:3:0)

Songwriting

Commercial Music Program

Creative Arts Department

Technical Education Division

Levelland Campus

South Plains College

Campuses:  
Levelland

## COURSE SYLLABUS

COURSE TITLE: MUSC 1321.001 & MUSC 1321.002 Songwriting

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

South Plains College Improves Each Student's Life.

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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.

Article Summaries	10%	Research Paper	10%
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 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 reviews.
  - \*Week 16: Final exam, calculate final grade.

### IV. Injury Or Illness Addendum

In the event that you are injured or are ill, creating a situation where you cannot perform for an extended period, it is agreed that the student will drop this course if the instructor deems it appropriate.

#### 4.1.1.1. 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.

#### 4.1.1.2. Disabilities 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 Disability Services Office early in the semester so that the appropriate arrangements may be made. In accordance with federal law, a student requesting accommodations must provide acceptable documentation of his/her disability to the Disability Services Office. For more information, call or visit the Disability Services Office at Levelland (Student Health & Wellness Office) 806-716-2577, Reese Center (Building 8) 806-716-4675, or Plainview Center (Main Office) 806-716-4302 or 806-296-9611.

#### 4.1.1.3. Non-Discrimination Statement

South Plains College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability or age in its programs and activities. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies: Vice President for Student Affairs, South Plains College, 1401 College Avenue, Box 5, Levelland, TX 79336. Phone number 806-716-2360.

#### 4.1.1.4 Title IX Pregnancy Accommodations Statement

If you are pregnant, or have given birth within six months, Under Title IX you have a right to reasonable accommodations to help continue your education. To activate accommodations you must submit a Title IX pregnancy accommodations request, along with specific medical documentation, to the Director of Health and Wellness. Once approved, notification will be sent to the student and instructors. It is the student's responsibility to work with the instructor to arrange accommodations. Contact Chris Straface, Director of Health and Wellness at 806-716-2362 or email [cstraface@southplainscollege.edu](mailto:cstraface@southplainscollege.edu) for assistance.

#### 4.1.1.5 Campus Concealed Carry Statement

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in South Plains College buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and South Plains College policy, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations. For a list of locations and Frequently Asked Questions, please refer to the Campus Carry page at:

<http://www.southplainscollege.edu/campuscarry.php>

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all South Plains College campuses. Report violations to the College Police Department at 806-716-2396 or 9-1-1.

#### "Face Covering Course Syllabus Statement—Rev. 1/4/2021

It is the policy of South Plains College for the Spring 2021 semester that as a condition of on-campus enrollment, all students are required to engage in safe behaviors to avoid the spread of COVID-19 in the SPC community. Such behaviors specifically include the requirement that all students properly wear CDC-compliant face coverings while in SPC buildings including in classrooms, labs, hallways, and restrooms. Failure to comply with this policy may result in dismissal from the current class session. If the student refuses to leave the classroom or lab after being dismissed, the student may be referred to the Dean of Students on the Levelland campus or the Dean/Director of external centers for Student Code of Conduct Violation. Students who believe they have been exposed or may be COVID-19 positive, must contact Health Services, DeEtte Edens, BSN, RN at (806) 716-2376 or [dedens@southplainscollege.edu](mailto:dedens@southplainscollege.edu).

#### SPC INCLUSIVE ACCESS SYLLABUS STATEMENT

- **Textbook:** The textbook and resources for this course are available in digital format through the **Inclusive Access**:textbook program at South Plains College. That means the e-book edition of the textbook and/or all required resources are provided to students through Blackboard from the first day of class. The fee for the e-book/resources is the lowest price available from the publisher and bookstore and is included in the student tuition/fee payment. Therefore, students do not have to purchase a separate textbook or access card for this course.
- **E-book features:** Access to a cloud-based e-reader is provided by RedShelf via Blackboard. RedShelf e-book features include the ability to hear the text read aloud, highlight, take notes, create flash cards, see word definitions, build study guides, print select pages, and download up to 20% of the book for offline access. Visit <https://solve.redshelf.com/hc/en-us/requests/new> for e-book issues and support.
- **Opting out of Inclusive Access:** As long as they meet the opt-out deadline, students may choose not to participate in the Inclusive Access program if they have a textbook from another source. Students should check with the instructor for advice before deciding to opt out because Inclusive Access is the cheapest option for most students. Students should also find out whether course work is required in an online platform like Mindtap or Connect. If so, students who opt out would be required to purchase access to that platform in addition to acquiring the e-book on their own. To opt out of the Inclusive Access e-book/resources, students need to email [tfewell4texasbookcompany@gmail.com](mailto:tfewell4texasbookcompany@gmail.com) before the census date. Students