

Contemporary Music Ensemble (MUS 176) Spring 2008
Michael Dessen, University of California, Irvine
Syllabus

NOTE: Many course details are dependent on enrollment (numbers and instrumentation), which will not be set until after add/drop. Detailed arrangements for assignments and repertoire will be made at that time.

Course meets: Wednesdays, 10am-12pm in AITR 196

Course webpage: <http://music.arts.uci.edu/mdessen>

My office: MM105

Phone: (949) 824-0386

Office hours: Thursday 11am-1pm, and by **appointment**

Email: mdessen@uci.edu

Course description

This course is open to all undergraduate music majors and music graduate students. (Students in their first year of the undergraduate music major need instructor permission.) The course is a performance workshop for diverse types of 20th and 21st century music. Together we will develop an exciting array of pieces, possibly giving an informal performance at the end of the quarter. We will work on some conventionally notated works but will also introduce other contemporary approaches such as improvisation, electro-acoustic work, or graphic scores. We will meet as a full group roughly once per week, and students will also rehearse on their own in smaller combinations outside of class.

Please note that this course does not satisfy the chamber music requirement for undergraduate music majors.

Repertoire

Our repertoire will be determined over the first few weeks of the quarter, taking into account instrumentation, numbers of students in the course, and their interests.

Course requirements and grading

In addition to participating in all in-class rehearsals, each student will also be responsible for taking an organizational and/or creative role in at least one piece that will be developed collaboratively outside of class. In some weeks there may also be short listening or reading assignments which we will discuss in class, though these will be minimal.

Grade breakdown:

Participation in in-class rehearsals (and concert if there is one), including preparing your parts and completing any listening or reading assignments: 75%

Participation in outside of class assignments and collaborative work: 25%

Late/makeup/absence policy

Unexcused absences or late work will severely affect your grade, and extensions or special arrangements are only for severe emergencies.

Special needs

If you have a disability that affects your ability to complete the coursework, you must come see me at the beginning of the semester to make advance arrangements.

Office hours and getting help

If you have any trouble during this course, it is important to seek help early rather than wait until the end of the quarter. If you want to meet but cannot make my office hours, please **email me** some times you are free.