



## PAPER OUTLINE 2012

**Paper Code & Title:** NZSM 403 *Special Topic in Instrumental/Vocal Composition: Scoring for Film*  
**Year:** 2012      **Points:** 30  
**CRN:** 13765      **Trimester:** 2      **Campus:** NZSM - VUW Kelburn  
**Prerequisites:** BMus in Instrumental/Vocal Composition or entry by portfolio  
**Corequisites:** None  
**Restrictions:** CMPO 303

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**Key dates:**      Teaching dates: 16 July–19 October 2012  
                         Mid-trimester break: 27 August–9 September 2012  
                         Study week: 22–26 October 2012  
Exam/Assessment period: 26 October–17 November 2012  
                         (where applicable) *NB: For courses with exams, students must be available to attend the exam at any time during this period.*

Final item of assessment due: 31 October 2012, 12:00pm  
Withdrawal dates: 27 July 2012  
*You can withdraw from this course on or before this date, with full refund of the course fee, by completing an FHSS Change of Course form. After this date, a Fee Reconsideration will only be granted in exceptional circumstances. Information on withdrawals and refunds may be found at:*  
<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/payments/withdrawalsrefunds.aspx>  
*Note that both late withdrawal and course failure may affect your StudyLink eligibility. See below for more details.*

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**Course Coordinator:** John Psathas  
**Contact phone:** 463 5862      **Email:** [john.psathas@nzsm.ac.nz](mailto:john.psathas@nzsm.ac.nz)  
**Office located at:** 102, 92 Fairlie Tce, Kelburn Campus  
**Office hours:** Thursday, 3:00pm-4:30pm

**Tutors:** TBA

**Class times & room:** Tuesday, Thursday, 1:40pm-3:00pm (Room MS209, Kelburn)  
**Workshop time & room:** Wednesday, 3:10pm-4:30pm (MS301: Adam Concert Room, Kelburn)  
**Tutorial times & rooms:** These will be announced in class in the first week of lectures.

### Classes with tutorials:

*Tutorials commence in the second week of the trimester. Groups will be posted on Blackboard and/or on the noticeboard outside the office on the NZSM Kelburn Campus at the start of Week 2.*

## PAPER PRESCRIPTION

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*This paper is a practical but intensive examination of the processes, concepts and issues involved in scoring instrumental music to accompany films. Students will engage, to an advanced level, with the raft of challenges involved in the scoring process, including the role of music in the filmic narrative, the need for detailed and coherent planning of the process, the different approaches required in orchestrating for the scoring stage, preparing MIDI mockups, preparing for the recording phase, and managing the many creative decisions and personnel relationships within the overall project. Students express their responses, both critical and creative, through a range of assignments, resulting in the scoring of a short film.*

## TEACHING LEARNING SUMMARY

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This course comprises two 1.5-hour lectures per week and one 1.5-hour workshop per week. During workshops, classes will come together to listen to student performances, as well as presentations by staff and guest artists.

See attached course syllabus for more information.

## EXPECTED WORKLOAD

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A 30-point second-trimester paper should require at least 300 hours work (including class time). This means that in term time, the midterm break and study week you should be prepared to spend on average 20 hours per week involved in activities such as attending classes, reading, listening to recommended recordings and preparing assignments.

## READINGS, MATERIALS & EQUIPMENT

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### Set texts:

Heather Laing: *Gabriel Yared's "The English Patient"*

*All undergraduate textbooks and student notes will be sold from the Memorial Theatre foyer from 9 to 27 July, while postgraduate textbooks and student notes will be available from the top floor of VicBooks in the Student Union Building, Kelburn Campus. After week two of the trimester, all undergraduate textbooks and student notes will be sold from VicBooks, on Level 4 of the Student Union Building. Customers can order textbooks and student notes online at [www.vicbooks.co.nz](http://www.vicbooks.co.nz), or email an order or enquiry to [enquiries@vicbooks.co.nz](mailto:enquiries@vicbooks.co.nz). Books can be couriered to customers, or they can be picked up from nominated collection points at each campus. Customers will be contacted when they are available. Opening hours are 8:00am–6:00pm, Monday–Friday during term time (closing at 5:00pm in the holidays). Phone: 463 5515.*

### Recommended reading:

- George Burt: *The Art of Film Music*
- Karlin Wright: *On The Track – a guide to contemporary film scoring*
- Jennifer van Sijll: *Cinematic Storytelling, the 100 most powerful film conventions*

### Materials and equipment:

Throughout this paper you will be expected to cover the costs of printing your own scores and parts, and (where applicable) burning material to CD or DVD. You will also be expected to cover transport costs for visits to local course-related institutions (like Park Road Post).

## LEARNING OBJECTIVES

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Students who successfully complete this paper will be able to:

1. Score a soundtrack to a short film, or excerpts from a feature film, to a high standard
2. Work with live musicians (where applicable) to generate material and explore ideas
3. Develop a coherent and detailed plan of the entire scoring process, including the preparation of MIDI mockups
4. Articulate to an advanced level the role of the soundtrack in the filmic narrative, and analyse these audiovisual relationships in an existing film
5. Clearly articulate responses and solutions to the main issues surrounding the scoring process.

## ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS

The following assessment regime for this paper has been approved by the NZSM Academic Committee:

*There are 4 items of assessment:*

1. A journal recording the student's responses to issues raised in weekly lectures, readings and listenings/viewings. Nine entries of no more than 500 words each. Related to learning objectives 3–5. (10%)
2. Final project: soundtrack for short film. Either one long clip (8-10 minutes), or two shorter clips (totalling 8-10 minutes). Due during exam period. Related to learning objectives 1, 2, 3, and 5. (50%)
3. An essay/analysis responding to the compositional features of a soundtrack of an existing film. 3500 words. Related to learning objectives 4 and 5. (15%)
4. An audio show-reel of six 30-second demo pieces. Related to learning objectives 1, 3, and 4. (25%)

### Assessment details for this offering

<i>Assessment name</i>	<i>Word length / duration</i>	<i>Learning objective(s)</i>	<i>Due date</i>	<i>% of final grade</i>
Journal	4500 words (9 x 500)	3–5	1. 24 July 2012 2. 31 July 2012 3. 7 August 2012 4. 14 August 2012 5. 21 August 2012 6. 18 September 2012 7. 25 September 2012 8. 2 October 2012 9. 18 October 2012	10
Essay	3500 words	4 & 5	27 September 2012	15
Audio Show Reel	3 minutes (6 x 30s)	1, 3, 4	1. 7 August 2012 2. 14 August 2012 3. 21 August 2012 4. 13 September 2012 5. 20 September 2012 6. 27 September 2012	25
Final Project	8-10 minutes	1, 2, 3, 5	Draft: 16 October 2012 Final Version: 31 October 2012	50

## **PENALTIES**

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Assignments must be submitted by the due dates. In fairness to other students, unless a medical certificate is produced, assessment submitted after 5:00pm on the due date will be subject to a 5% demerit on your grade, increasing by 5% each further working day it is overdue.

Students, who for exceptional reasons can justify an extension for an item of assessment, must apply to the Course Coordinator *before* the due date. Please note that no extensions can be granted for tutorial assignments.

## **ASSIGNMENT PRESENTATION**

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**Written work** should be presented according to the guidelines set out in the **NZSM Guidelines for Academic Work**, which can be downloaded as a PDF document from the NZSM Website <http://www.nzsm.ac.nz/study/programmes.aspx> (in the right-hand column). Five percent (5%) will be deducted for written work that does not conform to these standards.

**Notated work** must be presented according to the guidelines set down in the **NZSM Composition and Orchestration Style Guide**, available as a PDF document from the NZSM Website: <http://www.nzsm.ac.nz/study/composition.aspx> (in the right-hand column). Five percent (5%) will be deducted for notated work that clearly does not conform to these standards.

**Sonic Arts** work should be submitted as a clearly labelled Audio CD, or, for multimedia works, as a DVD or as a Quicktime data file on a data CD-ROM.

## **MANDATORY PAPER REQUIREMENTS**

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Each student must:

- a) Complete all journal entries by the deadline set by the Course Coordinator.
  - b) Achieve a passing grade (50%) in both their Final Project and Essay/Analysis.
  - c) Submit each piece of work or item of assessment for this course, on or by the specified dates (subject to such provisions as are stated for late submission of work).
  - d) Attend at least 80% of lectures and 80% of tutorials (if relevant) related to this course.
  - e) Attend at least 9 of the Composer Workshops held during the term of enrolment in this paper.
- If, for health reasons, you are unable to complete all the work required for assessment purposes for this paper by 17 November, you may, on presentation of a medical certificate, have the date for submission extended by the Director, NZSM.

## **DEPOSIT AND COLLECTION OF ASSESSMENT**

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*Assignments should be deposited in John Psathas' box in the School of Music Foyer (Kelburn).  
Marked assignments will be returned to Student boxes outside Room MS209 (Kelburn).*

*NB: All students are requested to retain all assessment, as this may be required at the end of the course.*

## **SCALING OF GRADES**

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To obtain a fair distribution of marks relative to assignment difficulty, scaling may be employed on some or all assessment items, in accordance with guidelines set out in the VUW Assessment Handbook:

[http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about\\_victoria/avcacademic/publications/assessment-handbook.pdf](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about_victoria/avcacademic/publications/assessment-handbook.pdf)

## **ACADEMIC PROGRESS, NON-ENGAGEMENT & STUDENT LOAN ELIGIBILITY**

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All NZSM students are bound by the VUW Academic Progress Statute. VUW manages the enrolment of students who are not making satisfactory academic progress by:

- restricting the number of courses that students may enrol in, and/or
- requiring students to meet certain conditions.

Students whose academic progress continues to be unsatisfactory may be suspended for a specified period. Students who return after suspension, and whose academic progress remains unsatisfactory, may be excluded from the University.

Any student who is enrolled in more than two courses in a trimester and achieves E grades in all courses will be considered "non-engaged". The University can suspend or exclude such students. For full details about restrictions and conditions refer to:

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/academic-progress.aspx>

Also, please note that students will be required to pass at least half of their courses in order to continue to qualify for a student loan. For more information see:

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/payments/performance-criteria.aspx>

## **COMMUNICATION OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

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Official notices issued after the paper has commenced will be posted on the board outside the NZSM office on the Kelburn Campus. Notices concerning a number of papers will also be posted on Blackboard. The Course Coordinator will specify if Blackboard will be used.

## **STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES**

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Student representatives for the NZSM are elected in the first week of the trimester, and their names and contact details will be available to VUWSA and/or MAWSA, the Course Coordinator and to each class.

## **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND PLAGIARISM**

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Academic integrity means that university staff and students, in their teaching and learning, are expected to treat others honestly, fairly and with respect at all times. It is not acceptable to mistreat academic, intellectual or creative work that has been done by other people by representing it as your own original work.

Academic integrity is important because it is the core value on which the school's learning, teaching and research activities are based. The NZSM's reputation for academic integrity adds value to your qualification.

The NZSM defines plagiarism as presenting someone else's work as if it were your own, whether you mean to or not. 'Someone else's work' means anything that is not your own idea. Even if it is presented in your own style, you must acknowledge your sources fully and appropriately. This includes:

- Material from books, journals or any other printed source
- The work of other students or staff
- Information from the internet
- Software programs and other electronic material
- Designs and ideas
- The organisation or structuring of any such material.

Find out more about plagiarism, how to avoid it, and penalties, on the NZSM website: <http://www.nzsm.ac.nz/about/statutes-policies.aspx#plagiarism>

## GENERAL NZSM POLICIES AND STATUTES

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Students should familiarise themselves with the NZSM's policies and statutes, especially those regarding Personal Courses of Study, Academic Grievances, Staff and Student Conduct. Please see <http://www.nzsm.ac.nz/about/statutes-policies.aspx>

For any statutes relating to the particular qualifications being studied, see either the Massey University Calendar or the Victoria University Calendar.

Information about Student Services, including Academic Mentoring for Māori and Pasifika Students, and support for Students with Disabilities, is to be found in the NZSM Student Handbook (available from the NZSM offices on each campus).

## HUMAN ETHICS GUIDELINES

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Any student assessment or project at any level that involves human subjects (including the documenting, interviewing and recording of information from people) must follow ethics guidelines. For courses in Music Therapy, students must follow Massey University Ethics guidelines. For all other courses, students must follow VUW Ethics Guidelines. For information and assistance as it relates to your course, consult first with your Course Coordinator. Guidelines are given at these URLs:

- <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/fgr/current-phd/ethics.aspx>
- <http://www.massey.ac.nz/massey/research/research-ethics/human-ethics/>

## WHERE TO FIND MORE DETAILED INFORMATION

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As Victoria University of Wellington is the Institute of Enrolment for the NZSM, further detailed information about dates, grades, enrolment procedures and qualification status can be found on their website:

- Student grades, academic profile, academic timetable, campus announcements, etc.:
  - [my.vuw.ac.nz](http://my.vuw.ac.nz)
- Key dates, explanations of grades, plagiarism:
  - [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study)
- Monitoring of academic progress, and how enrolment can be restricted:
  - [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/academic-progress.aspx](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/academic-progress.aspx)
- Course withdrawal, degree planning, credit transfer and academic transcripts:
  - [www.victoria.ac.nz/fhss/student-admin/faqs.aspx](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/fhss/student-admin/faqs.aspx)

## EVENTS

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Regular events are held during trimesters 1 & 2 at all NZSM campuses. These events are for the benefit of all students, and include performances, masterclasses, special lectures and workshops given by staff, students and visiting artists.

All students are expected to keep time free to attend the weekly lunchtime concert on Friday at 12:10pm, along with other events as required.

Students should sign up to the **Dawn Chorus**, the NZSM's events e-newsletter, by emailing [events@nzsm.ac.nz](mailto:events@nzsm.ac.nz) with "subscribe dawn chorus" in the subject line.

**Events & Marketing Coordinator:** Stephen Gibbs

**Phone:** (04) 463 4766

**Email:** [stephen.gibbs@nzsm.ac.nz](mailto:stephen.gibbs@nzsm.ac.nz)

**Website:** <http://www.nzsm.ac.nz/events/>