



PAPER OUTLINE 2013

Paper Code & Title: NZSM 405 *Topic in Composition: Music for Film*
Trimester: 2 **Year:** 2013
CRN: 13767 **Campus:** NZSM - VUW Kelburn
Points: 30
Prerequisites: *BMus in Composition or entry by Portfolio*
Corequisites: *None*
Restrictions: *CMPO 303, NZSM 403*

Important dates: Trimester dates: 15 July–17 November 2013
 Teaching dates: 15 July–18 October 2013
 Mid-trimester break: 26 August–8 September 2013
 Study period: 21–25 October 2013
Examination/Assessment period: 25 October–16 November 2013
 (*where applicable*) *NB: For courses with exams, students must be available to attend the exam at any time during this period.*
Last assessment item due: 31 October 2013
 Withdrawal date: 26 July 2013
 Refer to
 www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/payments/withdrawalsrefunds
 If you cannot complete an assignment, or sit a test or examination (aegrotats), refer to
 www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/exams-and-assessments/aegrotat

Course Coordinator: John Psathas
Contact phone: 463 5862 **Email:** john.psathas@nzsm.ac.nz
Office located at: Room 102, 92 Fairlie Tce, Kelburn Campus
Office hours: Wednesday, 12:00pm–2:00pm

Other staff member(s): Dugal McKinnon
Contact phone: 463 6448 **Email:** dugal.mckinnon@nzsm.ac.nz
Office(s) located at: Room MS207, School of Music, Kelburn Campus

Tutors: Bridget Johnson **Email:** johnsonbridget.d@gmail.com

Class times & locations: Tuesday, Thursday, 1:40pm–3:00pm (Room MS209)
Workshop times & locations: Wednesday, 3:10pm–4:30pm (Room MS301: Adam Concert Room)
Tutorial times & locations: *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.*

PRESCRIPTION

This paper is a practical but intensive examination of the processes, concepts and issues involved in creating music for film soundtracks. Students will engage with the raft of challenges involved in this process, including the role of music and sound in the filmic narrative, the need for coherent planning of the process, the different approaches required in orchestrating for the scoring stage, preparing MIDI mockups and mastering-ready audio, creating “musical sound design”, 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 creation of soundtrack for a short film.

TEACHING FORMAT

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.

WORKLOAD

A 30-point one-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

Set text:

Heather Laing: *Gabriel Yared's The English Patient: A Film Score Guide*

All textbooks and student notes will be sold from vicbooks' new store, Ground Floor Easterfield Building. Customers can order textbooks and student notes online at www.vicbooks.co.nz or email an order or enquiry to 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*
- Fred Karlin, Rayburn Wright: *On The Track: A Guide to Contemporary Film Scoring*
- Jennifer van Sijl: *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 (for example, Park Road Post).

PAPER LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Students who successfully complete this paper will be able to:

1. create a soundtrack (music score or sound design) to a short film, or excerpts from a feature film, to a high standard
2. develop a coherent and detailed plan of the entire soundtracking process, including the preparation of MIDI mock-ups
3. articulate understanding of the role of the soundtrack in the filmic narrative, and analyse these audio-visual relationships in an existing film by writing an effective and creative essay, at an advanced level, on musical and filmic works, practices, or issues related to the course
4. articulate responses and realise solutions to the main issues surrounding the soundtracking process
5. explain and critically evaluate a range of contemporary and historical theoretical approaches to music and/or sound in film.

ASSESSMENT

Approved assessment regime

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 outcomes 3, 4 and 5. (10%)
2. Final project: music or sound design 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 outcomes 1, 2, and 4. (50%)
3. An essay/analysis responding to the compositional and/or sonic features of a soundtrack of an existing film. 3500 words. Related to learning outcomes 3, 4 and 5. (15%)
4. An audio show-reel of six 30–45 second demo pieces. Related to learning outcomes 1 and 4. (25%). Each 30–45 second score/sound design is for a hypothetical, detailed, dramatic sequence. These are assessed on: a) proficiency using recording and sequencing software to a high standard, and b) aligning the score/sound design with the affective, stylistic, historical, geographical, sociocultural context(s) of each scene.

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 (9 x 500 words)	3, 4 & 5	1. 25 July 2013 2. 1 August 2013 3. 8 August 2013 4. 15 August 2013 5. 22 August 2013 6. 19 September 2013 7. 26 September 2013 8. 3 October 2013 9. 17 October 2013	10
Essay/Analysis	3500	3, 4 & 5	24 September 2013	15
Audio Show-Reel	3 minutes (6 x 30 seconds)	1 & 4	1. 8 August 2013 2. 15 August 2013 3. 22 August 2013 4. 12 September 2013 5. 19 September 2013 6. 26 September 2013	25
Final Project	8–10 minutes	1, 2 & 4	Draft Version: 15 October 2013 Final Version: 31 October 2013	50

PENALTIES

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

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: www.nzsm.ac.nz/student-zone/student-guides. 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: www.nzsm.ac.nz/student-zone/student-guides. 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

In addition to achieving an overall pass mark of 50%, students 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.

SUBMISSION AND RETURN OF WORK

Assignments should be deposited in John Psathas' mailbox in the School of Music Foyer (Kelburn). Marked assignments will be returned to the student boxes outside Room MS209, Kelburn Campus.

NB: This course is moderated, so all students are requested to retain all marked assessment items, in the event that they are required at the end of the course.

SCALING OF GRADES

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:

www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about_victoria/avcacademic/publications/assessment-handbook.pdf

ACADEMIC PROGRESS, NON-ENGAGEMENT & STUDENT LOAN ELIGIBILITY

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:

www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/academic-progress

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:

www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/payments/loansandallowances/performance-criteria

COMMUNICATION OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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.

CLASS REPRESENTATIVES

Class 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. You can find out more information on Class Representatives on the VUWSA website (www.vuwsa.org.nz) or MaWSA website (www.mawsa.org.nz).

Students may like to write the Class Rep’s name and details in this box:

Class Rep name and contact details:

STUDENT FEEDBACK

Student feedback on University courses may be found at www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/feedback/feedback_display.php

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND PLAGIARISM

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: www.nzsm.ac.nz/student-zone/student-guides

GENERAL NZSM POLICIES AND STATUTES

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 www.nzsm.ac.nz/student-zone/student-guides

For any statutes relating to the particular qualifications being studied, see either the Massey University Calendar or the Victoria University of Wellington 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 at www.nzsm.ac.nz/student-zone/student-guides or in hard copy from the NZSM offices on each campus).

HUMAN ETHICS GUIDELINES

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:

- <https://intranet.victoria.ac.nz/research-office/policy-and-services/ethics.html>
- www.massey.ac.nz/massey/research/research-ethics/human-ethics

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

The information above is specific to this course. There is other important information that students must familiarise themselves with, including:

- Aegrotats: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/exams-and-assessments/aegrotat
- Academic Progress (including restrictions and non-engagement): www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/academic-progress
- Dates and deadlines: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/dates
- FHSS Student and Academic Services Office: www.victoria.ac.nz/fhss/student-admin
- Grades: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/exams-and-assessments/grades
- Resolving academic issues: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/avcacademic/publications2#grievances
- Special passes: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/avcacademic/publications2#specialpass
- Statutes and policies, including the Student Conduct Statute: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy
- Student support: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/viclife/student-service
- Students with disabilities: www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/disability OR www.massey.ac.nz/massey/student-life/services-and-resources/disability-services/disability-services_home.cfm
- Student Charter: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/viclife/student-charter
- Student Contract: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/enrol/studentcontract
- Turnitin: www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin
- University structure: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about OR www.massey.ac.nz/massey/home.cfm
- NZSM Student Handbook: www.nzsm.ac.nz/student-zone/student-guides
- Scholarships and prizes relevant to NZSM students: www.nzsm.ac.nz/student-zone/scholarships-and-prizes
- Your grades, academic profile, timetable, etc.: my.vuw.ac.nz

EVENTS

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 with "subscribe dawn chorus" in the subject line.

Music Forum will take place every Friday from 3:10pm-4:30pm. It will normally take place in the Adam Concert Room, Kelburn Campus, but will take place on selected Fridays at Mt Cook, location to be announced.

Events & Marketing Coordinator: Stephen Gibbs

Phone: (04) 463 4766 **Email:** stephen.gibbs@nzsm.ac.nz

Website: www.nzsm.ac.nz/events