Course Description:

A study of commercial lyric writing. Historical masters of composition and lyric writing will be analyzed. Students will learn title/concept development and write lyrics based on selected readings and personal experiences.

Course Outcomes: At the end of this course, the student will be able to:

- Explain the key elements of commercial lyric composition.
- Evaluate and contrast commercial lyrics.
- Compose lyrics.

Performance Tasks: During this course, the student will:

- Identify and explain commercial lyrics.
- Construct original written lyrics based on the assimilation of knowledge gained from lectures and readings.
- Compile the lyrics written during the semester in a bound portfolio.

Assessment Tools: During this course, outcomes mastery will be evaluated by:

- Written analysis of assigned lyrics
- Original lyrics composed throughout the semester
- Multiple choice and short answer test based on lectures and assigned readings.

Testing & Assignments:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Credit</th>
<th>Description/Purpose</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1. Original lyric writing     | 80 %   | 8 original lyrics composed per instructions given by professors. Each lyric will valued at 10% (8 X 10 =80%)  
Lyrics should be submitted individually on assigned dates in the Class Schedule. All revised lyrics are due in a bound notebook/journal/portfolio on Dec. 7th.  
Lyric #4 should be based upon a short story, chapter, or book from an American author.  
Lyric # 5 should be based upon the written narrative assignment listed in Activity 3. Lyrics must be submitted in the format given by professors and should be written for this class and not already submitted for another SNG class. |
| 2. Comprehensive Mid-Term Exam| 10 %   | Based on reading assignments and lectures, comprehensive tests will assas the depth of the student’s knowledge base of the topic. The exam is comprised of a series of short-answer essay questions supplemented with multiple-choice questions. |
|                               | 10 %   | Observe a painting or sculpture from approved list and write a                                                                                                                                                    |
3. Written narrative

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percent (GPA)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>94 (4.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90 (3.7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87 (3.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>84 (3.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80 (2.7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77 (2.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>74 (2.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70 (1.7)</td>
</tr>
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Final grades below 70% will not apply to the major.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percent</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>&lt;60</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Music and Film**

Watch various scenes from approved movies and compose a list of titles that could be used as the end title of the movie.

**Reading The Greats**

One lyric from a well-known lyricist will be presented in class 5 times during the semester as designated in the Class Schedule. These will be read aloud and discussed in an effort to learn the techniques of the master lyricists. Students can choose any lyric that has been commercially released.

**Course & Classroom Policies**

**Attendance & Participation:** Class attendance follows university policy as stated in the current Undergraduate Bulletin. Class participation is expected; attendance and absence will be noted.

**Materials**

Popular Lyric Writing 10 Steps to Effective Storytelling: Andrea Stolpe (Berklee Press).

**Grade Evaluation Scale:** As per CEMB policy, the grade assignment scale for this course is:

**Honor Code:** It is the responsibility of each student to abide by the Belmont University Honor Code. “In affirmation of the Belmont University Statement of Values, I pledge that I will not give or receive aid during examinations; I will not give or receive false or impermissible aid in course work, in the preparation of reports, or in any other type of work that is to be used by the instructor as the basis of my grade; I will not engage in any form of academic fraud. Furthermore, I will uphold my responsibility to see to it that others abide by the spirit and letter of this Honor Pledge.”

**Accommodation of Disabilities:** In compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act, Belmont University will provide reasonable accommodation of all medically documented disabilities. If you have a disability and would like the university to provide reasonable accommodations of the disability during this course, please notify the Office of the Dean of Students located in Beaman Student Life Center (460-6407) as soon as possible.

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### Class Schedule:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Class</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wed. Aug. 26</td>
<td>Class introduction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon. Aug. 31</td>
<td>“Songs I Love” – listening to each others songs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Wed. Sept. 2  | Lyric writing exercise  
Reading the Greats (1) |
| Mon. Sept. 7  | Labor Day Holiday – no class |
| Wed. Sept. 9  | Discuss Chapters 1 & 2: Causing an Experience & Exposing the Artist Perspective  
Complete Exercise 2.1, 2.2, 2.3 and bring to class to discuss  
Listen to a song from Listening Suggestions on page 19 and be prepared to discuss Lyric 1 due |
| Mon. Sept. 14 | Discuss Chapter 3: Two Types of Detail  
Complete Exercise 3.1, 3.2, 3.3 and bring to class to discuss  
Discovering the greats – reading lyrics of professional songwriters (1)  
Listen to a song from Listening Suggestions (28) |
| Wed. Sept. 16 | Discuss Chapter 4: Rhyme  
Lyric 1 rewrite due |
| Mon. Sept. 21 | The Five Rhyme Types  
Complete Exercises 4.1, 4.2 – discuss in class  
Lyric 2 due |
| Wed. Sept. 23 | Guest Speaker |
| Mon. Sept. 28 | Discuss Chapter 5: Reflections of Music Form and Structure  
Complete Exercise 5.1 – discuss in class  
Listen to a Four-Line and Five-Line song from Listening Suggestions (52)  
Lyric 2 rewrite Due |
| Wed. Sept. 30 | Discuss Chapter 6: Writing the Verse  
Complete Exercise 6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 6.4, 6.5 – discuss in class  
Listen to song from Listening Suggestions (73)  
Lyric 3 due |
| Mon. Oct. 5  | Setting up the chorus  
Reading the Greats (2) |
| Wed. Oct. 7  | Discuss Chapter 7: The Chorus  
Complete Exercises 7.1, 7.2 – discuss in class  
Listen to song from Listening Suggestions (88)  
Lyric 3 rewrite due |
| Mon. Oct. 12 | Lyric 4 due  
Read lyrics in class |
| Wed. Oct. 14 | Discuss Chapter 8: Contrast  
Complete Exercise 8.1 – discuss in class  
Listen to song from Listening Suggestions (95) |
| Mon. Oct. 19 | Mid-Term  
Lyric 4 rewrite |
Wed. Oct. 21  Discuss Chapter 9: The Content Compass  
Complete Exercises 9.3, 9.3  
Listen to a song from Listening Suggestions (113)  
Written narrative due based on visit to the Frist Center for the Visual Arts  
www.fristcenter.org  
Lyric 5 due  

Mon. Oct. 26  Lessons learned – using a written narrative as basis for lyric  
Reading the Greats (3)  

Wed. Oct. 28  Discuss Chapter 10: Final Touches  
Complete Exercise 10.1, 10.2, 10.3  
Lyric 5 rewrite due [based on written narrative] read in class  

Mon. Nov. 2  Guest Speaker  

Wed. Nov. 4  Discuss Chapter 11: Ten Steps to Writing a Song  
Lyric 6 due [Inspired by American Literature]  

Mon. Nov. 9  Music and film titles  
Reading the Greats (4)  

Wed. Nov. 11  Lyric 6 rewrite due [Inspired by American Literature]  

Mon. Nov. 16  Lyric 7 due  
Read lyrics in class  

Wed. Nov. 18  Guest Speaker  

Mon. Nov. 23  Lyric analyze  
Reading the Greats (5)  

Wed. Nov. 25  Publisher/Songwriter relationship  
Lyric 7 rewrite due  

Mon. Nov. 30  Lyric 8 due  
Reading lyrics  

Wed. Dec. 2  Field trip  

Mon. Dec. 7  Song presentations  
Final project due  

Mon. May 4  Building relationships with composers  

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