

Course Syllabus  
Southeast Missouri State University

Department of Music

Course Title: Introduction to Orff-Schulwerk

ME835

- I. Workshop Description: This workshop is designed to introduce music specialists and classroom teachers to the basic principles of Orff-Schulwerk through songs, dance, instrumental pieces (pitched/nonpitched percussion and recorder), chants, poems, and story dramas. These activities will focus on teaching musical concepts to children, with special emphasis on understanding the Orff teaching process. (2)
- II. Prerequisites: Ability to read music
- III. Purposes or Objectives of the Course:
- A. To acquaint the students with the components, techniques, and media of the Orff teaching process
  - B. To develop the skills for creating and adapting music in an Orff setting
  - C. To develop the Orff process in order to teach musical skills and concepts to children
- IV. Expectations of Students:
- A. To attend all workshop sessions
  - B. To develop basic proficiencies in recorder and mallet percussion instruments
  - C. To analyze melodic, harmonic, and rhythmic aspects of Orff teaching materials
  - D. To develop and teach a basic Orff lesson
- V. Course Content or Outline: Class Hours
- A. What is Orff-Schulwerk?
    1. History of the Orff-Schulwerk, including American adaptation 4
    2. Orff-Schulwerk purpose and process
    3. Components of Orff-Schulwerk—integration of speech, movement, singing, and instruments
  - B. Orff Media 8
    1. Body percussion
    2. Nonpitched/pitched instruments
    3. Speech rhythms
    4. Movement
    5. Song (voice)
  - C. Orff Pedagogy 8
    1. Imitation
    2. Exploration
    3. Literacy
    4. Improvisation
  - D. Orff Theory 8
    1. Ostinato
    2. Bordun
    3. Melodic improvisation
    4. Musical forms
  - E. Developing an Orff lesson 4
    1. Pedagogical elements
    2. Integrating elements in a lesson
  - F. Orff Teaching Techniques 8

(to be learned concurrently with above topics)

1. Arranging for instruments and voices
2. Playing the recorder
3. Developing techniques and improvising on instruments
4. Selecting literature

VI. Textbook(s) and/or Other Required Materials or Equipment:

VII. Basis for Student Evaluation:

Students are expected to attend all class meetings and participate in class activities. In addition, the following assignments may also be used as a basis for student evaluation:

- Recorder proficiency 15%
- Instrumental technique and improvisation 15%
- Rhythmic speech 10%
- Body percussion 10%
- Simple bordun accompaniment 20%
- Orchestrations using melodic ostinati/borduns/unpitched percussion 30%

The weight of the evaluation criteria may vary at the discretion of the instructor and will be indicated at the beginning of each course.

NOTES:

Students are expected to adhere to the Academic Honesty Code of Southeast Missouri State University.

Consult the Undergraduate Bulletin to review this code.

Reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities may be arranged by contacting the instructor of this course on an individual basis. This syllabus may be made available in an alternate format upon request.