

# Hit Song School Courses - Partial Syllabi

## “Melody Writing”

**Lesson:** EXPLORING HOOKS.

Review of melody components. Explore hook examples. Explore difference between traditional melody and hooks.

Homework assignment.

**Lesson:** TECHNIQUES.

Pitch, Scales, tone tendencies, open and closed phrases, phrase starts and ends, rhythm. Explore ways of creating melodic movement. Melodic outline/melodic contour.

**Lesson:** EXPLORING MELODIC STRUCTURE.

Deeper exploration of melodic structure: Overall Verse/Pre/Chorus, Chorus/Bridge/Chorus, other structures

**Lesson:** EXPLORING MELODY GENERATING TECHNIQUES.

Explore ways to generate melodies: Lyrics, Title, Emotion, Chords, Riff, Bass Line, Beat. Reading: The Artist’s Way.

Composition homework assignment.

© hitsongschool.com

## “Lyric Writing”

**Lesson:** TECHNIQUES: Rhyme, lyric song structures.

Homework assignment and rhyme/structure composition assignment.

Extra credit: write a lyric without rhyme

**Lesson:** TECHNIQUES: Story, point of view, point of maximum dramatic tension (MDT), other common attributes in HIT SONG LYRICS.

MDT composition assignment

**Lesson:** Emotional Truth in lyric writing | The Lyric Holy Trinity: Writing lyrics that are UNIVERSAL, REAL and URGENT

Emotional Truth composition homework assignment.

**Lesson:** TECHNIQUES: poetic metaphor, visual pictures, plain spoken lyrics and when to employ each. Visual picture and metaphor composition HW

## “DAW Track Writing/Arranging”

**Lesson:** EXPLORING TECHNOLOGY and how not to let technology distract you from writing a hit song. Definition and importance of TRACK hooks; explore hook examples. Explore which DAW works best for you, and why. Homework assignment.

**Lesson:** Explore TRACK ARRANGEMENTS, how to decide which section of the song goes where. How to build up the beat, tips for recording instrument and vocal guides. Homework assignment and composition assignment.

**Lesson:** Exploring ‘FOUNDATION FIRST’--building the beat/bass line first, ‘do’s and ‘dont’s’ for what order to add/replace guide instruments and vocals. Homework assignment and composition assignment.

**Lesson:** VOCAL PRODUCTION Explore the importance of giving the vocalist just enough to inspire them to cut an emotionally riveting vocal. Some vocalists need a full track, some vocalists need just one instrument and a click to sing to. Efficient recording with multiple playlists in Pro Tools.

## “Intentional Songwriting”

**Lesson:** Explore how to CAPTURE and CRAFT melody, lyric and track ideas, and achieve CONSISTENT, INTENTIONAL, melody, lyric and track perspective when composing. Homework assignment and composition assignment.

**Lesson:** EXPLORE the use of your UNCONSCIOUS to allow for melodic, lyrical and track inspiration; the importance of generating ‘OUT-OF-THE-BOX’ lyrical ideas; the importance and how to use your CONSCIOUS mind to craft melodies, lyrics and tracks

**Lesson:** EXPLORE MELODIC/LYRICAL/SONG STRUCTURE.

Exploration of melodic structure, lyric structure, overall song structure. The importance of prosody to make a melody/lyric sing; the difference between poetry and hit song lyrics.

