

# Nicolas Chuaqui

composer • performer • educator

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## Evidence of Effective Teaching

### Course Evaluation Comments, 2023-24

"Dr. Chuaqui did a fabulous job of making sure students were prepared by going the extra mile in preparing practice quizzes and exams and in a very timely manner giving back feedback and assistance. Dr. Chuaqui also did really great with applying knowledge from our other courses to make the content make more sense as well as making it practical. I would highly recommend this course with this professor!"

"He was a great teacher. He was very clear on expectations and I have felt very prepared for every assignment and quiz."

When asked to comment on teaching effectiveness: "Great! I enjoyed how he challenged the way I composed and thought about when I composed. I started off with a half put together composition at the start of the semester and I believe it has turned into something great!"

"Dr. Chuaqui is very excellent at conducting class in a conversational manner and allowing students to take responsibility for their own learning. His passion for the material is both evident and infectious. He allows us to direct ourselves and pursue what we are interested in regarding compositional styles and techniques."

"He taught the material well and explained everything well enough for everyone in the class to understand."

"I really appreciated the freedom Dr. Chuaqui gave each of his students. There was a good balance between the guidelines of what we were to compose and our freedom to accomplish it. Each assignment was also well structured and each assignment from the beginning challenged each student in a more and more."

"[Written Theory III] felt far more informative and well-rounded than prior semesters of theory, particularly with the discussion of counterpoint beyond the most very basic rules of voice leading, as opposed to going through what felt like a bare minimum of very Roman numeral analysis-centric curriculum."

"All assignments were extremely clear and given with adequate time to prepare. The grading and feedback were both concise and effective."

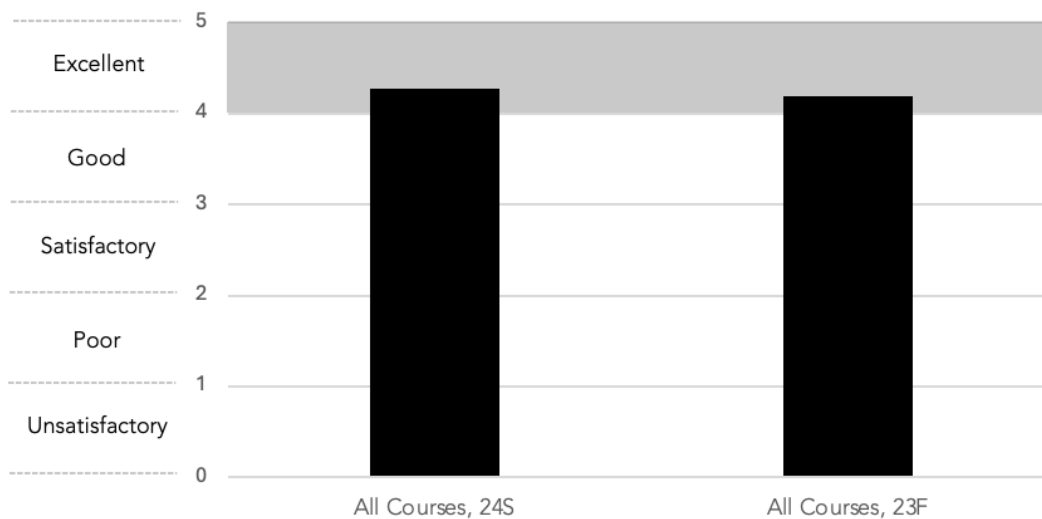
"I really liked how Dr. Chuaqui formatted [Written Theory IV] this semester. He had a grading system that encouraged learning and not just getting an assignment done. I love his opportunity for feedback we could use to improve our work. I like how he adapts to student needs. For example, we had three listenings exams and the first one we did collectively bad on as a class. He realized that we had to recall all the song details on our own and this made it difficult to focus on solely identifying the music we were listening too. He changed the format on the next exam to where we could have proper resources but still be challenged. I think that of all my professors Dr. Chuaqui is the best at adapting to our needs to help us learn, and I would highly recommend him and his courses to other people."

"The pace of the class was steady, with realistic expectations, and a great layout for assignments and gaining feedback on how we could do better. ...Thanks for a great semester!"

### Course Evaluation Metrics

Numerical ranking questions (1-5):

- How would you evaluate the presentation of materials by Nicolas Chuaqui in this course?
- How clear was the basis for evaluating students by Nicolas Chuaqui in this class?
- How would you evaluate Nicolas Chuaqui's interaction with students during this class?
- How would you evaluate Nicolas Chuaqui's interaction with you during office visit(s)?
- How would you rate Nicolas Chuaqui in making the course intellectually challenging?
- What is your overall assessment of the instruction by Nicolas Chuaqui in this course?



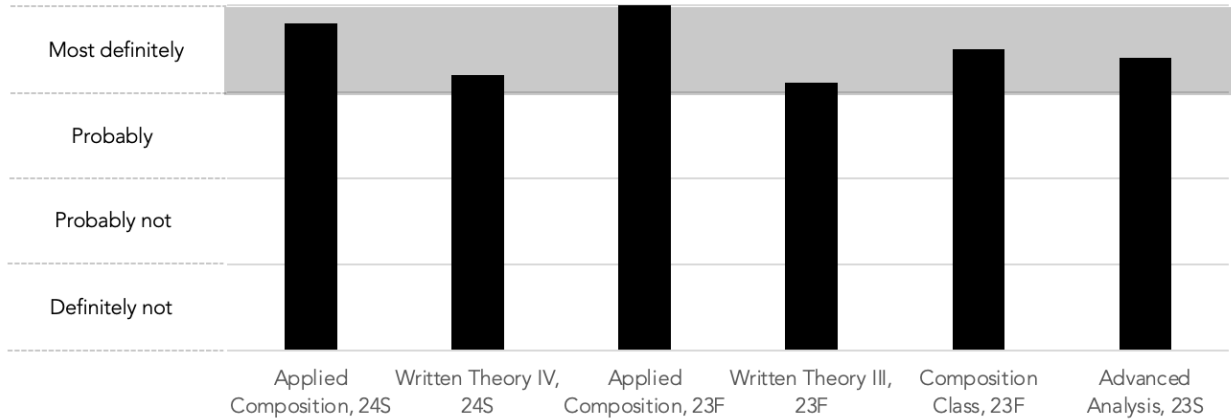
2024 Spring average of all courses: 4.28

- Four courses taught, three of them for the first time: Applied Composition, Advanced Composition: Electroacoustic Music, Written Theory IV, Aural Theory IV.
- Number of students who responded: 92% (46/50).

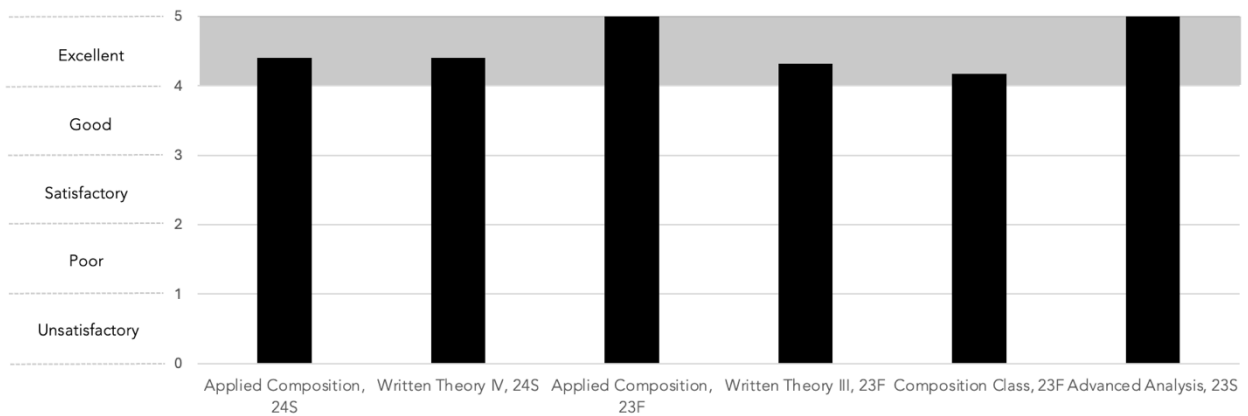
2023 Fall average of all courses: 4.19

- Four courses taught, two of them for the first time: Applied Composition, Composition (Class), Written Theory III, Advanced Seminar.
- Number of students who responded: 65% (32/49).

Would you recommend Nicolas Chuaqui to others?



How would you rate Nicolas Chuaqui in making the course intellectually challenging?



## Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

### Experience

- Range of students mentored, including first generation students, students of gender, racial, and ethnic minorities, and students who work jobs during college/grad school.
- Strong experience working with international students, grad and undergrad.
- Student feedback specifically points to ability to meet student needs: "...Was very fair with grading and administrative procedures (i.e. we had enough time to complete assignments, extenuating circumstances were taken into consideration, extensions were given when appropriate, etc,) and was available for help outside of class."

- Seminars attended include implicit bias training and inclusive classroom practices.

#### Initiatives

- Greater focus on centering music of marginalized communities and exploring them in-depth, not cursorily, in theory and composition courses.
- Greater focus on genres outside of Western classical music, including jazz, popular music, and world music.

#### Current Literature Being Studied

- Agawu, Kofi. "On African Music" Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2023.

### Recent Professional Development Seminars

Bowen, José Antonio. "Teaching with AI." Online, University of Utah, Aug., 2024.

- Up-to-date information and hands-on work with current AI capabilities.
- Strategies for incorporating AI into teaching and learning.
- Strategies for helping students navigate AI's new presence in the job market and in their professions.

### Current Teaching Literature Studied

Ambrose, Susan A., Michael W. Bridges, Michele DiPietro, Marsha C. Lovett, and Marie K. Norman. "How Learning Works: Seven Research-Based Principles for Smart Teaching." 2nd ed. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2023.

Felten, Peter, and Leo M. Lambert. "Relationship-Rich Education: How Human Connections Drive Success in College." Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2020.

Thelin, John R. "A History of American Higher Education." 3rd ed. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2019.

### Student Destinations

- Director of Theory and Composition, Eastman Community Music School (composition student, 2020).
- Faculty, Violin, Central Conservatory of Music, China (composition student, 2019).
- Ph.D. student in Composition, University of Utah (composition, advanced seminar and advanced analysis student, 2023-4).
- D.A. student in Music History and Literature, University of Northern Colorado (advanced seminar and advanced analysis student, 2023).
- M.M. student in Film Scoring, New York University (composition student, 2021-22).
- M.M. student in Saxophone and Composition, University of North Texas (composition student, 2023-4).

## Examples of Student Work

- Mendoza, Monica. *Flight of the Golden Bird*. Premiered by the Wyoming Symphony, Feb. 2024. Link to score:  
<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/7qwucqldrsx03rnszw0nd/Revised-Golden-Bird-Score.pdf?rlkey=vliw25z0rgdvhtucnmswdp9o&st=7ismbr3u&dl=0>
- Bishop, Ethan. *A Memory*, for violin, cello, piano, and electronics. Live recording from Unheard-of Ensemble Residency, Mar., 2024:  
<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/yvymnstg3f34fmxpqkg/Bishop-Final.wav?rlkey=tn0rjs1kukov89wenzea11oqh&st=pz5gzbn2&dl=0>
- Garcia, Ali. Final Project from Composition class, for flute and piano. Live recording from reading session, Dec. 2023:  
<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/5cyby3bj7c9ke962b7a3f/Ali-Run-2.mp3?rlkey=9d28zqm4avvshwgi4s0vc33i&st=92tjyafj&dl=0>
- "Arcana: Elizabeth Brown's Work for Flute and Electronics." Student paper from Advanced Seminar: Musicians and Machines. Link:  
<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/fyxvjmmd9orhat2g1wpd6/Arcana.pdf?rlkey=v13qq3czaa6b59q4zgrezk97&st=3rp2ith0&dl=0>
- "Metaphoric Relationships Between Literature and Music as a Tool for Piano Performance: An Analytical Study of O Gato Malhado by César Guerra-Peixe." Student paper from Advanced Analysis. Link:  
<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/u85e911jqgimo9a9pmzz8/Guerra-Peixe.pdf?rlkey=znyt11rn3jw3dj1y5ia9yhpji&st=1alhqkic&dl=0>
- "Feeling Good" by Michael Bubl . Student arrangement for string quintet — final project for Written Theory IV. Folder with score and recording:  
<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/hfi3i09mkahncb3wy0f5l/AD5iihocJDheGARRhvc9YUo?rlkey=imp5gdnlk2hne345sg01375gk&st=o0980xsf&dl=0>
- Tchaikovsky: Symphony No. 6, Movement III, for concert band. Student arrangement for Written Theory IV. Folder with score and recording:  
<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/k073pr48s3qazgyt7uw24/AID4kd6fqiawMUSmu5Cbsgk?rlkey=eo2w1pwitqr5l5mqgwibvcb41&st=o9map72j&dl=0>