Allen Menton  
College of Arts and Letters  
Music Department  
Music 320  
Proposal to Re-Design Theory III (MUS 320)

Need for Course Re-Design
The Music Department at CSUSB is accredited by the National Association of Schools of Music (NASM), which recommends that students work on creative projects in a manner known as "style composition." NASM guidelines reflect the wisdom that students learn best when applying knowledge to creative projects alongside traditional analysis.  
MUS 320 (to be replaced by MUS 124) focuses on musical forms in the Baroque period, such as fugue, invention, binary dance forms (such as minuet) and ground-bass variations. The integration of creative projects into this course poses a challenge because Baroque forms are especially complex and difficult for students to imitate in creative assignments. Previous efforts to incorporate creative projects have met with mixed success, due in part to the limitations of the class (only 3 units, meeting only 10 weeks) and in part because available textbook materials are quite challenging.  
The redesign of MUS 320/124 will focus on developing a series of creative exercises to lead students step-by-step through the composition process. Because this course forms part of a core sequence, the development of curriculum for this course will have implications for prerequisite as well as subsequent courses. The redesign of this course will reveal the sort of preparation in creative work needed from the prerequisite courses, specifically MUS 120 and 122. Additionally, a more solid preparation in creative work in MUS 124 will prepare students for the creative work anticipated in MUS 250-252-254 (style composition in the Classical, Romantic, and Modern styles)