

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT TYLER
School of Performing Arts

course syllabus for

MUSI 1211: Music Theory I (2 credit hours)

Fall 2023

MWF 9:05–10:00 a.m. – FAC 2006

Professor: Dr. Kyle Gullings

Office: FAC 1215

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Office Phone: 903.565.5653

Office Hours: (subject to change)

Mondays 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.

Tuesdays 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.

Thursdays 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.

(other times by appointment)

Course Description: An elementary study of melody, rhythm, and diatonic tonal harmony in four voices and in simple instrumental textures. Emphasis on rudiments of music, voice leading, harmonic progression, and elemental melodic forms.

Co-Requisite: MUSI 1116 (Aural Skills I). Students not possessing the co-requisite(s) will be administratively removed from the class unless otherwise approved by the department.

Course Learning Objectives: Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. **Identify and write all elements of the fundamentals of music**, including pitches in various clefs, rhythms, simple and compound meters and time signatures, major and minor scales and key signatures, intervals, triads, and seventh chords, at a mastery level (proficient level only for tenor and alto clefs)
2. **Evaluate and write single-voice cantus firmus lines and counterpoint in first and second species**, at a proficient level
3. **Compose an original melody**, using and analyzing various musical elements covered in class

Required Texts:

Online Textbook and Other Resources:

<http://openmusictheory.com/> (our free, online, open-access textbook)

Other Required Materials: Manuscript paper and a pencil are required at each class meeting. Composition assignments may be written on manuscript paper or notated using software.

Additional Online Resources: (for independent practice)

<http://openmusictheory.github.io/> (the old website [Version 1] of our online textbook)

<http://www.musictheory.net> (another free, online resource for learning about and practicing music theory)

<http://www.dolmetsch.com/theoryintro.htm>

Grading:

Grade Weighting	Homework Assignments and Quizzes	25%
	Analysis Projects	15%
	Participation	10%
	Composition Project	10%
	Midterm Exam	20%
	Final Exam	20%

Grading Scale	90–100%	A
	80–89%	B
	70–79%	C
	60–69%	D
	Below 60%	F

Methods for Assessing Outcomes: Students will be evaluated through regular out-of-class assignments, analysis projects, quizzes, in-class participation, a composition project, a midterm exam, and a final exam.

Methods of Instruction: A variety of instructional methods will be used, including in-class lectures, group and individual exercises and discussion, listening examples, and online assignments.

**** Due Dates and Excused Absences Policy:** All assignments are due on the days indicated, at the start of class. At the instructor's discretion, reduced credit *may* be given for analyses, presentations, or other work that is late or missing due to *unexcused* absences. If granted, late work for reduced credit must be turned in before that same assignment is returned to the class, generally within one week of the due date, after which the assignment will not be accepted.

At the instructor's discretion, absences may be considered *excused* only for legitimate, *documented* reasons (serious illness, family emergency, etc.). Even in cases of *excused absences*, any outstanding assignments are due at the following class period. Missed presentations typically must be made up within one week of the absence. In all cases, it is the student's responsibility to inform the instructor of absences as soon as possible, and to *document* that absence if an *excused absence* is being requested.

**** Attendance Policy:** Full attendance and participation are expected in this course. Arrival after class has begun will count as a tardy. Three tardies will count as one unexcused absence.

For this course, students are allowed **three unexcused absences**. After this, the following penalties may be applied:

4-6 unexcused absences = 1 letter grade reduction

7-9 unexcused absences = 2 letter grades reduction

10+ unexcused absences = automatic failure of the course ("F")

(This penalty is not part of the Participation grade, which reflects engaged activity in class.)

Additionally, avoidable distractions such as cell phone use/texting, eating food, outside work, and unnecessarily leaving the room during class time may result in a tardy or absence for the day, at the instructor's discretion. Multiple occurrences will result in the student being asked to leave the class session.

**** Communication:** Students are required to regularly check their Patriot e-mail account and the class Canvas page.

**** Academic Integrity:** Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated (cheating, copying homework, plagiarism, etc.).

Other: On our course Canvas site under the **Syllabus Module**, please see the links titled "**Student Resources**" and "**University Policies and Information.**"

Music Theory I – Fall 2023

Course Calendar

(subject to change)

Week	Date	Topic or Event
1	8/21	First Class Day / Syllabus
		Introduction to Tonal Music, Music Theory, Analysis, Intro. to Analysis Project #1
		Introduction to the “textbook”
		Music Theory Fundamentals Assessment (online, out of class)
	8/23	I. Fundamentals <i>[unit heading]</i>
2	8/28	Introduction to Western Musical Notation
		Notation of Notes, Clefs, and Ledger Lines
		Due: Analysis Project #1 (Great Music, and How It Works), Part 1 of 2
	8/25	Reading Clefs
		The Keyboard and the Grand Staff
3	8/28	Half- and Whole-steps and Accidentals
	8/30	American Standard Pitch Notation (ASPN)
		Other Aspects of Notation (dynamics, expression marks, etc.)
		Rhythmic and Rest Values
	9/1	Due: Analysis Project #1 (Great Music, and How It Works), Part 2 of 2 Census Date (last day to withdraw from courses without penalty)
3	9/4	NO CLASS: Labor Day
	9/6	Simple Meter and Time Signatures
	9/8	Compound Meter and Time Signatures
		Other Rhythmic Essentials
4	9/11	
	9/13	Major Scales, Scale Degrees, and Key Signatures
	9/15	“
5	9/18	Major Scales, Scale Degrees, and Key Signatures
		Minor Scales, Scale Degrees, and Key Signatures
	9/20	Due: HW#1 (Major Scales, Major Key Signatures)
		Minor Scales, Scale Degrees, and Key Signatures
	9/22	“
6	9/25	Introduction to Diatonic Modes and the Chromatic “Scale” <i>[not graded]</i>
		The Basics of Sight-singing and Dictation <i>[not graded]</i>
		Intervals
	9/27	Due: HW#2 (Minor Scales, Minor Key Signatures)
		Intro. to Analysis Project #2 (Interval Study)
		Intervals
9/29	“	
	Triads	
7	10/2	Triads
	10/4	Due: HW#3 (Intervals)
		Triads
	10/6	“

Week	Date	Topic or Event
8	10/9	Seventh Chords
	10/11	Due: Analysis Project #2 (Interval Study)
		Due: HW#4 (Triads)
		Seventh Chords
	10/13	“
9	10/16	Intro. to Composition Project
		Seventh Chords
		Midterm Exam Review
	10/18	Due: HW#5 (Seventh Chords)
		Midterm Exam
	10/20	Inversion and Figured Bass
10	10/23	Inversion and Figured Bass
		Roman Numerals and SATB Chord Construction
	10/25	“
		Intro. to Analysis Project #3 (Chord Qualities in Popular Songs)
	10/27	NO CLASS: Instructor out of town for CMS National Conference in Miami
11	10/30	Withdrawal Deadline (last day to withdraw from courses without a grade of “W”)
		Roman Numerals and SATB Chord Construction
	11/1	II. Counterpoint and Galant Schemas [<i>unit heading</i>]
		Introduction to Species Counterpoint (includes cantus firmus writing)
	11/3	“
12	11/6	First-species Counterpoint
	11/8	Due: Composition Project Draft #1 (Single-Line Melodies w/Fundamentals & Cantus Firmus)
		First-species Counterpoint
	11/10	“
13	11/13	Second-species Counterpoint
	11/15	Due: HW#6 (Cantus Firmus A & First-species Counterpoint A [2 sheets])
		Due: Analysis Project #3 (Chord Qualities in Popular Songs)
		Second-species Counterpoint
	11/17	“
14	11/20–24	NO CLASS: <i>Thanksgiving Break</i>
15	11/27	Due: HW#7 (Second-species Counterpoint)
		Composition Project; Final Exam Review
	11/29	Due: Composition Project Final Draft (Single-Line Melodies w/Fundamentals & Cantus Firmus)
		Final Exam Review
	12/1	Composition Project Watch Party; Final Exam Review
		Optional Review Session: Friday, Dec. 1 at 3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.
16	12/4 (M)	Final Exam: Monday, Dec. 4 at 8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.