

Sul Ross State University
Music Theory I
MUS 1311

Instructor: Chris Dobbins
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Course Description

Music Theory I is an introduction to the theory of music. Students will learn notes, rhythms, key signatures, about the measure, and how notes can be grouped into scales, chords, and chord progressions.

Textbook and Materials

Laitz, Steven G (2012) *The Complete Musician (3rd ed.)*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press, Publisher. ISBN: 978-0-19-974278-3

Please purchase accompanying workbook.

Students who do not have a textbook and workbook by the 5th class day will be asked to leave and receive an unexcused absence.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Identify notes as part of scales and chords.
2. Use and identify dominant and leading-tone chords.
3. Use and identify embellishing tones.
4. Use and identify basic chord progressions and cadences.

Music Program Learning Objectives

This course is a required course for a major in instrumental music. As such, it helps the student to meet one or more of the program learning outcomes for the major. These learning outcomes include:

The graduating student will demonstrate:

1. the ability to integrate appropriate musical expression into performance.
2. the ability to prepare appropriate program notes.

3. the ability to evaluate and critique a musical performance.
4. a general knowledge of music history

ADA Needs

It is Sul Ross State University policy to provide reasonable accommodations to students with disabilities. If you would like to request such accommodations because of a physical, mental, or learning disability, please contact the ADA coordinator for Program Accessibility located in BAB 206 or call 837-8203.

Class Policies

1. Students are expected to attend each class and to arrive on time. Excessive absences or late arrival may hinder student progress and negatively impact the student grade; instructor will not wait for all to be present. Inform instructor of any known absences beforehand.
2. Students should complete readings prior to arrival at class, and have questions ready to discuss. Classes will start with questions, and proceed to lecture of the assigned topic. Written assignments will be due the next class day.
3. Any assignments are due at the beginning of class.
4. There is no such thing as a silly question...really.

Attendance Policy

Since we have relatively few class meetings, and a great amount of material to cover, attendance is required. Extenuating circumstances should be discussed with the instructor prior to an absence, or as soon as possible following. Work conflicts are treated as unexcused absences and are not tolerated. Unexcused absences will be treated as follows:

- 1st Absence: Warning
- 2nd Absence: Lowering of earned grade by one full letter
- 3rd Absence: Lowering of earned grade by two full letters
- 4th Absence: Lowering of earned grade to an F
- 5th Absence: Expulsion from class

Tardy Policy

Being late to class is disruptive to other students, the teacher, and the learning process. If you enter after the start of class, you are tardy. The start of class is defined as the point at which the teacher begins teaching. Your first tardy is free. After that, every two tardies will be counted as one unexcused absence, and will fall under the attendance policy in effecting your grade. If you are tardy for what you believe is an excusable reason, please speak with me in person after class.

Cell Phone Policy

Class time is limited and use of cell phones causes unneeded distraction to the learning process. Therefore, cell phone use during class is strictly prohibited, and repeated violation of this policy will have an effect on your grade. The following are the grade repercussions for violation of this

policy:

- 1st Offense – Warning
- 2nd Offense – Lowering of earned grade by one full letter
- 3rd Offense – Lowering of earned grade by two full letters
- 4th Offense – Lowering of earned grade to an F
- 5th Offense – Expulsion from class

Professional Communication Policy

All communication with me should be done via email or my office phone number, both of which are listed at the top of the syllabus, or in person. You will be expected to check your email on a regular basis for communications from me. Facebook is not an acceptable form of professional communication.

Grading

Grades are not given, they are EARNED. Students will be given the opportunity to earn points in the following areas:

- Individual Assignments – 20 pts
- Quizzes – 50 pts
- Exams – 100 pts
- Final Exam – 200 pts

To figure your most current average, add up the number of points that have been earned and divide by points possible. Letter grades will be based on the following percentages:

- 90-100 = A = Excellent
- 80-89 = B = Good
- 70-79 = C = Average
- 60-69 = D = Poor
- Below 60 = F = Failure
- I = Incomplete

Music Theory I - Fall 2014
All Assignments Due at Beginning of Next Class Period

Date	Class Topics	Assignment For Next Class
Aug. 25	Syllabus and Introductions - Introduce websites and brief review	musictheory.net/teoria.com
Aug. 27	Diagnostic Exam	musictheory.net/teoria.com
Aug. 29	Exam Review - Review Concepts	Read p. 2-4
Sept. 1	NO CLASS - Labor Day Holiday	
Sept. 3	Continue Concept Review, Ch. 1: Tonality in Context	Read p. 4-19
Sept. 5	RECRUITING - Class Activities TBD	
Sept. 8	Ch. 1: Pitch Realm - Scales, Intervals	WB 1.1, Read p. 19-40
Sept. 10	Ch. 1: Scales & Intervals Continued, Metrical Realm and Accents	WB 1.2, 1.8, 1.9
Sept. 12	Ch. 1: Metrical Realm Continued	WB 1.12, 1.16
Sept. 15	Chapter 1 Quiz	Read p. 41-45
Sept. 17	Ch. 2: Melody	WB 2.1A, 2.3, Read p. 46-56
Sept. 19	Ch. 2: First-species Counterpoint	WB 2.6, Read p. 57-63
Sept. 22	Ch. 2: First-species continued, Second-species Counterpoint	WB 2.11, 2.12, Read p. 63
Sept. 24	Ch. 2: Second-species continued, Review	Study for Quiz
Sept. 26	Chapter 2 Quiz	Read p. 64-71
Sept. 29	NO CLASS - Lobo Marching Invitational - Consider Volunteering!	
Oct. 1	Ch. 3 - Triads and Figured Bass	WB 3.2, 3.3, Read p. 71-73
Oct. 3	Library Day - Meet on second floor behind the computer lab!	
Oct. 6	Ch. 3: Triads Continued, Seventh Chords	WB 3.4, 3.5, Read p. 72-82
Oct. 8	Ch. 3: Seventh Chords Continued, Musica Texture	WB 3.9, 3.10, Study for Quiz
Oct. 10	Chapter 3 Quiz	Read p. 83-94
Oct. 13	Ch. 4: Tonal Hierarchy, Embellishing Tones, Contextual Analysis	WB 4.1, Read p. 95-99
Oct. 15	Ch. 4: Embellishing Tones, Contextual Analysis, Melodic Fluency	WB 4.4AB, 4.6, Read p. 99-102
Oct. 17	Ch. 4: Contextual Analysis, Melodic Fluency, Melody as Harmony	WB 4.7

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Oct. 20	Ch. 4: Melodic Fluency, Melody as Harmony, Wrap-up	Study for Quiz
Oct. 22	Chapter 4 Quiz/Review	Study for Mid-Term
Oct. 24	Mid-Term Exam	Read p. 103-109
Oct. 27	Ch. 5: Characteristics of V-I, Cadences	WB 5.1, 5.2, 5.3ABC, Read p. 109-116
Oct. 29	Ch. 6: Cadences Continued, Intro to Voice Leading	WB 5.3DEF, 5.11, Read p. 116-119
Oct. 31	Ch. 6: Voice Leading Continued	WB 5.15, Review
Nov. 3	Ch. 6: Voice Leading Continued	4-part writing sheet, Study for Quiz
Nov. 5	Chapter 5 Quiz	Read p. 120-130
Nov. 7	Ch. 6: Embellishment and Reduction	Read p. 131-136
Nov. 10	Ch. 6: Dominant Seventh and Chordal Dissonance	WB 6.5, 6.7
Nov. 12	Ch. 6: Dominant Seventh Continued	WB 6.1, 6.4, Read p. 136-141
Nov. 14	Ch. 6: Dominant Seventh Continued, Harmonizing Florid Melody	WB 6.13AB, 6.14CD, Study for Quiz
Nov. 17	Chapter 6 Quiz	Read p. 142-151
Nov. 19	Ch. 7: Chordal Leaps, Bass Neighbor Tones, Second-Level Analysis	WB 7.1, 7.2, Read p. 141-154
Nov. 21	Ch. 7: Second-Level Analysis, Bass Passing Tones, Tonic Expansion	WB 7.3, 7.5, Read p. 154-159
Nov. 24	Ch. 7: Bass Passing Tones, Tonic Expansion, Dominant Expansion, 6 chords	WB 7.7
Nov. 26	Ch. 7: Dominant Expansion, First-Inversion Chords Continued	WB 7.4B, 7.10, Study for Quiz
Nov. 28	Chapter 7 Quiz/Review	Study
Dec. 1	Mid-term Exam/Unit 2	Study
Dec. 3	Wrap-up and Review	Study
Dec. 5	Optional Final Exam Review at Class Time	Study
Dec. 8	Final Exam - 10:15 am	Enjoy Winter Break!