

Sul Ross State University
SYLLABUS

MUS 1311: Theory I
10:00-10:50 MWF

Fall, 2026
FAB 200

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Office Hours: MWF 11-12; TT 1-2; or by appointment

Course Description: This course is the first in a systematic study of music of the common practice period. Emphasis will be placed on elements of pitch and rhythm, major and minor scales, key signatures, functional harmony of diatonic chords, and principles of voice leading in four-part harmony, using root position and inverted triads.

Required Texts:

Kostka, Stefan and Byron Almén, *Tonal Harmony*. 9th edition. New York: McGraw Hill, 2023.

Kostka, Stefan and Byron Almén, *Workbook for Tonal Harmony*. 9th edition. New York: McGraw Hill, 2023.

Manuscript paper and pencil (required for every class)

BRING TEXTBOOK AND WORKBOOK TO EVERY CLASS, AS WELL AS MANUSCRIPT PAPER AND PENCIL

Primary Learning Objectives:

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- 1) Understand elements of musical structure used by composers of tonal music in the creation of melody, harmony, and rhythm
- 2) Develop proficiency in writing four-part harmony using diatonic root-position and inverted major, minor, and diminished triads

Student Learning Outcomes:

- 1) Students will demonstrate the ability to integrate appropriate musical expression and knowledge into performance, using theoretical skills
- 2) Students will demonstrate the ability to research and prepare appropriate program notes using analytical and theoretical skills
- 3) Students will demonstrate the ability to evaluate and critique a musical performance using analytical and theoretical skills

Attendance:

Regular, punctual attendance is essential for the educational objectives of this course to be achieved. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of every class.

In accordance with the *Sul Ross State University Student Handbook*, any student who accumulates more than nine (9) absences will be dropped from the course.

Students are responsible for all class material, activities, and announcements made when absent.

University-excused absences will allow students to make up or complete assignments incurred by absence without penalty. The following instances constitute a university-excused absence: 1) documented illness with note from a medical provider; 2) family emergency; 3) university-approved activity.

Major tests will be rescheduled in the case of a university-excused absence.

An unexcused absence shall result in a grade of zero for any quiz, daily assignment, or homework grade taken that day.

Two tardies shall equal one absence.

Assignments:

Written homework assignments will be given at the end of most class meetings.

All assignments are due at the beginning of the next class session unless otherwise announced.

Unexcused late assignments will be penalized 10 points per class meeting. No work will be accepted more than one week past its due date.

No penalty will be assessed for work completed upon return from a university-excused absence, provided such work is submitted in a timely manner.

Quizzes will be unannounced. As a result, no rescheduling will be allowed, although the lowest quiz grade or grades at the end of the semester will be dropped. Quizzes given at the beginning of class may not be made up if a student arrives late, nor may any portion thereof be completed for credit.

All assignments must be completed in pencil.

Redo Policy:

Unless otherwise specified, any graded homework assignment may be resubmitted once for a higher grade, if such corrections are turned in on the day of the next class session following return of the original assignment. Corrections must be done on a separate sheet of paper attached to the original assignment. The grade for the corrected version will be averaged with the original grade. Unexcused late papers may not be resubmitted for a higher grade.

Missed Assignments, Quizzes, or Exams:

In the event of an unforeseen absence, make-up quizzes, exams, or assignment-extensions may be granted for extenuating circumstances, only on a case-by-case basis. Such circumstances must be documented and advance notice given.

Academic Integrity:

Sul Ross State University expects all students to engage in academic pursuits with honesty and integrity both in and out of the classroom. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated in any form (cheating, copying homework, looking at another student's test, etc.), and violations will be considered in light of the policies stated in the *Sul Ross State University Student Handbook*. Academic dishonesty cases shall be considered initially by the faculty member and reviewed subsequently by the academic department chair and dean of the college.

Grading:

Homework	40%
Quizzes	10%
Tests	30%
Final Examination	20%

Letter grades will be based on the following percentages:

A+	100 -- 98	C+	79 -- 78
A	97 -- 93	C	77 -- 73
A-	92 -- 90	C-	72 -- 70
B+	89 -- 88	D+	69 -- 68
B	87 -- 83	D	67 -- 63
B-	82 -- 80	D-	62 -- 60
		F	Below 60

Course Credit:

To receive credit toward completion of degree requirements as a music major or minor, a final grade of C or better is required for this course.

Electronics:

Use of cell phones and other electronic devices (including computers, MP3 players, recording devices, etc.) for non-emergency purposes during class is prohibited.

Food and Drink:

No food or drink may be brought into the classroom, other than bottled water.

Disability:

Sul Ross State University is committed to providing equal access for all students in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1973. It is the student's responsibility to initiate a request each semester for each class in which accommodations are needed. Students seeking accessibility/accommodation services for this course should contact Counseling and Accessibility Services, 112 Ferguson Hall, (432) 837-8691. The mailing address is P.O. Box C-122, Sul Ross State University, Alpine, Texas 79832.

Revisions to the Syllabus:

Every effort will be made to follow the course outline given below. Nonetheless, circumstances, events, or other unforeseen conditions may alter dates and/or topics listed, resulting in revisions to the syllabus as the semester progresses.

COURSE OUTLINE

Week 1	8/24 8/26 8/28	Chapter 1: Elements of Pitch Keyboard and Octave Registers Major and Minor Scales; Scale Degree Names
Week 2	8/31 9/02 9/04	Major and Minor Scales; Scale Degree Names Intervals Intervals
Week 3	9/07 9/09 9/11	LABOR DAY HOLIDAY Chapter 2: Elements of Rhythm Simple and Compound Time Signatures
Week 4	9/14 9/16 9/18	Simple and Compound Time Signatures Chapter 3: Intro to Triads, 7th Chords Inversion Symbols and Figured Bass
Week 5	9/21 9/23 9/25	Inversion Symbols and Figured Bass Review TEST I
Week 6	9/28 9/30 10/02	Chapter 4: Diatonic Triads Diatonic Triads in Major Keys Diatonic Triads in Minor Keys
Week 7	10/05 10/07 10/09	Diatonic Seventh Chords in Major and Minor Chapter 5: Principles of Voice Leading The Melodic Line; Voicing A Single Triad
Week 8	10/12 10/14 10/16	Parallel Motion Review TEST II
Week 9	10/19 10/21 10/23	Chapter 6: Root Position Part Writing Part Writing with Roots a 4 th (5 th) Apart Part Writing with Roots a 3 rd (6 th) Apart

Week 10	10/26 10/28 10/30	Part Writing with Roots a 2 nd (7 th) Apart Chapter 7: Harmonic Progression Sequences and The Circle of Fifths
Week 11	11/02 11/04 11/06	Harmonic Progressions Harmonic Progressions Common Exceptions
Week 12	11/09 11/11 11/13	Differences in Minor Mode Review TEST III
Week 13	11/16 11/18 11/20	Chapter 8: Triads in First Inversion Parallel Sixth Chords Part-Writing Triads in First Inversion
Week 14	11/23 11/25 11/27	Soprano-Bass Counterpoint THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY
Week 15	11/30 12/02	Review for Final Exam Review for Final Exam

FINAL EXAMINATION: Friday, December 4, 10:15 A.M. – 12:15 P.M.

