

Music Theory III (hybrid)

MUST 2313

Syllabus

Instructor: Dr. Brian Jarvis (bejarvis@utep.edu)

The University of Texas at El Paso – Fall 2024

Course description

This is a hybrid course that is mostly online. Music Theory III is a continuation of Music Theory II. Topics include linear analysis, the diatonic modes, added note chords, sus chords, extended tertian harmony, and the notation program MuseScore.

Useful information

Course website	The course website (accessed through Blackboard) has course documents, video tips homework, handouts, weekly quizzes, and proficiency quizzes. It also contains useful links to helpful websites and printable staff paper.
Office hours:	9:30-11:30am in the computer-lab portion of the music library
By Appointment	
Meetings can also be scheduled by appointment (just email me to set up a meeting).	
Email	UTEP email is the best way to contact me. I will make every attempt to respond to your email within 24-48 hours of receipt. Please feel free to email at any time. If it's late, I turn my notifications off, so it won't bother me. If I ask you a question in my response, please write me back. When I say "please let me know either way," I'm serious and I am awaiting your response 😊.
Free Tutor	Free tutoring is offered for this course. See the "Free Tutoring Center" link on the course website for more information. (usually posted before the end of week 3)

Checking your email

Our primary communication will be done by email so it's critical that you get in the habit of checking your UTEP email every day. I recommend that you check it at least twice each day.

Textbook

No textbook is required for this course. The majority of readings will come from my website and links will be provided as needed.

Required Technology Items

- Internet-connected, Windows or Mac laptop or desktop computer (**available for free to UTEP students in the main library**)

- Regular access to a Windows or Mac (MacOS, **not** iOS **nor** iPadOS), laptop or desktop computer
 - If you don't have one, [apply for a long-term laptop from UTEP](#)
 - Needs a current version of Google's Chrome browser
 - NOTE: The Blackboard "app" is not supported in this course
 - NOTE: Phones and tablets are not supported. They may often work, but expect occasional issues that are only solvable by using a Windows or Mac laptop or desktop computer.
- Headphones/Speakers

Grading

- Your overall grade for the semester will be calculated as outlined below:
 - Basic Quizzes 25%
 - Reading Quizzes 15%
 - Advanced Quizzes 30%
 - Analysis Assignments 30%
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- Letter grades will be assigned as follows:

A	90-100	B	80-89	C	70-79	D	60-69	F	Below 60
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- Your current average will be shown on the course website.
- **In order to pass this course, you need to have an overall course grade of C or higher (70%).**

Course Format

- **Hybrid Course** (Mostly Online + Analysis Days)
 - This is a hybrid course. The majority of this course takes place within the course website.
 - This course is mostly online, but has an in-person component. Some in-person days will be held in the computer-lab portion of the music library. Those include days where analysis assignments are due, and days when you are working on your mini-analysis projects. There will also be days where I demonstrate analysis techniques by showing you an analysis of my own. I'll share the things I thought were interesting or common place as well as challenges I faced while I was working.
- **Due Dates**
 - All online quizzes and assignments will be due *before* noon on the scheduled due date. Just so you know, if something is due before noon, the course website will count it late if you submit it *at* noon instead of before it.
- **Availability of Materials**
 - The entire week's worth of materials will typically become available some time on Friday or Saturday the previous week at the latest.
- **Online Quizzes**

- Most of the work in this course will be in the form of repeatable quizzes that have a required minimum grade. There are two types: (1) basic quizzes and (2) advanced quizzes (both described below). We will also have reading quizzes but they are different as described below. Almost every basic and advanced quiz, can be taken as many times as necessary (before the due date) and you will be able to review the results immediately upon completing each quiz. Only the highest score ever recorded during the period of availability will count toward your grade.
- **Basic Quizzes**
 - Basic quizzes are due throughout each week. The basic quizzes are meant to give you regular, ongoing practice with core concepts as well as review with more recent concepts. Basic quizzes will have a required minimum grade before any credit is granted. Not reaching minimum will result in a quiz score of 0.
- **Advanced Quizzes**
 - Advanced quizzes cover the topic of the week or very recent topics. You can expect that an advanced quiz will take more time to complete than basic quizzes because you've had less practice with the topic. Most advanced quizzes will have a required minimum grade before any credit is granted. Not reaching minimum will result in a quiz score of 0. The quiz itself will state if a minimum grade is required.
- **Reading Quizzes**
 - An important learning objective in this course is to increase your level of reading comprehension. To that end, new topics will be introduced regularly through reading. I've created reading quizzes to help point you toward important aspects of the reading and to ensure reading comprehension. Reading quizzes will have a required minimum grade before any credit is granted. Not reaching the minimum will result in a quiz score of 0.
 - A few topics will be introduced by video and will still be paired with "reading" quizzes. Music theory is taught in different ways so you can't really be sure that a YouTube video or Wikipedia will have the same content, approach, or terminology. If you have questions, please email me and I'd be happy to give you a personalized explanation and have a back-and-forth email exchange on a topic.

Analysis Assignments

There is one analysis assignment due every week or two. It may be broken into several parts but will count as a single assignment grade. These assignments will include analytical lessons and musical analysis which will help you hone and refresh previously learned skills. These assignments are the most difficult components of the course and they require patience and are designed to help you increase your logical reasoning skills. Expect that each analysis assignment will require a substantial time commitment and I expect that you will go back over your answers a number of times in an effort to comb out mistakes and to aim for the best answers you can manage. After the assignment due date has passed, the answers to the assignment will be available on the course website. As with all other work in this course, these assignments are to be completed by you alone. Unauthorized

collaborations are not acceptable, and all cases will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution for consideration. You can only speak about the details of the assignments with Dr. Jarvis and official UTEP department of music tutors. See the “Academic Integrity and Scholastic Dishonesty” section for more details.

No late work

Late work is **NOT** accepted. Unless you have made prior arrangements with the instructor, any missed homework, quizzes, and exams will receive a grade of a zero. Exceptions can be made in the case of a genuine emergency or significant illness if written documentation is shown to the instructor within one week after the due date (e.g., a note excusing you from class from a health care provider, an accident report, etc.). Conflicts between work and school will NOT count as reasons for late work. Email the instructor if you are unsure about whether a situation qualifies as a genuine emergency that would qualify for an exception.

Time Commitment and a little about small mistakes

This course requires regular attention. There are usually three deadlines each week: Monday at noon, Wednesday at noon, and Friday at noon. The amount of time it takes you to complete each element in the course is difficult to specify. Generally, those who make fewer small mistakes, make fewer large mistakes because the small mistakes create the larger mistakes. Imagine, for example, that someone misreads a key signature before they start an analysis. This type of small mistake has the potential to create countless mistakes down the line. Correctly reading notes and their accidentals is another very common place for mistakes to crop up. Simply mis-reading a single note when analyzing a chord, has the potential to wreck everything that follows with that chord. So, work on building your ability to be careful and double-check the small details before moving on to more advanced questions like Roman numerals, it will save you time in the long run. Some good advice for the analysis assignments is to make a second pass with your assignment after a short period of time has elapsed. Re-read the notes, and see if there are any discrepancies between your first reading and your second. If there are, investigate the issue, weigh the pros and cons of each reading, and decide upon the better one.

Academic Integrity and Scholastic Dishonesty

Information about The University of Texas at El Paso’s definitions and expectations regarding academic integrity and scholastic dishonesty can be found at <https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/osccr/student-conduct/academic-integrity.html>. In this course, all homework, quizzes, and exams are to be completed on your own. That means you should not discuss answers with anyone besides me, Dr. Jarvis. Do not listen to the examples together. When working with tutors, you cannot work on answers to assignments or quizzes that count towards your grade. You are allowed and encouraged to work on anything from the “Practice Area” on the course website with other people. You can practice concepts together when using non-assignment and non-quiz material. For example, you can practice harmonic analysis together by analyzing Clementi’s piano sonatas as long the excerpts you practice with are not on the assignments or quizzes. Actual or attempted cheating, plagiarism, and collusion will not be tolerated. Suspected violations will go directly to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution for consideration.

Accommodations and Support Services:

Students with disabilities needing academic accommodation should: (1) register with and provide documentation to the Center for Accommodations and Support Services and (2) bring a letter to the instructor indicating the need for accommodation and what type. This should be done during the first week of class.

If you have a disability and need classroom accommodations, please contact The Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) at 747-5148, or by email to cass@utep.edu, or visit their office located in UTEP Union East, Room 106. For additional information, please visit the CASS website at www.sa.utep.edu/cass.

Syllabus Change Policy

The information on this syllabus is subject to change. Any changes will be announced via email and the new syllabus will be posted on the course website.