

Music Theory IV

MUST 2314

Syllabus

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

The University of Texas at El Paso – Spring 2016

Course description

Theory IV is a continuation of Theory III. In Theory IV, you will continue to expand your understanding of chromatic harmony and begin your study of hypermeter, harmonic elision, 20th-century analytical techniques, and 20th-century compositional techniques and materials. Throughout the semester you will develop your ability to read theory texts, increase your advanced musical vocabulary, and apply music-analytical techniques to a wide variety of music.

Theory IV focuses on “Western Art Music” from the common-practice period (approximately 1600-1900) and on the new ideas and techniques introduced during the twentieth century. The techniques, methods, and styles covered in this course are necessarily limited in scope, however, there is plenty of overlap between the musical components of Western Art Music and popular musical styles, jazz, and film music. As of yet, music has presented no bounds but finding commonalities and similarities within and between styles is a common occurrence. In this course, we will work towards the effort of establishing a firm foundation with which to learn about, participate in, and become engaged with music of the past, present, and future.

Useful information

Course website	The course website (Blackboard) has course documents, homework, skills quizzes, proficiency quizzes, staff paper, and pitch-class clocks.
Office hours:	Fox Fine Arts Center 431 11:30 – 12:30 PM on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday and by appointment.
Free Tutor:	Free tutoring is offered for this course. See the “Tutoring” link on the course’s Blackboard page for more information.

Required materials for every class

- Staff paper
- After spring break, pitch-class clocks
- Pencil with eraser (no need for pens)
- Notebook for class notes and reading notes

Required textbooks

- Kostka, Payne, Almén *Tonal Harmony*, 7th edition
 - You must purchase the textbook and the workbook (unless you already have them).
 - No photocopies will be accepted.
 - Only the 7th edition will work for this course, previous editions will not work.

Tonal Harmony is a collection of materials; we will be using the textbook and workbook (and other materials made available by the instructor). These items are available at the campus Bookstore or you can buy them online. You will be using these materials throughout the core theory curriculum (Theory I-IV). Additionally, reading assignments outside of the textbook will be posted on Blackboard and are considered required reading when assigned.

Grading

- Your overall grade for the semester will be calculated as outlined below:

○ Homework	20%
○ Reading Quizzes	10%
○ In-Class Skills Quizzes	20%
○ Barrier Exam	20%
○ Exam 3 (Comprehensive, Units 1, 2, &3)	30%
- 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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- Grade updates will be provided a few times throughout the semester. Please feel free to inquire about your current average at any time.

Reading Quizzes, Online Skills Quizzes, and In-Class Skills Quizzes

This course covers one topic per week. There is a reading assignment every non-test week. Your understanding of the new topic, as presented in the reading, will be tested each Monday with a reading quiz administered at the start of class. The material from the quiz will be reviewed later in the class period with the rest of the period dedicated to discussing and learning about the weekly topic in preparation for the rest of the week.

There are two quizzes associated with Wednesdays. The Online Skills Quiz needs to be completed before class begins on Wednesday. During class, the In-Class Skills Quiz will be given. The in-class version covers exactly the same material from the online version and its job is to assess your ability with the week's concept. The online version prepares you for the in-class version and both quizzes are required.

Completing the online version of the skills quiz, with the required minimum grade, is part of being prepared for class on Wednesday. The online version can be taken as many times as necessary before the due date but the in-class version can only be taken once. If the Online Skills Quiz is not completed with the required minimum grade, the student will be marked as unprepared for class. See the section on being prepared for class to learn how this impacts your grade.

Proficiency Quizzes

Weekly Proficiency Quizzes are assigned each week to develop mastery of core concepts. These quizzes are all online and can be found on the course Blackboard site. Each quiz can be taken as many times as necessary before the due date. Only the highest score ever recorded will count towards your grade so you are encouraged to take them again if you would like more practice (doing so will not change your grade if you have already passed the quiz once). Because these are proficiency quizzes, each quiz is timed and there is a minimum grade required to pass. There will be multiple Proficiency Quizzes due each week. All proficiency quizzes are due before the start of class each Monday. The quizzes themselves are considered required practice and are not strictly worth points. However, they must all be completed each week, before the due date, at the specified level of proficiency, otherwise the student will be marked as unprepared for class. See the section on being prepared for class to learn how this impacts your grade.

Barrier Exam

During Week 7 (March 2nd and 4th), the Music Theory Barrier Exam will be administered. This exam covers all material from Music Theory I through week 6 of this course, though its primary emphasis will be on fundamental materials from the first three semesters of the music-theory sequence. The purpose of the barrier exam is to ensure that students have mastered and retained fundamental, foundational material throughout the four-semester, theory sequence, and are ready for upper-level music courses.

The barrier exam needs to be passed with a grade of 70% or higher in order to pass the class. A score of less than 70% but greater than or equal to 60% on this exam will result in an overall course grade of D. A score of below 60% on this exam will result in an overall course grade of F.

Weekly assignments

There is one homework assignment every Friday. Homework is due at the beginning of class. On some Fridays, I will be away at conferences. On these days, special provisions will be made. Either the assignment will be online (still due before the start of class) or it will need to be turned in on my office door before the start of class. The homework will be discussed during class after it has been collected.

No late homework

Late homework 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 (e.g., a note from a health care provider, an accident report, etc.) is shown to the instructor within one week of the due date. See the instructor if you are unsure about whether your absence will be counted as excused or unexcused.

Dropped grades

Your lowest In-Class Quiz grade, your lowest homework grade, and your lowest Reading Quiz grade will be dropped when calculating your final overall average. Exam grades, however, will **NOT** be dropped. This policy is in place for those rare exceptions when homework is left at home or lost.

Attendance policy

- Plan to attend every class and to show up on time.
- Two unexcused absences are allowed.
 - Each subsequent unexcused absence will result in a **3% DEDUCTION FROM THE STUDENT'S FINAL GRADE.**

Excused absences include documented illness, deaths in the family and other documented crises, call to active military duty or jury duty, religious holy days, and official University activities. These absences will be accommodated in a way that does not arbitrarily penalize students who have a valid excuse. Consideration will also be given to students whose dependent children experience serious illness. This does not mean that any note from a medical professional will excuse students from absences. Notes from medical providers should state that the student was unable, in their professional opinion, to be in class on the day or days in question. Voluntary appointments like teeth cleanings or physicals will not be excused. In accordance with the university policy the authority for deciding whether the student is excused for medical reasons rests with the instructor. Please feel free to check with the instructor if you are unsure whether or not an absence counts as excused.

Being prepared for class

In order to be prepared for class, you need to do following:

- Arrive before the scheduled start of class
- Stay for the duration of the class
- Not use cell phones, laptops, or other electronic devices during class (see policy below)
- Complete the Proficiency Quizzes before the due date and at the required level
- Complete the Online Skills Quizzes before the due date and at the required level
- Not distract others or the classroom environment in the opinion of the instructor
- Bring the required materials to each class (see Required Materials section above)

If any of the above requirements are not met, the student will be marked as being unprepared for class. The first three instances of being unprepared for class will be recorded by the instructor but do not impact your grade. Starting with the fourth instance and all instances after that, **1% WILL BE DEDUCTED FROM THE STUDENT'S FINAL GRADE** for each instance.

If you are late (tardy or not tardy) tell the instructor **AFTER** class so that you can be counted as present. The instructor takes attendance at the very beginning of class and will not be updating attendance with late arrivals. This is done to ensure that class time is maximized for course content.

Cell phones or other electronic devices

There is no need for students to use electronic devices during class. Audio recording, video recording, and photography are not allowed without prior authorization from the instructor. Before the scheduled start of class, students are expected to silence their electronic devices and put away all cell phones, laptops, tablets, or other electronic devices inside a closed bag or purse where they are not audible or visible to you or anyone else. Smartwatches (e.g., Apple Watch) can be worn but not used other than to look at the time. Any student whose technology item is visible or used during class will be marked as unprepared for class. See the section on being prepared for class to learn how this impacts your grade.

The instructor will not inform students if they violate the electronic device policy during class, and will instead discretely mark offending students as unprepared for class without disrupting class. This syllabus serves as the official warning for such violations. This is done to ensure that class time is maximized for course content.

Exam Dates

Barrier Exam	Wednesday March 2 nd and Friday March 4 th (in class)
Final exam	9:30 Section (Wed., May 11, 10:00 am – 12:45 pm) 10:30 Section (Friday, May 13, 10:00 am – 12:45 pm)

Be sure to mark these dates on your calendar and let the instructor know about conflicts within the first week of class. The university policy regarding final exams will be strictly adhered to.

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 <http://sa.utep.edu/osccr/academic-integrity/>. In this course, all homework, quizzes, exams, and projects are to be completed on your own. 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. For more information about services available to UTEP students with disabilities, see the following website <http://sa.utep.edu/cass/studentsresources/>.

Syllabus Change Policy

The information on this syllabus is subject to change. Any changes will be announced in class and/or via email.