

# Music Theory IV

MUST 2314

Syllabus

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The University of Texas at El Paso – Spring 2018

## 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, 20<sup>th</sup>-century analytical techniques, and 20<sup>th</sup>-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. You will also gain creative experience with four topics in this course through composition and/or arrangement exercises (scales & modes, 20<sup>th</sup>-century rhythmic techniques, added-note chords, and extended tertian harmony).

This course is geared towards helping you develop and increase your sensitivity to common methods of musical construction and, through musical analysis, increase your logical thinking ability through analytical situations where many options seem possible but only a few are logically plausible and to develop a sensitivity to musical embellishment at levels beyond individual notes. After finishing your theory training here at UTEP, I aim to have pushed you towards being able to think of a piece of music as a series of choices made by the composer, instead of a series of immutable facts. The goal of this sentiment is to allow you to feel free to compose, perform, improvise, teach, and critique music as a sensitive and well-informed musician.

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

<b>Course website</b>	The course website (Blackboard) has course documents, homework, handouts, skills quizzes, and proficiency quizzes. It also contains useful links to helpful websites and printable staff paper.
<b>Office hours:</b>	Fox Fine Arts Center 431 11:30 – 12:30 PM on Monday 11:30 – 12:30 PM either Wednesday or Friday, depending on which day we meet in Theory IV. I'll hold an office hour when we meet in person that week. By appointment (just email me to set up a meeting).
<b>Free Tutor:</b>	Free tutoring is offered for this course. See the “Free Tutoring Center” link on the course’s Blackboard page for more information.

<b>Textbook (not required)</b>	Burstein/Straus, <i>Concise Introduction to Tonal Harmony</i> (textbook only, not the workbook)
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### Required materials for every class

- Staff paper
- Pencil with eraser (no need for pens)
- Notebook for class notes and reading notes  
(no textbook is required)

### Grading

- Your overall grade for the semester will be calculated as outlined below:
  - Daily Proficiency Quizzes 15%
  - Weekly Reading Quizzes 12.5%
  - Weekly Skills Quizzes 15%
  - Weekly Assignments 17.5%
  - Barrier Exam\* 20%
  - Final Exam 20%
- 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 almost every week throughout the semester. Please feel free to inquire about your current average at any time.
- **\*In order to pass this course, you need a grade of C or higher & you need to pass the barrier exam with a grade of C or higher (see section on the barrier exam for details).**

### Course Format

- **Hybrid Course**  
This course is a hybrid of traditional face-to-face interaction and technology-based interaction. We will combine the strengths of meeting in a real classroom amongst a group of people with the efficient power of computers into a course that will provide you with the opportunity to individualize your practice until you can reach the required level of skill.
- **Online Quiz Availability and Due Dates**  
All online quizzes will be due before the scheduled start of class. For example, if you are in the 9:30 am section, your Wednesday quizzes will be due before 9:30 am on Wednesday. The entire week's worth of materials will become available at 10:20am on Friday of the previous week.
- **Weekly Skills Quizzes**  
We will typically only have two, face-to-face meetings per week. The day we don't meet will include online, weekly skills quizzes (in addition to the daily proficiency quizzes) over the topic of the week.
- **Daily Proficiency Quizzes**  
There are three sets of proficiency quizzes due each week. These are different than the weekly quizzes mentioned above. The proficiency quizzes are meant to give you regular, ongoing practice with core concepts as well as review with more recent concepts. While available, they can be taken as many times as necessary 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. These quizzes are graded pass/fail. When you receive a “pass” on the quiz that means you will be receiving full credit for it, even if you didn’t get every single item correct.

### **Barrier Exam**

During Weeks 6 & 7 (February 23<sup>rd</sup> and March 2<sup>nd</sup>), the Music Theory Barrier Exam will be administered. This exam covers all material from Music Theory I through week 5 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.

### **Reading Quizzes**

You will first encounter all new material for this course on your own before coming to class. Each week, you will complete an online reading quiz (usually before Monday’s class) that will help you learn the new concepts at your own pace. Then, in class, we will refine your understanding of those concepts together.

### **Weekly Assignments**

There is one paper assignment due each week. These assignments will include musical analysis and will give you the opportunity to encounter the concept of the week in a real piece of music as well as hone and refresh previously learned skills. 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.

### **Exams**

There are two exams in this course, the barrier exam and the final exam. They are cumulative by nature and the material on each exam is more advanced than the material of the previous exams. The online, weekly quizzes and weekly assignments are what will prepare you for the exams. See section on the “Barrier Exam” for details about the minimum grade.

### **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 excusing you

from class 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.

### 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 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 excuse 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)
- 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) 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.

## Exam Dates

Barrier Exam Part 1	Week 6 – Friday, February 23 <sup>rd</sup>
Barrier Exam Part 2	Week 7 – Friday, March 2 <sup>nd</sup>
Final Exam	Finals Week 9:30 Section (Wed., May 9, 10:00 am – 12:45 pm) 10:30 Section (Friday, May 11, 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.