

Music Theory IV (online)

MUST 2314

Syllabus

Instructor: Dr. Brian Jarvis (bejarvis@utep.edu)
The University of Texas at El Paso – Spring 2021

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, popular music, set theory, extended tertian harmony, added note chords & sus chords, atonality, modes, scales including (blues, pentatonic, octatonic, whole tone, and hexatonic), and various rhythmic/metric techniques featured in some 20th-century musics.

Throughout the semester you will develop your ability to read theory texts, improve your logical reasoning skills through musical analysis, increase your advanced musical vocabulary, and apply music-analytical techniques to a wide variety of music including the music you select yourself for the mini-analysis projects. You will also gain creative experience with four topics in this course through composition and/or arrangement exercises (scales & modes, 20th-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 part of a creative process that involves a variety of decisions that are made by a person (composer/improvisor/song writer) or stylistic norms they adopted to more-or-less be consistent with a given style, instead of a cryptic or mystifying result of some unknown method. 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 multiple musical styles but most of it can be considered part of two main categories: (1) popular music in various styles and (2) European classical-style music from the 19th and 20th centuries. The techniques, methods, and styles covered in this course are necessarily limited in scope. 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, handouts, skills quizzes, and proficiency quizzes. It also contains useful links to helpful websites and printable staff paper.
Office hours	Online via Zoom 11:00am – Noon every Monday & Friday 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's Blackboard page 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.

Required Textbook?

There is no required textbook for this course. We'll be reading from a variety of sources, but I'll either provide them for you or they'll be from the theory book we used in Theory III (Burstein/Straus, Concise Introduction to Tonal Harmony – but this book is also on reserve in the music library)

Required technology items

- Internet-connected, Windows or Mac laptop or desktop computer with a webcam and microphone (**available for free to UTEP students in the main library**)
 - Our exams will be taken online using the Respondus Monitor software
 - See the section below on Respondus Monitor for more information
- Regular access to a Windows or Mac (MacOS, not iOS), 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.
- Access to a document scanner (typically your printer or phone)
- Headphones/Speakers

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 (including Mini-Analysis Projects) 17.5%
 - Exam 1 20%
 - Exam 2 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 to have an average of 70% or higher on the exams.
 - **AND, you need an overall course grade of C or higher.**

Course Format

- **Fully Online Course**
 - This course is fully online but it will be structured like a course that meets three times a week and there are materials due for each day (Monday, Wednesday, Friday) but you can always work ahead if the materials are already available. The course takes place within Blackboard.
- **Due Dates**
 - All online quizzes will be due *before* noon on the scheduled due date. Just so you know, if something is due before noon, Blackboard will count it late if you submit it at noon instead of before it (i.e., it counts things submitted at 12:00 as late).
 - “Why not midnight like in my other classes?”
 - This is so that I can actually be there to help you when you submit your assignment. Most people submit their work close to the deadline but when they run into problems, they email me for help. The problem is, I can’t provide quick help if I’m already asleep for the night 😊. So, I make the deadline noon so that I can actually be there to help before the deadline when people are actively working. This also helps people that prefer to work at night because they can still submit it the night before and if they email me at night while they’re working and I’m sleeping, I can still write them back in the morning before the deadline.
- **Availability of Materials**
 - The entire week’s worth of materials will typically become available some time on Friday of the previous week.

- **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) weekly quizzes and (2) proficiency quizzes (both described below). We will also have reading quizzes but they are different and are described below. Almost every weekly and proficiency quiz, while available, 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. So, if the minimum is 80% and you scored an 85% you will get full credit for that quiz (you can think of it as 100% if you want). If a weekly or proficiency quiz has a different grading format, it will be specified in the “details” for that item.
- **Weekly Skills Quizzes**
 - Weekly quizzes cover the topic of the week. You can expect that a weekly quiz will take more time to complete than proficiency quizzes (discussed below) because you’ve had less practice with the topic.
- **Daily Proficiency Quizzes**
 - The proficiency quizzes are meant to give you regular, ongoing practice with core concepts as well as review with more recent concepts. Proficiency quizzes are due throughout each week. These are different than the weekly quizzes mentioned above.
- **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 each week through reading. I’ve created reading quizzes to help point you toward important aspects of the reading and to ensure reading comprehension. Reading quizzes are graded differently than weekly and proficiency quizzes. Reading quizzes can only be taken 4 times and Blackboard will count your highest grade of all your attempts. I put a “suggested minimum” on these to give you a recommended target, but these quizzes are NOT pass/fail. You’ll get the exact grade you earned. Readings either come from the Burstein/Straus text or they will be supplied for you in Blackboard. 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 the topic and we can also have a virtual Zoom meeting as well.

Weekly Assignments

There is usually 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. 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. The assignments are typically posted as PDF documents. You'll need to annotate them with your answers and upload them to Blackboard before the due date. Many of you will prefer to print the document out, write in your answers with pencil, scan and save the document, and then upload it. If you have the technology, you are certainly free to annotated them with a tablet and stylus. Legibility is important. If your answer is illegible, it will be counted wrong so make sure to write legibly and make sure that the scan/photo of your assignment is readable. Often times, the flash of a camera or overhead light will cause a glare making it difficult or impossible to read so make sure to avoid that. After the assignment due date has passed, I will post a review video where I go over each aspect of the assignment in detail. As with all other work in this course, these assignments are to 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. See the "Academic Integrity and Scholastic Dishonesty" section for more details.

Mini-Analysis Projects

Throughout the semester, a few of the weekly assignments will be replaced by mini-analysis projects. These small projects offer you a chance to analyze and share music of your own choosing. You can choose the genre including but not limited to: video game, film, television, jazz, folk, popular song, musical theater, church music, "world music," older classical music (pre 1900), newer classical music (post 1900), etc. You'll post your analysis, a link to an audio recording (YouTube, Spotify, etc.), and a short commentary for others to read.

Issues Uploading to Blackboard

If an assignment needs to be uploaded to Blackboard but, for whatever reason, it's not working, you can email me the assignment BEFORE the due date AS A PLACEHOLDER. You still need to upload it to Blackboard by the end of the day it was due to receive credit. Please write text in the body of the email so that I know why you're emailing me a file. It can be something simple like, "Dr. Jarvis, I can't get the file to upload to Blackboard so I'm emailing you before the due date with my assignment as a placeholder. I'll try again later today."

Exams

There are two exams in this course and both of them will require the use of the Respondus Monitor Software (see section on Respondus Monitor Software for details). No notes or external materials are allowed. They are cumulative by nature and the material on each exam is more advanced than the material from the previous exams. For example, even though applied dominants were not introduced in this course, you can expect that they may be on the materials in this course. The online, weekly & proficiency quizzes and weekly assignments are what will prepare you for the exams. Your grades on the exams are very important and they reflect your current ability in the class. **In order to pass the course, you need to have an average of 70% or higher on the exams & an overall course grade of C.** If you do not meet the exam-score requirement, an average course grade of less than 70% but greater than or equal to 60% will result in an overall course grade of D. If you don't meet the exam-score requirement and you have an average course grade of below 60%, your overall course grade will be an F.

- **Your work only:**
 - All work needs to be your own (i.e., no help from other people, notes, electronic devices, etc.) - Cell phones, tablets, and other electronic devices need to be put away and cannot be used during the entire exam. - No musical instruments (digital or acoustic) can be used on this exam. - No notes, books, or reference materials are allowed.
- **Timed:**
 - These exams are timed and will auto-submit when time is up. There is a countdown timer at the top of the exam to help you keep time.
- **Paper:**
 - You are allowed (and encouraged) to bring and use one sheet of blank paper and/or blank staff paper during your exam. You must show the camera both sides of each piece of paper when you start the exam to verify that the paper is blank.
- **Take Exam in 1 Sitting:**
 - Once you have started the exam you need to complete it in one sitting just like an in-class exam.
- **Problems?**
 - If you run into any significant issues, please email me right away to find a solution.

Respondus Monitor Software

The exams in the course are all online. We will be using the digital proctoring software that UTEP subscribes to called Respondus Monitor and Respondus Lock-Down Browser (both are free for you to use as UTEP students). In order to use these programs, you need to have a Windows or Mac, laptop or desktop computer with a webcam, microphone, and you'll need your headphones. The company claims that it also works for iPad but that functionality is currently not-functioning correctly and won't work so do not expect it to. The main UTEP library has many, many computers with everything you need to sit down and take the exam. You can even check out headphones in the main library, one floor up from the main computer area. You can use your own computer as well, assuming it meets the requirements to run both programs.

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 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.). See the instructor if you are unsure about whether your absence will be counted as excused or unexcused.

“Attendance” policy 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 specify. Generally, those who make fewer small mistakes, tend to 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. Print the assignment again, 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.

Netiquette

As we know, sometimes communication online can be challenging. It's possible to miscommunicate what we mean or to misunderstand what our classmates mean given the lack of body language and immediate feedback. Therefore, please keep these "netiquette" (network etiquette) guidelines in mind. Failure to observe them may result in disciplinary action.

- o Always consider audience. This is a college-level course; therefore, all communication should reflect polite consideration of other's ideas.
- o Respect and courtesy must be provided to classmates and to the instructor at all times. No harassment or inappropriate postings will be tolerated.
- o When reacting to someone else's message, address the ideas, not the person. Post only what anyone would comfortably state in a face-to-face situation.
- o Blackboard is not a public internet venue; all postings to it should be considered private and confidential (however the University has access to all courses and emails, so it's not private in that sense). Whatever is posted on in these online spaces is intended for classmates and the professor only. Please do not copy documents and paste them to a publicly accessible website, blog, or other space.

Exam Dates

Exam 1	Week 7 – Friday, March 5 th (Online)
Exam 2 (Final)	Finals Week – Before Friday, May 14 th at noon (online)

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 <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 Blackboard 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 as 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 Blackboard.