

The University of Texas at El Paso
MUST 4211: Twentieth-Century Techniques
Spring 2023 / 2 Credits
Time and place TBA

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Dominic Dousa
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OFFICE HOURS: TBA

For information about the instructor, please click [here](#) (UTEP Department of Music website).

Prerequisites: A minimum grade of 'C' in MUST 2314 (Music Theory IV) *and* MUST 2112 (Aural Skills IV), and a passing score on the upper-level Music Theory and Aural Skills Advancement Exam.

COURSE MATERIALS

- Required Textbook: Kostka, *Materials and Techniques of Twentieth-Century Music*, 3rd edition (Prentice Hall, 2005)
- Pencil and Manuscript Paper
- Scores and other materials will be placed on reserve at the Music Library or Main UTEP Library

COURSE DESCRIPTION

- This course involves the study of compositional techniques unique to the music of the 20th century. Topics covered include the treatment of scales, harmonic structures, voice leading, tonality, rhythm, texture, and timbre in 20th-century music.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to

- apply standard terminology and symbols in analyzing melody, harmony, and other musical elements in music of the 20th and 21st centuries.
- understand important stylistic trends in music of the 20th and 21st centuries and describe how the use of various musical elements contributes to the style of a piece.
- identify scales and 20th-century harmonic materials by ear.
- apply 20th-century compositional techniques in the context of writing short exercises and pieces.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- *Class Participation.* Active involvement is very important in this class, as class meetings will include a discussion and analysis of assigned readings and exercises. While there is no attendance/participation component in the calculation of final grades, students are expected to contribute regularly to these discussions.

Any devices that may cause a disturbance (i.e., pagers, cell phones, computers, etc.) must be turned off prior to class.

- *Homework.* Homework involving written analysis will be assigned regularly. There will be short compositional exercises and projects that involve the application of the contemporary techniques studied. Unless otherwise noted, assignments are to be turned in at the *beginning* of the class period on the due date. **No credit will be awarded for late assignments due to an unexcused absence.**

- *Compositional Exercises/Projects.* There will be short compositional exercises and projects that involve the application of the techniques studied earlier in the semester.

▪ *Midterm and Final Exams.* There will be two midterm exams, each focusing the material studied in the weeks leading up to them, and a comprehensive final exam.

PLEASE NOTE: Missed assignments and quizzes can have a significant effect on your overall grade. Exams cannot be made up except in the case of a true emergency. Written documentation is required for an absence on the day of the exam. The final exam will be given *only* at the time scheduled by the university.

TENTATIVE SEMESTER SCHEDULE

WEEK	DATES	LECTURE TOPIC	EXAMS
1	January 17-20	The Breakdown of Traditional Tonality	
2	January 23-27	The Breakdown of Traditional Tonality (continued) / Modal Scales	
3	January 30-February 3	Modal Scales (continued) / Other 20th-Century Scales	
4	February 6-10	Other 20th-Century Scales / 20th-Century Chord Structures	
5	February 13-17	20th-Century Chord Structures (continued)	
6	February 20-24	Midterm Exam #1 / Melody in 20th-Century Music	Midterm Exam #1
7	February 27-March 3	Voice Leading in 20th-Century Music / Pitch Centricity	
8	March 6-10	Atonality, Pitch-Class Set Analysis	
	March 13-17	SPRING BREAK	
9	March 20-24	Pitch-Class Set Analysis (continued)	
10	March 27-30	Pitch-Class Set Analysis (continued) / Midterm Exam #2	Midterm Exam #2
11	April 3-6	Rhythmic Devices, Timbre, and Texture in 20th-Century Music	
12	April 10-14	Stylistic Trends: Neo-Classicism, Neo-Romanticism, Minimalism	
13	April 17-21	Analysis of Representative 20th-Century Works	
14	April 24-28	Analysis of Representative 20th-Century Works (continued)	
15	May 1-4	Analysis of Representative 20th-Century Works (continued)	
FINALS WEEK	May 8-12	Final Exam (*date and time TBA)	Final Exam

• Specific instructions and due dates for homework assignments will be given in class.

GRADING

Grades will be calculated based on homework, composition projects, and exams. Each component will be calculated as a percentage score (for example, if you earn 40 out of a possible 50 points on an exam, your percentage score for that component would be $40/50 * 100 = 80.0\%$). These scores will be weighted according to the following outline in determining your final grade. A sample semester grade calculation is provided below.

		<i>Grading Scale</i>	
Homework	20%	90% and above	A
Composition Exercises	25%	80% up to 90%	B
Midterm Exam #1	15%	70% up to 80%	C
Midterm Exam #2	15%	60% up to 70%	D
Final Exam	25%	Below 60%	F

• For students with final grades within 1% of the next grade level (59%, 69%, 79%, 89%), the instructor may assign a higher grade if the student has (1) attended class regularly, (2) not missed homework, projects, or exams, (3) demonstrated *consistent* effort in mastering class material, and (4) shown improvement throughout the semester.

SAMPLE SEMESTER GRADE CALCULATION

Homework: 280 out of 300 total points earned = 93.3%
Analysis Projects: 93 out of 100 total points earned = 93.0%
Midterm Exam #1: 43 out of 50 points earned = 86.0%
Midterm Exam #2: 41 out of 50 points earned = 82.0%
Final Exam: 93 out of 100 points earned = 93.0%

Final Grade: $.20*93.3 + .25*93.0 + .15*86.0 + .15*82.0 + .25*93.0 = 90.4 = A$

OTHER COURSE INFORMATION

- Census Day is Wednesday, February 1. This is the last day to drop a course without a grade of 'W'.
- A grade of 'W' will be reported only if the student withdraws from the course by the Course Drop Deadline (Thursday, March 30).
- A grade of 'I' will be reported only if extenuating circumstances (extended illness, legal matters, emergency) prevent the student from completing the course. An 'I' will not be given as a substitute for a failing grade. The student and instructor will determine a timetable for completion of all course requirements in a time frame that is in accordance with UTEP policy.
- *Academic Dishonesty*. Cheating is unethical, not acceptable, and a serious matter. Students found to be cheating will be subject to disciplinary action according to UTEP policy. For more information, please see <https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/osccr/student-conduct/academic-integrity.html>.
- *Special Needs*. I will make any reasonable accommodations for students with limitations due to disabilities, including learning disabilities. Please see me personally before or after class in the first two weeks or make an appointment to discuss any special needs you might have. If you have a documented disability and require specific accommodations, you will need to contact the Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) at 747-5148 or at cass@utep.edu, or stop by at Room 106 in the Union East Building.

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