

**The University of Texas at El Paso**  
**MUST 5322: Analysis of Modern Music**  
**Fall 2024 / 3 Credits**  
Time and place TBA

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Dominic Dousa    OFFICE: Fox Fine Arts 401C    OFFICE HOURS: TBA  
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For information about the instructor, please click [here](#) (UTEP Department of Music website).

**Prerequisites:** A passing score on the Graduate Music Theory Placement and department approval.

### COURSE MATERIALS

- Required Textbook: Kostka, *Materials and Techniques of Twentieth-Century Music*, 3rd edition (Prentice Hall, 2005)

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

- This graduate theory course focuses on the analysis of music that represents styles unique to the 20th and 21st centuries, including atonality, neoclassicism, impressionism, minimalism, film music, and more.

### 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 century.
- understand important stylistic trends in music of the 20th century 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.

### 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. Students who disrupt class will be dismissed and forfeit credit for any assignments, quizzes, or exams that take place that day.

Absences due to extenuating circumstances (illness, legal matter, emergency) must be documented and confirmed in writing. **Failure to notify the instructor or the Department of Music office (915-747-5606) of any extenuating circumstances before class (or, in the case of an immediate emergency, as soon as is possible), will result in no credit for any missed work.**

- *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.
- *Repertoire Analysis.* There will be a component to the course involving the application of analytic techniques to complete representative works of contemporary music.
- *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	August 26-30	The Breakdown of Traditional Tonality	
2	September 3-6	The Breakdown of Traditional Tonality (continued) / Modal Scales	
3	September 9-13	Modal Scales (continued) / Other 20th-Century Scales	
4	September 16-20	Other 20th-Century Scales / 20th-Century Chord Structures	
5	September 23-27	20th-Century Chord Structures (continued)	
6	September 30-October 4	<b>Midterm Exam #1</b> / Melody in 20th-Century Music	Midterm Exam #1
7	October 7-11	Voice Leading in 20th-Century Music / Pitch Centricity	
8	October 14-18	Atonality, Pitch-Class Set Analysis	
9	October 21-25	Pitch-Class Set Analysis (continued)	
10	October 28-November 1	Pitch-Class Set Analysis (continued) / <b>Midterm Exam #2</b>	Midterm Exam #2
11	November 4-8	Rhythmic Devices, Timbre, and Texture in 20th-Century Music	
12	November 11-15	Stylistic Trends: Neo-Classicism, Neo-Romanticism, Minimalism	
13	November 18-22	Analysis of Representative 20th-Century Works	
14	November 25-27	Analysis of Representative 20th-Century Works (continued)	
15	December 1-5	Analysis of Representative 20th-Century Works (continued)	
FINALS WEEK	December 8-12	<b>Final Exam (*date and time TBA)</b>	Final Exam

## GRADING

Grades will be calculated based on homework, the analysis project, quizzes, 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
Repertoire Analysis	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

### SAMPLE SEMESTER GRADE CALCULATION

Homework: 280 out of 300 total points earned = 93.3%

Repertoire Analysis: 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 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. Please check UTEP's Academic Calendar for specific dates.
- 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](mailto: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.**