

# MUT 1111: Music Theory I

## Useful information

Class website:	Accessible through Canvas (go to <a href="https://canvas.fsu.edu">canvas.fsu.edu</a> ). The class website includes homework, handouts, practice quizzes and exams, a list of instructors and office hours for each section, and other important information.
Course supervisor:	Dr. Nancy Rogers; <a href="mailto:Nancy.Rogers@fsu.edu">Nancy.Rogers@fsu.edu</a> Longmire 406; 850-644-4142 (O); 571-451-8462 (H) Office hours Monday 2:30-3:30, Wednesday 12:00-1:00, and Friday 12:00-1:00; other times by appointment.
Instructors:	Artur Akshelyan, Cameron Gwynn, Hayden Harper, Alex Hill, Brian Junttila, and Gillian Radcliffe (office hours and contact information are on Canvas).
No-fee course tutor:	Luis Bezerra, a graduate student in Music Theory and Composition, is the designated no-fee tutor for all sections (hours and contact information are on Canvas).

## Required textbooks and materials

Clendinning/Marvin      *The Musician's Guide to Theory and Analysis*, 4<sup>th</sup> ed. (2021)

*The Musician's Guide* series includes a collection of materials; we will be using the textbook, workbook, and anthology. (Recordings and various study aids are available through Norton's website, which is linked from Canvas.) This discounted bundle is available at the FSU Bookstore, or you may purchase the components online. You will be using it throughout the core theory curriculum.

You should bring staff paper and a pencil with an eraser (not just a pen!) to every class. It is also highly recommended that you keep an organized notebook of all handouts, graded assignments, quizzes, etc.

## Course description and goals

This semester, we will master music fundamentals and the conventions of notation, and we will become familiar with some important analytical terms and symbols that will allow us to convey musical thoughts clearly and efficiently. We will also establish the principles of counterpoint and begin our study of functional harmony and four-part writing. Additionally, this course will informally foster the development of related aural skills. Our long-term goal is to build an effective framework for understanding and interpreting musical structures.

## Grading components

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

Homework and tutoring (see next page)	40%
Quizzes	10%
Midterm exam	20%
Final exam	30%

Homework and Tutoring

40%

You will be given frequent (almost daily) homework assignments, most of which will be relatively short. Homework must be completed independently; collaborative efforts will not receive credit. Regardless of an assignment's length or point total, all assignments will be weighted equally. The complete list of homework assignments for the entire semester is posted on Canvas. Homework is due at the beginning of class; late homework cannot be accepted unless an absence is excused (in which case it is due within a reasonable length of time, normally at the beginning of the next class). If you know you will miss class and the absence will not be excused, you may submit homework electronically by the start of class.

The combination of homework and tutoring is worth 40% of your overall grade. 30% will simply reflect the scores of the assignments. The remaining 10% will reflect the apparent effort you make to learn from your mistakes by reviewing assignments with a designated tutor or an instructor for this course. (This is a free service for you.)

- When you review your work on any given assignment within one week of its return, you earn 100% tutoring credit for that assignment.
- If your score on any given assignment is below 70%, you are required to review that assignment with the tutor or an instructor within one week. If you do so, you will earn 100% tutoring credit for that assignment. If not, you will receive 0% tutoring credit for that assignment.
- If your score on any given assignment is 70% or higher, there is no tutoring requirement for that assignment. If you choose to review your work with the tutor or an instructor, you will earn 100% tutoring credit for that assignment. If not, your tutoring credit will match the assignment grade (i.e., the tutoring component will have neither a positive nor a negative impact on your grade for that particular assignment).

For further clarification, some illustrations of the tutoring policy and its effect on grades are provided online. Naturally, you are also encouraged to work with the tutor on general concepts and in preparing for quizzes and exams. This is optional, but strongly recommended.

Quizzes

10%

Every week or two, you will be given a short timed quiz. The complete list of quizzes for the entire semester is posted on Canvas; there are no "pop quizzes" in this class. Additionally, practice quizzes will always be provided (both in class and online) so that you will always know the quiz content and format in advance. Your instructor (or a course tutor) will be happy to correct your practice quiz so that you will be well prepared.

Midterm Exam

20%

On Wednesday, October 11, you will take the midterm exam during your regular 50-minute class period. A practice midterm will be provided online one week in advance. Your instructor (or a course tutor) will be happy to correct your practice midterm.

Final Exam

30%

On Monday, December 11, students in all sections will take the final exam from 12:30-2:30 in Opperman Music Hall. A practice final will be provided online one week in advance. Your instructor (or a course tutor) will be happy to correct your practice final.

## Grading policies

Homework and quizzes will be corrected and returned to you as soon as possible, generally at the beginning of the next class. Grades will be posted on Canvas so that you will always have an approximate idea of your current grade and can double-check the accuracy of our tutoring records. Please be aware, however, that Canvas does not always display averages correctly, and your official grade will be calculated through a spreadsheet outside of Canvas. You will receive updates on your official homework and quiz averages periodically, and you are welcome to make additional grade inquiries at any time.

Unless you have made prior arrangements with your instructor, any missed homework, quizzes, and exams will receive a 0 except in the case of a genuine emergency or documented illness (supported by a note from a health care provider or evidence of a COVID test). Late homework (including homework completed during class) and collaborative efforts cannot be accepted. Assignments may be submitted electronically (assuming they are on time).

Everyone has a bad day now and then. For this reason, your lowest quiz grade and your lowest three homework grades will be dropped when calculating your overall average. (Exam grades, however, will *not* be dropped.)

Letter grades for all sections of this course will be assigned as follows:

A	93-100	B-	80-82	D+	67-69
A-	90-92	C+	77-79	D	63-66
B+	87-89	C	73-76	D-	60-62
B	83-86	C-	70-72	F	below 60

## Attendance and participation policy

Improvement of any skill requires regular practice; attendance is therefore mandatory. Two unexcused absences are allowed without penalty, but each subsequent unexcused absence will result in a 3% deduction from your final grade. Three significantly late arrivals (more than five minutes) or early departures will count as an absence. If you are physically present but disengaged with the class (e.g., using your phone, reading, doing homework for another class, or sleeping), you may be considered absent, at your instructor's discretion.

Excused absences include documented illness (including documentation of a COVID test with verification of the date it was taken), death 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.

Barring an acceptable excuse, missed exams and quizzes will not be made up and will receive a score of 0. If an assignment, quiz, or exam needs to be made up as a result of an unforeseeable excused absence, the student must alert the instructor within one day of returning to class and must make up the assignment or exam within a reasonable period of time (no more than two weeks of returning to class). When an excused absence is foreseeable, arrangements should be made in advance and a missed quiz or exam should be taken as close to the regular date as possible.

## Syllabus Change Policy

Except for changes that substantially affect evaluation or the exam schedule, this syllabus is a guide for the course and is subject to change. You will receive advance notice.

## **Academic honor code and code of conduct**

The Florida State University Academic Honor Policy outlines the University's expectations for the integrity of students' academic work, the procedures for resolving alleged violations of those expectations, and the rights and responsibilities of students and faculty members throughout the process. Students are responsible for reading the Academic Honor Policy and for living up to their pledge to "... be honest and truthful and ... [to] strive for personal and institutional integrity at Florida State University." (Florida State University Academic Honor Policy, found at <http://fda.fsu.edu/Academics/Academic-Honor-Policy>.) In this class, homework must be completed independently; collaborative efforts will not receive credit. All work submitted for this course must be original to the course and to you.

You are also expected to uphold the principles of the FSU Student Conduct Code; violations will not be tolerated. The Conduct Code prohibits "acts that impair, interfere with, or obstruct the orderly conduct, processes, and functions of the University or the rights of other members of the University community. This includes acts that occur both inside and outside of the classroom setting and may involve use of electronic or cellular equipment."

## **Academic success**

Your academic success is a top priority for Florida State University. University resources to help you succeed include the College of Music's Office of Student Success, tutoring centers, computer labs, counseling and health services, and services for designated groups, such as veterans and students with disabilities. The following information is not exhaustive, so please check with your advisor or the Department of Student Support and Transitions to learn more.

## **Students with disabilities**

Florida State University values diversity and inclusion; we are committed to a climate of mutual respect and full participation. Our goal is to create learning environments that are usable, equitable, inclusive, and welcoming. FSU is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities in a manner that is consistent with academic standards of the course while empowering the student to meet integral requirements of the course. To receive academic accommodations, a student:

- must register with and provide documentation to the Office of Accessibility Services;
- must provide a letter from the OAS to the instructor indicating the need for accommodation and what type; and
- should communicate with the instructor, as needed, to discuss recommended accommodations. A request for a meeting may be initiated by the student or the instructor.

Please note that instructors are not allowed to provide classroom accommodations to a student until appropriate verification from the Office of Accessibility Services has been provided.

This syllabus and other class materials are available in alternative format upon request. For more information about services available to FSU students with disabilities, contact the Office of Accessibility Services, 874 Traditions Way, 108 Student Services Building, Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL 32306-4167, 850-644-9566 (voice), 850-644-8504 (TDD), <https://dsst.fsu.edu/oas>, [oas@fsu.edu](mailto:oas@fsu.edu).

## Confidential campus resources

Various centers and programs are available to assist students with navigating stressors that might impact academic success. These include the following:

Victim Advocate Program  
University Center A, #4100  
(850) 644-7161 (24 / 7 / 365)  
Office Hours: M-F 8:00-5:00  
<https://dsst.fsu.edu/vap>

University Counseling Center  
Askew Student Life Center  
942 Learning Way, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
(850) 644-8255  
<https://counseling.fsu.edu/>

University Health Services  
Health and Wellness Center  
(850) 644-6230  
<https://uhs.fsu.edu/>

## Recording classes

In this class, consistent with state law and university policy, students are permitted to make recordings of class lectures for personal use only. As noted, sharing, posting, or publishing classroom recordings may subject you to honor code violations and legal penalties associated with theft of intellectual property and violations of other state laws. Moreover, students and educators have expressed concern that recording classroom activities may negatively impact the learning experience for others, especially in classes involving questions, discussion, or participation. To preserve a learning environment in which everyone feels free to experiment with ideas, we ask you refrain from recording in ways that could make others feel reluctant to ask questions, explore new ideas, or otherwise participate in class. Students must monitor their recording so that they do not include participation by other students without permission. Students with disabilities will continue to have appropriate accommodations for recordings as established by the Office of Accessibility Services.

## Public health protocols

Classes are expected to continue to meet in person this semester. If necessary, however, we will shift to remote instruction. There are currently no mask mandates in place at FSU, but it is likely that not everyone in class will feel the same way about public health protocols. Some members of our community remain more at risk than others. We encourage everyone to be patient with one another while we navigate these ongoing challenges, and also to comply with public health protocols, including:

- getting fully vaccinated,
- washing your hands frequently,
- wearing a mask in crowded indoor spaces, especially if the gathering is large (e.g., a conference or a festival),
- being tested for the virus if you have symptoms, and
- staying home and away from others if you are sick.

Fortunately, the COVID-19 and M-pox pandemics appear to be receding. However, in order to continue meeting in person, we must all work together as a community to protect one another and to promote our shared health and safety in indoor spaces. FSU will continue to monitor all public health issues. Whatever happens, we are committed to helping you learn the material thoroughly and stay on schedule with your degree program. You can find up-to-date guidance at <https://stayhealthy.fsu.edu>.