MUT 1111: Music Theory I

Useful information

Class website: Accessible through Canvas (go to canvas.fsu.edu). 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
Longmire 406; Nancy.Rogers@fsu.edu; 850-644-4142
Office hours Monday and Wednesday 12:00-1:00; Friday 2:30-3:20; other times by appointment.

Instructors: Alan Elkins, Stan Fink, Aaron Houston, Quentin Jones, and Lincoln Sandham (office hours and contact information on Canvas).

Course tutors: Julian Jenson and Maggie Nicks are the designated no-fee tutors for all sections (hours and contact information on Canvas).

Required textbooks and materials

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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Homework and tutoring</td>
<td>40%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm exam</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final exam</td>
<td>30%</td>
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</tbody>
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Homework and Tutoring

Homework and Tutoring

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.

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 Julian Jenson or Maggie Nicks, the designated tutors 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 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, 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

Quizzes

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

Midterm Exam

On Monday, October 8, 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

Final Exam

On Wednesday, December 12, students in all sections will take the final exam from 3:00-5:00 in Ruby Diamond Concert 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. You will receive updates on your homework and quiz averages periodically, and you are welcome to make other 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 significant illness (supported by a note from a health care provider). Late homework (including homework completed during class) and collaborative efforts cannot be accepted.

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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade letter</th>
<th>Grade range</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93-100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87-89</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83-86</td>
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<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80-82</td>
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<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77-79</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>73-76</td>
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<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70-72</td>
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<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>67-69</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>63-66</td>
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<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>60-62</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>below 60</td>
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Attendance 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 or early departures (more than five minutes) 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.

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.

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 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.
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://dof.fsu.edu/honorpolicy.htm.) 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.”

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.