

MUT 5751: Pedagogy of Music Theory I

How to reach me

Office: Longmire 406
Office hours: Monday 3:30-4:30, Wednesday 2:30-3:00, and Friday 12:00-1:00; other times by appointment. I am frequently in my office, and you are always welcome to drop by.
Phone: 850-644-4142 (office); 571-451-8462 (cel)
E-mail: nancy.rogers@fsu.edu
Paper mail: Leave a note on my bulletin board (beside my office door) or in my faculty mailbox (second floor of Kuersteiner, by the lounge).
Faculty website: <http://myweb.fsu.edu/nrogers/>
Class website: Accessible through Canvas (<https://canvas.fsu.edu>). The class website includes discussion boards, a course schedule, homework, handouts, and other useful information.

Recommended texts

Peter C. Brown, Henry L. Roediger III, and Mark A. McDaniel, *Make It Stick: The Science of Successful Learning* (Belknap Press, 2014).
Gary Karpinski, *Aural Skills Acquisition: The Development of Listening, Reading, and Performing Skills in College-Level Musicians* (Oxford University Press, 2000).
Rachel Lumsden and Jeffrey Swinkin, eds., *The Norton Guide to Teaching Music Theory* (Norton, 2018).
Michael Rogers, *Teaching Approaches in Music Theory: An Overview of Pedagogical Philosophies*, second edition (Southern Illinois University Press, 2004).
Leigh VanHandel, ed., *The Routledge Companion to Music Theory Pedagogy* (Routledge, 2020).

Course description

This class is indispensable for anyone preparing to teach those core undergraduate classes that are typically described as “music theory.” Such classes include several different (though related) areas of musicianship — most notably music fundamentals, harmony and voice leading, sight-singing, dictation, and analysis. We will discuss various pedagogical approaches to these disciplines, read germane books and articles, examine a variety of textbooks, and demonstrate classroom procedures through model teaching.

Primary course goal: to prepare you for teaching first-year theory and aural skills courses by discussing pedagogical philosophy and practical techniques, familiarizing you with a variety of current textbooks, and providing classroom teaching experience with substantial feedback.

Secondary course goal: to address the harmony and part-writing skills that are central to successful theory teaching (and, not coincidentally, necessary to pass the melody harmonization and keyboard harmony competency exams required of all graduate Music Theory majors, some Composition majors, and all students in the Specialized Studies Program in Pedagogy of Music Theory).

Grading components and weighting

Your overall grade will be calculated as outlined below.

Class contributions:	25%
Constructive and prompt model teaching feedback (10%)	
Solmization debate and four pedagogical assignments (10%)	
General participation in discussions (5%)	
Part-writing assignments (eight)	10%
Model teaching (two: 10% + 15%)	25%
Textbook review projects (three: 10% + 10% + 10%)	30%
Final exam	10%

Unless you have made prior arrangements with me, any late or missed homework, projects, exams, and model teaching will receive a 0 except in the case of a genuine emergency, significant illness (supported by a note from a health care provider), or COVID exposure (supported by evidence of a COVID test).

Letter grades 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

The success of this class depends largely on student participation. We are all relying on you to prepare for class by completing the assigned reading, thoughtfully reflecting on any discussion topics provided in advance, developing meticulous lesson plans when it's your turn to teach, and so on. Your contributions to in-class and online discussion will be interpreted as indications of your preparation. Regular attendance is therefore required; each unexcused absence will reduce your semester grade by 2%.

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.

It is against College of Music policy for juries, rehearsals, accompanying duties, etc. to conflict with classes for which you are registered. Keep in mind, though, that no one can solve a scheduling conflict for you unless you first inform someone that the conflict exists. It is your responsibility to bring such conflicts to the attention of the appropriate person.

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.

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, 2nd Floor
(850) 644-8255
<https://counseling.fsu.edu/>

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

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.

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 that 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.

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, all written work should be completed independently unless collaboration is explicitly allowed; inappropriate group efforts will not receive credit. While completing part-writing exercises, you may consult textbooks but not one another, friends, tutors, etc. (this includes proofreading). 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."

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.

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, I am committed to helping you learn the material thoroughly and stay on schedule with your degree program.

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.