



MUSIC THEORY I

MUS 1311 – Fall 2024

Section 03E - T/Th - 8:00-9:20 a.m. – Room 214

Instructor: Dr. Chad Houk

Email: Chad.Houk@tamuc.edu

Office Info: Music Bldg., Rm. 226

Office Hours: T/Th 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. and by appointment

Corequisite: MUS 1116 (Ear Training I)

Required Materials: *The Musician's Guide to Theory and Analysis* (4th edition), Clendinning/Marvin. (Textbook and workbook)
Digital resources and access code to InQuizitive
D2L (www.myleonline.tamuc.edu; log in using student email address)
Scanning software to scan documents to PDF for D2L
Zoom, if needed (<https://zoom.us/signup>)

Student support links for your textbook in D2L:

How to register for InQuizitive:	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HFNI_ZWfh04
InQuizitive tech support for students:	https://www.wwnorton.com/tech-support

Course Description: Theory I is the first course in a four-semester sequence which examines notational, harmonic, and compositional practices of the Western art music tradition. This course focuses on the development of analytical and compositional skills, with particular emphasis on the music of the Common Practice Era (CPE)

Student Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to accomplish the following in each category:

Melody

- Identify all melodic interval types
- Identify and utilize essential principles of note-to-note counterpoint and contrapuntal embellishments

Harmony

- Construct and identify major and minor chords
- Construct and identify all seventh chord types
- Demonstrate, through composition and analysis, an understanding of all major and minor chord types
- Demonstrate, through composition and analysis, an understanding of all major and minor keys

Rhythm

- Demonstrate, through composition and analysis, an understanding of rhythmic notation and of simple and compound meters

Composition

- Compose original works utilizing 16th-century counterpoint, chorale style, and/or simple keyboard style

Course Requirements: There will be frequent homework assignments utilizing both analytical and compositional skills. **All** work should be done in pencil. Homework is expected to be turned in on the date on which it is due in the D2L course shell. Late work will be penalized according to the Late Work Policy unless prior arrangements have been made with the instructor.

To Turn in Assignments using D2L, go to course shell -> Activities tab -> Assignments -> upload homework document.

Often it may be helpful for students to work on homework assignments with a partner or in groups. When done correctly, this can serve as a proven method for success for students who may be struggling with a particular concept in class. *However, take care that the completed assignment reflects your own understanding of the material and is not merely a copy of a classmate or colleague's work.* Doing so will help to ensure that your efforts in the class are both fruitful (reflecting the very purpose of homework) and intellectually honest.

You are encouraged to utilize the Counterpoint Café program for tutoring throughout the semester and may be prompted to do so.

At minimum, three examinations will be given during the semester. Specific information as to exam content will be provided at least a week before the exam is administered. In addition, there will be occasional quizzes of varying scope and length, **both announced and unannounced**, which may count toward or against students' class participation grade.

As time and circumstances permit, in addition to homework and exams, there will be a final project for which the student will compose a short work in a particular style. Specific details as to timing and content will be provided later in the semester.

Assessment:	Exams:	30%	
	Homework:	30%	
	InQuizitive:	20%	
	Final Project:	10%	
	Class Participation:	10%	
	A = 90-100	C = 70-79	F = 0-59
	B = 80-89	D = 60-69	

Attendance Policy: The University Catalog states, “Students are expected to be present for all class meetings of any course for which they are enrolled.” Sporadic attendance is a waste of your intellectual and financial resources. Unless they are the result of a medical or family emergency, excused absences (as defined by the Catalog) need to be arranged beforehand with the instructor; in the case of illness, the instructor may require a doctor's note. Each student is allowed up to three unexcused absences over the course of the semester. Additional unexcused absences may result in the lowering of the final grade and, in rare and extreme cases, the student being dropped from the course. Six absences will automatically result in the student failing the course.

Late Work Policy: In order to keep up in this course, and so that your work may be graded in a timely manner, it is essential that you turn assignments in on time. Therefore, while a grace period of 24 hours will generally be offered for homework assignments, after this time the earned grade will be lowered by ten grade points per subsequent day and may not be accepted for any credit after one week.

Technology Policy: The use of cell phones and computers for non-class purposes is prohibited during class time. During class, all cell phones should be turned off or silenced and put away from the desk. If a cell phone needs to be used for medical reasons or for an emergency, its use needs to be cleared with the instructor before class. Laptops and tablets may be used to access course materials and complete classroom tasks; however, use of these devices for some reason not related to this class is not permitted. Unauthorized use of a cell phone, laptop, or tablet during class will result in the student receiving a failing grade for that day's attendance.

Note Bene: The study of music theory is an essential and important component of the developing musician's education. Far from being just another “required course,” music theory forms the foundation of nearly all higher-ed courses in music. Theory is also a subject where the concepts are presented sequentially, each leading to the next. As such, it is imperative that the student be proactive if they are having issues with a particular topic. Do not wait in frustration; ask a question in class, seek me out before or after class, or e-mail me to set up a time to meet individually.

The following statements are required by either University policy, state, or federal law:

University Mission Statement:

Texas A&M University-Commerce nurtures and educates for success through access to academic research and service programs of high quality.

Music Department Mission Statement:

The Music Department of Texas A&M University-Commerce promotes excellence in music through the rigorous study of music history, literature, theory, composition, pedagogy, and the preparation of music performance in applied study and ensembles to meet the highest standards of aesthetic expression.

Disability Resources Statement:

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and
Services Texas A&M University-Commerce
Waters Library, Room 132
908.886.5150, or 903.886.5835, phone
903.468.8148, fax
StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu

Non-Discrimination Statement:

A&M-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

Behavioral Statement: All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment.

Concealed Carry Statement:

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations. For a list of locations, see <http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf> and/or consult your event organizer). Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

MUS 1311: TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE

Syllabus is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor

Week 1 8/27-8/29	Course and D2L Introduction Pitch and Pitch Class [InQuizitive Chapter 1 and Homework Packet 1]	Chapter 1
Week 2 9/3-9/5	Simple Meters [InQuizitive Chapter 2 and Homework Packet 2]	Chapter 2
Week 3 9/10-9/12	Pitch Collections, Scales, and Major Keys [InQuizitive Chapter 3 and Homework Packet 3]	Chapter 3
Week 4 9/17-9/19	Compound Meters [InQuizitive Chapter 4 and Homework Packet 4]	Chapter 4
Week 5 9/24-9/26	EXAM I over Chapters 1-4 Minor Keys and Diatonic Modes [InQuizitive Chapter 5 and Homework Packet 5]	Chapter 5
Week 6 10/1-10/3	Intervals [InQuizitive Chapter 6 and Homework Packet 6]	Chapter 6
Week 7 10/8-10/10	Review and EXAM II (MID-TERM EXAM)	
Week 8 10/15-10/17	Triads [InQuizitive Chapter 7 and Homework Packet 7]	Chapter 7
Week 9 10/22-10/24	Seventh Chords [InQuizitive Chapter 8 and Homework Packet 8]	Chapter 8
Week 10 10/29-10/31	EXAM III over Chapters 7-8	
Week 11 11/5-11/7	Note-to-Note Counterpoint [InQuizitive Chapter 9 and Homework Packet 9]	Chapter 9
Week 12 11/12-11/14	Embellishing Two-Part Texture [InQuizitive Chapter 10 and Homework Packet 10]	Chapter 10
Week 13 11/19-11/21	Soprano and Bass Lines in 18th-Century Style [InQuizitive Chapter 11 and Homework Packet 11]	Chapter 11
Week 14 11/26	Composition Project Wrap-Up	
Week 15 12/3-12/5	Composition Project Wrap-Up (Cont'd) Review for FINAL EXAM	
FINAL EXAM	Tuesday, December 10, 8:00-10:00 a.m.	