



MUSIC THEORY I

MUS 1311 – Fall 2025

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

Instructor: Dr. Chad Houk

Email: Chad.Houk@etamu.edu

Office Info: Music Bldg., Adjunct Office

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
Pencils, erasers, manuscript paper
Scanning software to scan documents to PDF for D2L

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.

Participation/interaction will be expected during all class activities and attendance will be recorded at the beginning of each class meeting.

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.***

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:	15%	
	Class Participation:	15%	
	Final Project:	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 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:

School of Music 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.

University Mission Statement:

East Texas A&M University provides a personal educational experience for a diverse community of life-long learners. Our purpose is to discover and disseminate knowledge for leadership and service in an interconnected and dynamic world. Our challenge is to nurture partnerships for the intellectual, cultural, social, and economic vitality of Texas and beyond.

ETAMU Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance](#) webpage and [Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01](#). <http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf>

Academic Integrity

Students at East Texas A&M University are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

UNDERGRADUATE POLICIES

[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03](#)

[Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/documents/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyForm.pdf>

Students with Disabilities

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

East Texas A&M University

Velma K. Waters Library Room 162

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Email: studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

East Texas A&M University Supports Students' Mental Health

The Counseling Center at East Texas A&M, located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers counseling services, educational programming, and connection to community resources for students. Students have 24/7 access to the Counseling Center's crisis assessment services by calling 903-886-5145. For more information regarding Counseling Center events and confidential services, please visit www.tamuc.edu/counsel

Student Conduct and Tenets of Common Behavior:

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

The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the Current University Student Guidebook

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum: <https://www.britannica.com/topic/netiquette>

Campus 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, please refer to the [Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus](#) document and/or consult your event organizer.

Web url: <http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

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.

Nondiscrimination Notice

East Texas A&M University 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.

Communication and Support

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your Instructor.

Technology Requirements

All course sections offered by East Texas A&M University have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are technical requirements:

LMS Requirements

<https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements>

LMS Browser Support

https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm

Zoom Video Conferencing Tool

https://inside.tamuc.edu/campuslife/CampusServices/CITESupportCenter/Zoom_Account.aspx?source=universalmenu

Access and Navigation:

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@etamu.edu.

Note: Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a ETAMU campus open computer lab, etc.

Technical Support:

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found here:

<https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport>

Health and Wellness

As an Institutional Member of the National Association of Schools of Music, East Texas State A&M University supports the Association's commitment to student health and wellness. The following web address provides links to information for resources related to physical and mental well-being, as well as assists in offering preventative measures that students can take to avoid serious and/or chronic conditions:

[Musician Health and Safety - East Texas A&M University](#)

MUS 1311: TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE

Syllabus is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor

Week 1 8/26-8/28	Course and D2L Introduction Pitch and Pitch Class [InQuizitive Chapter 1 and Homework Packet 1]	Chapter 1
Week 2 9/2-9/4	Simple Meters [InQuizitive Chapter 2 and Homework Packet 2]	Chapter 2
Week 3 9/9-9/11	Pitch Collections, Scales, and Major Keys [InQuizitive Chapter 3 and Homework Packet 3]	Chapter 3
Week 4 9/16-9/18	Compound Meters [InQuizitive Chapter 4 and Homework Packet 4]	Chapter 4
Week 5 9/23-9/25	Minor Keys and Diatonic Modes [InQuizitive Chapter 5 and Homework Packet 5]	Chapter 5
Week 6 9/30-10/2	EXAM I over Chapters 1-4 Intervals [InQuizitive Chapter 6 and Homework Packet 6]	Chapter 6
Week 7 10/7-10/9	Triads [InQuizitive Chapter 7 and Homework Packet 7]	Chapter 7
Week 8 10/14-10/16	Review and EXAM II (MID-TERM EXAM)	
Week 9 10/21-10/23	Seventh Chords [InQuizitive Chapter 8 and Homework Packet 8]	Chapter 8
Week 10 10/28-10/30	Note-to-Note Counterpoint [InQuizitive Chapter 9 and Homework Packet 9]	Chapter 9
Week 11 11/4-11/6	EXAM III over Chapters 7-8	
Week 12 11/11-11/13	Embellishing Two-Part Texture [InQuizitive Chapter 10 and Homework Packet 10]	Chapter 10
Week 13 11/18-11/20	Soprano and Bass Lines in 18th-Century Style [InQuizitive Chapter 11 and Homework Packet 11]	Chapter 11
Week 14 11/25	Composition Project Wrap-Up	
Week 15 12/2-12/4	Composition Project Wrap-Up (Cont'd) Review for FINAL EXAM	
FINAL EXAM	Tuesday, December 9, 8:00-10:00 a.m.	