



MUS 1311 01E
Music Theory I
Course Syllabus: Fall 2025

Instructor Information

Instructor:	Ethan Gainer
Classroom Location:	Music Building Rm. 213, MWF 8 – 9am
Office Location:	Music Building Theory/Ear Adjunct Office
Office Hours:	Appointment Request by Email
Office Phone:	---
University E-mail:	Ethan.Gainer@etamu.edu
Preferred Form of Communication:	Email
Communication Response Time:	24 - 48 hours

I will reply to myLEO emails within a 24-48 hour period of time during M-F. If I receive an email on Friday, I will reply on or before the next class day. I will give notice of days that I'll be out-of-the-office or unable to hold class to students' myLEO emails. It is a student's responsibility to monitor myLEO emails for class-related announcements and personal feedback. D2L will reflect communications from class/emails.

Course Curriculum

Required Materials: The Musician's Guide to Theory and Analysis (4th Edition) Clendinning/Marvin. (Textbook, Workbook & Digital Bundle)

-Online access to InQuizitive.

-Digital Resources and access code (found in your book bundle).

-D2L/LMS (Learning Management System)

*Login using your same login as your email

-Staff Paper, Ruler, & Pencils

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 in a four-semester sequence which examines the 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 musical key areas.

Rhythm:

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

Composition:

- Compose original works in a chorale style, and 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 to be turned in by the day/deadline which it is due as stated in D2L. **Late assignments, (Homework, Supplemental Work, InQuizitives, Pop Quizzes, Exams, and Final Project) will not be accepted for credit unless prearranged with the instructor by email with approval confirmation by the instructor at least 24 hours prior to the due date. Assignments not meeting the guidelines dictated through D2L will be graded as zero.**

To Turn in Assignments using D2L, go to course shell -> Activities tab -> Assignments -> upload homework document. (Make sure that work is uploaded in ONE pdf legible copy and includes all pages/the entire assignment.)

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 work efforts in the class are both fruitful (reflecting the very purpose of homework) and intellectually honest.

Class participation/interaction will be prevalent this term via classwork discussions and examples taken from resources relevant to chapter topics for concept mastery purposes. Roll call will take place at the beginning of each class meeting.

You are encouraged to utilize the **Counterpoint Café** program for tutoring at any time 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 frequent quizzes of varying scope and length, both announced **and unannounced**.

If time permits, in addition to Homework and Exams, there will be a **Final Project** of which the student will compose a short work. Specific details as to timing and content will be provided during the semester and could possibly be performed in class.

Note:

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, which is a reason for its placement at the very start of undergraduate music studies. 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 your instructor out via email or by appointment.

Grading

A final grade will be calculated using the following scale:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------|
| • Attendance & Participation | 15% of final grade |
| • InQuizitives & Class Pop Quizzes | 15% of final grade |
| • Homework | 30% of final grade |
| • Exams | 30% of final grade |
| • Final Project | 10% of final grade |

Grading Scale

A = 90 to 100% / B = 80 to 89% / C = 70 to 79% / D = 60 to 69% / F = 59 and below

Attendance Policy

Regular and prompt attendance and active engagement in the class is expected. The student's attendance grade is calculated by the number of times present divided by the total number of class meetings. Students who are present but do not engage in the discussion may not receive attendance at the discretion of the instructor.

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.

Excused absences, as defined by the Catalog, need to be prearranged with the instructor at least 24 hours in advance. I prefer email communication.

Students that have a total of 6 absences, whether excused or not, will either earn a failing grade or will be dropped from the course through means of an administrative drop at the discretion of the instructor due to excessive absences.

Illness Policy

A&M-Commerce recommends the use of face-coverings in all instructional and research classrooms/laboratories. Students should not attend class when ill or after exposure to anyone with a communicable illness. Communicate such instances directly with your instructor. Faculty will work to support the student getting access to missed content or completing missed assignments.

Use of Computers and Cell Phones

No computers or cell phones are allowed during class. Technology should be silenced and stored away out of respect for the learning environment, unless approved as an accommodation through Student Disabilities Services. Academic Research continues to show the benefits of taking notes by hand as the best way to facilitate memory, attention, and learning.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

LMS

All course sections offered by Texas A&M University-Commerce have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are technical requirements. **Technology will be utilized outside of class time.**

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

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

Course and University Procedures / Policies

University Mission Statement:

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

School of Music Mission Statement:

The School of Music at East Texas A&M University 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.

Syllabus Change Policy

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

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 Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03](#)

Students with Disabilities-- ADA 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

East Texas A&M University

Waters Library, Room 132

908.886.5150, or 903.886.5835, phone

903.468.8148, fax

StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu

Non-Discrimination Statement:

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.

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. (See current Student Guidebook).

Mental Health Policy

The Counseling Center at East Texas A&M University, 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

Campus Concealed Carry Statement

Campus Concealed Carry - Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in East Texas A&M University 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 East Texas A&M University Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations. For a list of locations, please refer to:

<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 East Texas A&M University campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

AI use policy [Draft 2, May 25, 2023]

East Texas A&M University acknowledges that there are legitimate uses of Artificial Intelligence, ChatBots, or other software that has the capacity to generate text, or suggest replacements for text beyond individual words, as determined by the instructor of the course.

Any use of such software must be documented. Any undocumented use of such software constitutes an instance of academic dishonesty (plagiarism).

Individual instructors may disallow entirely the use of such software for individual assignments or for the entire course. Students should be aware of such requirements and follow their instructors' guidelines. If no instructions are provided the student should assume that the use of such software is disallowed.

In any case, students are fully responsible for the content of any assignment they submit, regardless of whether they used an AI, in any way. This specifically includes cases in which the AI plagiarized another text or misrepresented sources.

13.99.99.R0.03 Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty

13.99.99.R0.10 Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty

TENTATIVE THEORY I COURSE SCHEDULE

**The Syllabus is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor. **

Week I	Course and D2L introduction	Chapter 1
(Aug. 25 -29)	Solfege, scale degree numbers and melodic contour	
Week II	Simple Meters	
Chapter 2		
(No classes on Sept. 1, Labor Day)		
(Attend class Sept. 2 -5)		
Week III	Pitch Collections, Scales and Major Keys	Chapter 3
(Sept. 8-12)		
Week IV	Compound Meters	
Chapter 4		
(Sept. 15-19)		
Week V	Minor Keys and Diatonic Modes	Chapter 5
(Sept. 22-26)	Exam 1	
Week VI	Minor Keys and Diatonic Modes Cont...	Chapter 5
(Sept. 29-Oct. 3)		
Week VII	Intervals	Chapter 6
(Oct. 6-10)		
Week VIII	Intervals cont...	Chapter 6
(Oct. 13-17)	Exam 2	
Week IX	Triads	Chapter 7
(Oct. 20-24)		
Week X	Triads Cont...	Chapter 7
(Oct. 27-31)		
Week XI	Seventh Chords	Chapter 8
(Nov. 3-7)		
Week XII	Seventh Chords Cont...	Chapter 8
(Nov. 10-14)		
Week XIII	Note-to-Note Counterpoint	Chapter 9

(Nov. 17-21)

Week XIV

Embellishing Two-Part Texture

Chapter 10

(Nov. 24-26)

Final Project Due

Thanksgiving Break (Nov. 27-28)

Week XV

Embellishing Two-Part Texture Cont...

Chapter 10

(Dec. 1-5)

Final Review

Week XVI

FINALS WEEK (Final Exam TBA)

(Dec. 8-12)