



# THEORY III

MUS 2311.02E  
Fall 2025  
MWF  
8 – 8:50 AM  
Room 214

Nathan Philipp

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Office Hours; Tuesdays MW 10 AM- 11AM

Concurrent Enrollment: MUS 2116 (Ear Training III)

Required Materials: Clendinning, Jane Piper and Elizabeth West Marvin. 2020. *The Musician's Guide to Theory and Analysis*. Fourth Edition. New York, NY: W.W. Norton & Company, Inc.

- Textbook
- Workbook
- Inquisitive Access (online)
- Notebook/Binder with Music Staff Paper for notes
- Pencil
- Erasure

Course Description: Theory III is the third in a four-semester sequence which examines the notational, harmonic, and compositional practices of the Western art-music tradition. This course emphasizes the development of analytical and compositional skills, with particular focus on the music of the Common Practice Era (CPE), specifically music of the Romantic era.

Student Learning Outcomes:

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

Chromatic Principles

- Construct and identify secondary dominant chords, leading tone chords.
- Modulation: closely related keys, enharmonic keys and foreign keys,
- Binary Form, Ternary Form, Fugue and Invention
- Modal Mixture
- Neapolitan Sixth Chords and Augmented Sixth Chords

- Chromatic Voice-Leading, Chromatic Modulation
- Sonata Form, Rondo Form, Fugue, Sonatina, Vocal and Popular Forms
- Demonstrate, through composition and analysis, an understanding of chromatic harmony and form.
- Demonstrate, through composition and analysis, an understanding of common-practice functional harmony and form.

#### Composition

- Compose original works in a chorale style, and simple keyboard style

#### Course Requirements:

##### All Homework needs to be

- **Completed in pencil**
- **Use Legible, readable, tidy handwriting**
- **Scanned AS A SINGLE PDF file and UPLOADED to D2L.**
- **Uploaded by the due date and time listed online in D2L.**

**Homework** is to be turned in during class on the day on which it is due.

**Late assignments will not be accepted for credit** unless a previous arrangement (more than 24 hours) has been made with the instructor. **Homework not meeting the guidelines above will be graded as a zero.**

**Cheating will result in failure of the course and a disciplinary report on your record.** 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.

Several **Exams** will be given during the semester – usually **three**, but **sometimes four**. Specific information as to exam content will be provided **at least a week before** the exam is administered.

**Quiz** content is assigned and completed online using **Inquisitive**.

**Failure to complete Inquisitive by the due date will result in a zero on the quiz.**

Failure to complete Inquisitive is often the number one reason students perform poorly in this course.

**Remember to open Inquisitive through D2L, otherwise your grade will not be recorded.**

The Final **Project** for this course will consist of a short, original composition for solo piano. Additional information regarding length and specific content will be provided during the semester.

**As a student, you are fully responsible for knowing and finding the content of every class that has been delivered in a lecture by an instructor.**

## Evaluation and Grading:

Course Component	Grade %
Assignments	30 %
Exams	40 %
Quizzes	30 %
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>

A = 90 – 100

C = 70 – 79

F = 0 – 59

B = 80 – 89

D = 60 – 69

(NOTE: If you are a music major and earn a course grade of D or lower, the course will need to be taken again. Theory III is a 3-credit hour course.)

## 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. **Note that 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](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](https://inside.tamuc.edu/campuslife/CampusServices/CITESupportCenter/Zoom_Account.aspx?source=universalmenu)

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. **Each student is allowed up to three unexcused absences over the course of the semester.**

**Additional unexcused absences result in the lowering of the final grade until being dropped from the course due to absences. (6 TOTAL ABSENCES ALLOWED, excused and/or unexcused)**

Cell Phone/Laptop Policy:

No cell phones in class  
Cell phones in your bag, on silent.  
No computers in class

Why? Academic Research continues to show that, despite the myriad of benefits that technology offers, using your hands to take notes is the best way to facilitate memory, attention, and learning. We will follow this research in the classroom.

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, 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 you, the student, be proactive if you 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.

**Required Statement:**

*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](#)*

**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 <http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStateMents/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.0>

[2.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.

### **A&M-Commerce Supports Students' Mental Health**

The Counseling Center at A&M-Commerce, 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](http://www.tamuc.edu/counsel)

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

Texas A&M University-Commerce 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

### **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 class and/or online.

**Full final exam schedule here:**

<https://inside.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/documents/2025%20Fall%20Final%20Exam%20Schedule%20Fall%20202580.pdf>

**MONDAY DECEMBER 8<sup>TH</sup> FROM 10:30 – 12:30**

## TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE

Theory III			
	Monday	Wednesday	Friday
1. August 25 / 27 / 29	Introduction to class	Review of Secondary Dominants V/V and V/x	Review Secondary Dominants vii/V and vii/x
2. September 1 / 3 / 5	<b>Labor Day No Class</b>	Modulation to closely related keys (22)	Modulation to closely related keys
3. September 8 / 10 / 12	Modulation Pivot chord	Modulation Pivot chord	<b>Modulation - direct and With common tones</b>
4. September 15 / 17 / 19	Binary Form – phrase design (23)	Binary Form – phrase and tonal structures	<b>Binary Form – Tonal Structures</b> Exam 1
5. September 22 / 24 / 26	Simple Ternary Form Composite Ternary Form	Simple Ternary Form Composite Ternary Form	Invention – step prog. and imitation (24)
6. October S29 / 1 / 3	Fugue – exposition, subject & answers	Fugue – exposition, subject & answers	Fugue - Episodes and special features
7. October 6 / 8 / 10	Variation – GB., chaconne, org. (25)	Variation – GB., chaconne, org.	<b>Themes and formal organization</b>
8. October 13 / 15 / 17	Midterm review	Midterm review	Midterm- Exam 2
9. October 20 / 22 / 24	Mode mixture – harmony and text setting. (26)	Spelling and function of mixture chords	Chromatic mediant
10. October 27 / 29 / 31	Chromatic mediant	Neapolitan 6 <sup>th</sup> chords (27)	Neapolitan 6 <sup>th</sup> chords
11. November 3 / 5 / 7	Augmented 6 <sup>th</sup> chords	Augmented 6 <sup>th</sup> chords	Augmented 6 <sup>th</sup> chords
12. November 10 / 12 / 14	<b>Chromatic Harmony and voice leading (28)</b>	Chromatic Harmony and voice leading (28)	<b>Exam 3 Chapters 25 - 27</b>
13. November 17 / 19 / 21	Vocal Forms (29)	Vocal Forms	Vocal Forms
14. Nov / Dec 24 / 26 / 28	Sonata Form (30)	<b>Thanksgiving - NO CLASS</b>	<b>Thanksgiving - NO CLASS</b>
15. December 1 / 3 / 5	Sonata Form	Sonata Form	Sonata Form

\*Syllabus is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor\*

Final Exam Schedule Fall 2025:

**MONDAY DECEMBER 8<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 A.M. – 12:30 P.M.**