



MUS 1311 02E
Music Theory I
Course Syllabus: Fall 2026

Instructor Information

Instructor:	Ethan Gainer
Classroom Location:	Music Building Room 213
Class Time:	Tuesdays & Thursdays, 8:00-9:20 a.m.
Office Hours:	MWF 10:00-11:00
University Email:	Ethan.Gainer@etamu.edu
Preferred Form of Communication:	Email
Communication Response Time:	Within 24 hours

It is a student's responsibility to monitor myLEO emails for class-related announcements and personal feedback. D2L will reflect communications from class and myLEO emails.

Course Curriculum

Required Materials:

- **The Musician's Guide to Theory and Analysis (5th Edition) Clendinning/Marvin.**
(Textbook, Workbook & Digital Bundle)
- You will need the Ear Training portion of the book bundle for Ear Training I.
- You will need online access to ***InQuizitive*** for quizzing and ***Tutorials*** for homework purposes.
- **Digital Resources and Access Code are found in your book bundle.**
- **D2L** <https://leoportal.tamuc.edu>
-Login using the same login as your email.
- Staff Paper & Pencils

Student support links for InQuizitive:

How do you Register for **InQuizitives**? Click **here**:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HFNI_ZWfh04

Do you need **Tech Support** for InQuizitive? Click **here**:
<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). This course content is aligned with the standards established by the Texas Education Code, covering areas such as Music, the Commissioner's Rules, Pedagogy and Professional Responsibilities, Technology, and English Language Proficiency. To review these standards, please visit the Music Education Program D2L Shell and select "Standards and Objectives."

Undergraduate Student Learning Outcomes

Music Theory & Ear Training

Graduating students will analyze and interpret music from aural and notated examples and create original musical ideas with correct terminology and in the appropriate context.

Upon successful completion of Theory I, 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 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.

Applicable assigned homework from the Workbook needs to be:

- **Completed in pencil**
- **Use legible, readable, tidy handwriting**
- **Scanned as a SINGLE PDF in numeric order**
- **UPLOADED to D2L**
- **By the due date listed in D2L**

Homework not meeting the guidelines above will be graded as a zero.

Some homework assignments will be turned in during class on the day on which it is due. Other assignments will be **digitized** in the form of **quizzes (InQuizitives)** or **homework (Tutorials)**. These will be automatically graded so that you can see your learning progress.

Late assignments (homework, supplemental work, InQuizitives, in-class quizzes, major exams, and the final project) will not be accepted for credit unless a previous arrangement of more than 24 hours has been made with the instructor. **All 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.)

Cheating will result in failure of the course. 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 will be prevalent this term via classwork discussions and examples taken from resources relevant to chapter topics for concept mastery purposes. **Attendance will take place at the beginning of each class meeting within the first 5 minutes of class through a QR code. If not present to scan the QR code, you will not get counted as present for the class period, thus counting against your overall Attendance and Participation grade.**

You are encouraged to utilize the **Counterpoint Café** program for tutoring or as a study hall at any time throughout the semester and may be prompted to do so because of poor grades.

At minimum, **three Exams** 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**.

Quiz content is assigned and completed online using **InQuizitive**. Failure to do InQuizitive by the due date will result in a zero on the quiz. Failure to complete InQuizitive is often the number one reason students perform poorly.

The **Final Project (10%)** for this course will consist of a **short, original composition for solo piano**. The composition will make use of the periodic phrase structure discussed in class in addition to the standard harmonic and voice-leading practices of the CPE. 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, no matter what.

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 and Class Participation | 10% of final grade |
| • InQuizitives and In-Class Quizzes | 20% of final grade |
| • Homework (Workbook and Online Tutorials) | 30% of final grade |
| • Exams (3) | 30% of final grade |
| • Final Project (Composition) | 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 advanced notification through emails.

Each student is allowed up to 3 unexcused absences over the course of the semester.

"No More Than 3": Students that have a total of 4 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

East Texas A&M 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 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 East Texas A&M University 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

[Zoom Video Conferencing Tool](#)

Fall 2026 Calendar: Music Theory I

Week	Date	Topic	*Due Dates for Tutorials & InQuizitives
1	R. Aug 20	Chapter 1: Course and D2L Introduction	Assignment 1 DUE in D2L on Tuesday, Aug. 25 by 8 a.m.
2	T. Aug 25	Solfege, scale degree numbers and melodic contour	
	R. Aug 27	Chapters 1–2: Simple Meters	Sunday, Aug. 30 – Tutorials 1-A, 1-B; InQuizitive Ch. 1
3	T. Sep 1	Chapters 2–3: Pitch Collections, Scales and Major Keys	
	R. Sep 3	Scales and Major Keys Continued (Fall Census Date)	Sunday, Sept. 6 – Tutorials 2-A, 2-B; InQuizitive Ch. 2
4	T. Sep 8	Chapter 3: Scales and Major Keys Continued	
	R. Sep 10	Scales and Major Keys Continued	Sunday, Sept. 13 – Tutorials 3-A, 3-B, 3-C; InQuizitive Ch. 3
5	T. Sep 15	Chapter 4: Compound Meters	
	R. Sep 17	Exam Review (20th Class Day)	Sunday, Sept. 20 – Tutorial 4-A; InQuizitive Ch. 4
6	T. Sep 22	Exam 1 over Chapters 1–4	
	R. Sep 24	Chapter 5: Minor Keys and Diatonic Modes	
7	T. Sep 29	Minor Keys and Diatonic Modes Continued	
	R. Oct 1	Minor Keys and Diatonic Modes Continued	Sunday, Oct. 4 – Tutorials 5-A, 5-B, 5-C, 5-D; InQuizitive Ch. 5
8	T. Oct 6	Chapter 6: Intervals	
	R. Oct 8	Fall Break – No Classes	
9	T. Oct 13	Intervals continued	
	R. Oct 15	Intervals continued	Sunday, Oct. 18 – Tutorials 6-A, 6-B, 6-C; InQuizitive Ch. 6
10	T. Oct 20	Exam 2 over Chapters 5–6	
	R. Oct 22	Chapter 7: Triads	
11	T. Oct 27	Triads continued	
	R. Oct 29	Triads continued	Sunday, Nov. 1 – Tutorials 7-A, 7-B, 7-C, 7-D; InQuizitive Ch. 7
12	T. Nov 3	Chapter 8: Seventh Chords	
	R. Nov 5	Seventh Chords continued	
13	T. Nov 10	Seventh Chords continued	

Week	Date	Topic	*Due Dates for Tutorials & InQuizitives
	R. Nov 12	Seventh Chords continued	Sunday, Nov. 15 – Tutorials 8-A, 8-B, 8-C; InQuizitive Ch. 8
14	T. Nov 17	Chapter 9: Note-to-Note Counterpoint	
	R. Nov 19	Note-to-Note Counterpoint continued	Sunday, Nov. 22 – Tutorials 9-A, 9-B, 9-C, 9-D; InQuizitive Ch. 9
15	T. Nov 24	Chapter 10: World and Traditional Musics	
	R. Nov 26	<i>Thanksgiving – No Classes</i>	Sunday, Nov. 29 – Final Project Due (Composition)
16	T. Dec 1	Chapter 11: Embellishing Two-Part Texture	
	R. Dec 3	Review for Final Exam	Sunday, Dec. 6 – InQuizitive Ch. 10
Final Exam Tuesday, Dec. 8		Final Exam December 8, 8:00-10:00 a.m.	

NOTE: Workbook Due Dates will be assigned weekly throughout the semester

Homework & Online Quiz Schedule

The **Homework Grade** is 30% of your Final Grade and consists of **Tutorials (digital homework)**, and **Workbook pages (handwritten homework)**. The **InQuizitive (digital quizzes)** & **In-Class Quizzes** are 20% of your Final Grade. All Tutorials and InQuizitives are due on Sunday nights by 11:59 p.m. Workbook assignments & in-class quizzes are given *randomly* throughout the semester.

“Tutorial” Digital Homework Schedule

(This is part of your Homework Grade.)

1. Go to our Theory I class on D2L: <https://leoportal.tamuc.edu>
2. Click on Norton Digital Resources.
3. Click on the link inside “Know It? Tutorials: Homepage Link.”
4. Use the link in D2L; otherwise, it will not connect your completed Tutorials to your D2L gradebook.
5. Once you are in the Tutorials, you will see the due dates for all Tutorials. All Tutorial due dates are on Sundays at 11:59 p.m.
 - Tutorial Homework Schedule: See the Tutorials area in D2L for the individual assignments and due dates. Due dates are also listed in the above Course Calendar.

Tutorial Schedule and Due Dates:

ASSIGNMENT TITLE	GRADES ACCEPTED UNTIL
Tutorial 1-A: Whole Steps and Half Steps	08/30/26 11:59 PM
Tutorial 1-B: Enharmonic Equivalence	08/30/26 11:59 PM
Tutorial 2-A: Simple Meters	09/06/26 11:59 PM
Tutorial 2-B: Rhythmic Notation	09/06/26 11:59 PM
Tutorial 3-A: Major Scales	09/13/26 11:59 PM
Tutorial 3-B: Major Key Signatures	09/13/26 11:59 PM
Tutorial 3-C: Major Pentatonic Scales	09/13/26 11:59 PM
Tutorial 4-A: Compound Meters	09/20/26 11:59 PM
Tutorial 5-A: Relative and Parallel Keys	10/04/26 11:59 PM
Tutorial 5-B: Writing Minor Scales	10/04/26 11:59 PM
Tutorial 5-C: Minor Pentatonic Scales	10/04/26 11:59 PM
Tutorial 5-D: Diatonic Modes	10/04/26 11:59 PM
Tutorial 6-A: Interval Basics	10/18/26 11:59 PM
Tutorial 6-B: Recognizing Intervals	10/18/26 11:59 PM
Tutorial 6-C: Interval Extras	10/18/26 11:59 PM
Tutorial 7-A: Triad Qualities	11/01/26 11:59 PM
Tutorial 7-B: Triads in Major and Minor Keys	11/01/26 11:59 PM
Tutorial 7-C: Triad Inversions	11/01/26 11:59 PM
Tutorial 7-D: Triads in Figured Bass and Lead-Sheet Notation	11/01/26 11:59 PM
Tutorial 8-A: Seventh Chord Qualities	11/15/26 11:59 PM
Tutorial 8-B: Seventh Chord Inversions	11/15/26 11:59 PM
Tutorial 8-C: Seventh Chords in Major and Minor Keys	11/15/26 11:59 PM
Tutorial 9-A: First Species Counterpoint	11/22/26 11:59 PM
Tutorial 9-B: Passing Tones and Neighbor Tones in Second Species Counterpoint	11/22/26 11:59 PM
Tutorial 9-C: Melodic Embellishment in Third Species Counterpoint	11/22/26 11:59 PM
Tutorial 9-D: Suspensions in Fourth Species Counterpoint	11/22/26 11:59 PM

InQuizitive (Digital Quizzes)

1. Go to our Theory I class on D2L: <https://leoportal.tamuc.edu>
2. Click on Norton Digital Resources.
3. Click on the link inside "Show It? InQuizitive Activities."
4. Use the link in D2L; otherwise, it will not connect your completed InQuizitives to your D2L gradebook.
5. Once you are in the InQuizitives, you will see the **due dates** for all InQuizitives. All InQuizitive due dates are on Sundays at 11:59 p.m.

- **InQuizitive** Schedule: Due dates are also listed in the above Course Calendar and in the following screenshot.

InQuizitive Schedule and Due Dates:

ASSIGNMENT TITLE	GRADES ACCEPTED UNTIL
Chapter 1: Pitch and Pitch Class	08/30/26 11:59 PM
Chapter 2: Simple Meters	09/06/26 11:59 PM
Chapter 3: Pitch Collections, Scales, and Major Keys	09/13/26 11:59 PM
Chapter 4: Compound Meters	09/20/26 11:59 PM
Chapter 5: Minor Keys and the Diatonic Modes	10/04/26 11:59 PM
Chapter 6: Intervals	10/18/26 11:59 PM
Chapter 7: Triads	11/01/26 11:59 PM
Chapter 8: Seventh Chords	11/15/26 11:59 PM
Chapter 9: Connecting Intervals in Two-Part Counterpoint	11/22/26 11:59 PM
Chapter 10: World and Traditional Musics I	12/06/26 11:59 PM

Workbook Assignments

- **Workbook Assignments** (along with Online Tutorials) consist of **30%** of your Final Grade.
- **Workbook Assignments** will be assigned weekly at random. Because assignments and due dates will be announced in class, regular attendance is important. If you are absent, you are responsible for finding out what was assigned and when it is due.
- For Theory Homework from the Workbook:
 - Scan your workbook assignment as a **single page PDF; not multiple PDFs & not JPEG** – it will be returned to you as a zero if not done properly
 - Upload to D2L by the due date
- **If I cannot read your handwriting, you will receive a zero.**

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 reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring 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