



SYLLABUS

COURSE TITLE: MUS 231-D: Theory of Music III

COURSE INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Jeremy McMillan

COURSE DESCRIPTION: As a continuation of the 12-hour music theory curriculum, MUS 231 is a study of the diatonic principles of the masterworks of the Common Practice Era. Students explore voice-leading in triads and seventh chords, passing and neighboring functions of chords, principles of four-part writing, aural skills, and basic piano keyboard skills.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: MUS 231 applies the mechanics music to begin studying the underlying structure of the masterworks. This course seeks to give students the tools needed to accomplish this goal through the study and evaluation of:

Upon successful completion of MUA 231, the student will be able to:

1. Sing simple diatonic and pentatonic melodies at sight
2. Listen to simple melodies and fragments and identify the tonal center, scale degrees
3. Understand the interaction between at least two independent voices
4. Use the piano keyboard to visualize concepts introduced in lessons
5. Use technology to become independent learners.

COURSE UNITS/MODULES:

Unit I/Module I: Theory II review

Unit II/Module II: Voice-leading review and introduction to phrase structure

Unit III/Module III: Exploration of sonata-allegro form and other musical forms

Unit IV/Module IV: Chromaticism and extended harmony

Unit V/Module V: Review and final project

COURSE EVALUATION METHODS:



Students will be evaluated by submitting homework assignments, quizzes, exams, and one-on-one Zoom conferences. Assessments include listening exams, score ID, aural skills, and analysis projects.

COURSE TEXTBOOK(S):

No Textbook Required

COURSE READING LIST:

Selected masterworks from the Common Practice Era

Teaching Methods and Resources:

1. The study of species counterpoint: As the first course of a comprehensive four-semester sequence, MUS 231 encourages students to explore analyze, and manipulate the mechanics of music composition and performance. The core of Theory I and II are mechanics, hence the emphasis on counterpoint. The core of Theory III is the aesthetics of music and skills for career readiness.
2. Student Collaboration and Leadership: Study groups are assigned based on the results of a musicianship exam given on the first day of class. Students with a stronger grasp of the prerequisites are paired with students who need remediation. These groups meet twice a week outside of class to collaborate on an analysis or a problem.

Tentative Outline:

Week 1: Crash course and Review

- Basic musicianship exam I
- Assigning of study groups
- Basic musicianship exam II (Friday)
- Distribution of interval worksheets for interval singing quizzes

Week 2: Crash course and Review cont'd

Continued

Week 3: Crash Course on counterpoint, figured bass, and voice leading practice

- Overview of voice leading (Wed)
- Overview of species counterpoint (Friday)
 - Cantus firmus
 - First species

Week 4

- Lecture and discussion of species counterpoint 2-5



- In-class exercises

Week 5

Review Week

- Exam I (Friday)

Week 6: Form and analysis

- Overview of phrase structure (All week)
- Assignment of group project for analyses of several works from the Common Practice Era
 - Explore sonata-allegro form, trio, minuet, and other forms.

Week 7: Review* (all three days during class in addition to office hours.)

*Form and analysis will NOT be on the midterm.

Week 8: Midterm and assessment week

- Written portion of midterm
- Short aural skills quiz and basic keyboard exam to be administered together
- Review* for those who scored under 70%; everyone else excused from class!

*A review workshop will be scheduled at this time for students who have not mastered the concepts covered in weeks 1-4.

Week 9: Review of form and analysis

- In-class exercises

Week 10: Exploration of Extended Harmony

Week 11: Continuation of Extended Harmony

- Figured Bass review
- Reading charts

* introduces the students to skills needed to accompany, lead a small ensemble, get gigs, and substitute for musicians on short notice.

Week 12

- Reading charts
- Improvisation
- Basic conducting

Week 13

- Musicianship exam



- Review in lecture format (based on results from Musicianship exam V)
- Q&A session on everything covered in course

Week 14

- Continue review of lectures and Q&A

Week 15

Assessment Week

- Final Pre-test (Monday)
- Review lectures (those who scored 80% or above are excused for the rest of the week!)

Finals Week

Final Exam (TBA)