Stephen F. Austin State University  
Music Theory 1 (MTC-161-005) Syllabus  
Fall 2019

Instructor: Mr. Carlos Gaviria  
Session: TR 11:00–12:15  
Classroom: Music 152  
Office: Music 275A  
E-mail/Phone: gaviriaca@sfasu.edu, 936-468-5572  
Office Hours: By appointment (e-mail me to schedule a time or see me after/before class)

Textbooks & Resources  
- L. Poundie Burstein and Joseph Straus, *Concise Introduction to Tonal Harmony*.  
- Workbook accompanying *Concise Introduction to Tonal Harmony* textbook  
- Additional materials (provided by Mr. Gaviria)  
- **Working access to D2L** ([https://d2l.sfasu.edu/](https://d2l.sfasu.edu/)). Please become acquainted with the website as soon as possible and check it on a daily basis, since new material (study guides, announcements, assignments, etc.) will be posted regularly. Please contact the D2L costumer support ASAP if you are having problems with access.

Supplies  
- Manuscript (staff) paper mandatory; notebook paper and a binder to organize class materials.  
- **Pencils Only! Absolutely NO PENS!!! Pens are banned from use in this class. I will not grade homework or exams that are written with pen.**

Course Description & Outcomes  
This course constitutes the first semester in core undergraduate music theory and analysis for music majors. Music Theory 1 studies the music of 18th- and 19th-century compositional techniques. Through homework assignments, quizzes and test, students will demonstrate the ability to correctly:

- Notate pitches and rhythms.  
- Identify and create key signatures in major and minor modes.  
- Identify and create major and minor scales.  
- Identify and create specific intervals.  
- Identify and create diatonic chords in all inversions.  
- Realize chords from figured-bass symbols.  
- Identify and differentiate types of cadences.  
- Provide chord symbol and Roman numeral analysis of diatonic progressions using triadic harmony.  
- Identify and differentiate all types of non-chord tones in scored music.

ACCORDING TO SFA POLICY, A MINIMUM GRADE OF ‘C’ IS REQUIRED TO PASS MUSIC THEORY 1.

**GRADING POLICY**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Area</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Homework Assignments/Quizzes/Online quizzes</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam 1</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam 2 (Midterm)</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam 3</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100%</td>
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**GRADING SCALE**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
<th>% Scale</th>
<th>Performance Rating</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>90 – 100</td>
<td>Excellent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>80 – 89</td>
<td>Above Average</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>70 – 79</td>
<td>Average</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>60 – 69</td>
<td>Below Average</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>below 59</td>
<td>Failure</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**COURSE POLICIES**

**Attendance Policies**

SFA General Policy (Section A-10): “Regular and punctual attendance is expected for all classes, laboratories, and other activities for which a student is registered. For those classes where attendance is a factor in the course grade, instructors shall make their class policies known on the syllabus in writing during the first week of the term and shall maintain an accurate record of attendance. Students may be excused from attendance for certain reasons, among these are absences related to health, family emergencies, and student participation in certain university-sponsored events. HOWEVER, STUDENTS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR NOTIFYING THEIR INSTRUCTORS IN ADVANCE WHENEVER POSSIBLE FOR EXCUSED ABSENCES. STUDENTS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR PROVIDING TIMELY DOCUMENTATION SATISFACTORY TO THE INSTRUCTOR FOR EACH ABSENCE. Students with acceptable excuses may be permitted to make up work for absences to a maximum of three weeks of a semester or one week of a six-week summer term when the nature of the work missed permits. Whether excused or unexcused, a student is still responsible for all course content and assignments. In the case of absences caused by participation in university-sponsored events, announcement via My SFA will constitute an official excuse.”

**Excused Absences**

Excused absences include only the following: official university functions (with proper documentation from the relevant professor/department submitted ahead of time), family emergency, and illness. In order to receive an excused absence for illness, injury or other extenuating circumstance, the student must:

- Submit an official, dated note from attending doctor, supervisor or professor, depending on the nature of absence. Documentation must be submitted promptly.

**Unexcused Absences**

- Each student is permitted only three unexcused absences without penalty. After permitted two absences, each remaining unexcused absence lowers the student’s cumulative grade by 2.5%.

**Tardiness**

Extensive and habitual tardiness will adversely affect your final grade. Late arrival to class is discouraged.

- Three tardy arrivals to class equal one unexcused absence. Class begins at the top of the hour; students entering the class after top of the hour are late, or “tardy.”

**Mr. Gaviria’s Policies**

Please be prepared for each class. Read the pertinent chapter beforehand so you will be able to participate in class. Your class participation will make the difference in your final grade. Absence (either excused or unexcused) from class is neither a wise nor acceptable excuse for a lack of knowledge about course requirements, assignments, and deadlines. When the student has foreknowledge of absence, s/he is expected to consult the instructor proactively regarding assignments and deadlines prior to missing class. Also, check D2L as the homework will be posted there as well. Absences are assessed on a case-by-case basis. When a student misses class, s/he is expected to proactively and promptly acquire the missed information before the next calendar class day and meet all requirements administered by the instructor. See Excused and Unexcused Absence policies above for more details.

All electronic devices must be turned OFF (not silenced) and headphones need to come off before
class begins. Devices must remain off until I dismiss class. Failure to comply will result in your dismissal from that day’s class. An unexcused absence will be recorded for that day. No devices can be used for note-taking.

Other classes’ work: I expect your full attention in this class, therefore, working on assignments for other classes during my class is forbidden (if you need to do it, take advantage of the unexcused absences policy and use that time to complete the assignment). Failure to observe this policy will result in your dismissal of class and a recorded unexcused absence for the day.

Assignment Policy

- Assignments due at the top of class must be submitted to the instructor immediately upon entry into the classroom unless otherwise specified. Late assignments will not be accepted.

Online Quizzes

- Online quizzes will be taken using Norton’s Inquoi (included with your book purchase). Due dates will be announced in class and posted in D2L.

Electronic devices policies

- **SMARTPHONES (READ THIS TWICE, PLEASE):** There are NO smartphones permitted to be within your reach or within your sight and/or within sight of your instructor during this class. This class requires your engagement, and all use of cell phones serves detract from that engagement. Additionally, your phone should be not only put away in your bag, but set on “silent” (NOTE: vibrate is NOT silent).

- **Laptops and Tablet computers:** Electronic devices, while useful, also have the potential to distract you from your engagement in class. If you choose to use any electronic device to take course notes, you will be subject to observation. If, at any point, you are found to be working on any application (i.e., Netflix or such) or project other than your course notes, or your device causes a noise distraction during class, you will be dismissed and counted absent for the class session. If I determine that you are too distracted by your electronic device, you may be asked not to bring it to class, and to take paper notes instead. If you use a laptop computer to take notes, please assure that your typing and clicking will not disturb those seated around you. **Cell Phones should be put away and out of sight. Cell phones are not note taking devices**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION & REMINDERS

1. All assignments, tests and quizzes must be 1) legible, and 2) submitted in pencil; Assignments submitted in pen will not be accepted, and illegible work will be marked incorrect.

2. Quizzes reward attendance through participation and cannot be retaken or made-up. No exceptions.

3. Rescheduling tests is possible only in case of emergency, and preferably with advance notice. A student who fails to show up promptly at the scheduled time for a make-up exam forfeits the exam and receives a grade of zero.

4. **Minimum Grades and Sequencing of Music Theory Courses:** The SFASU Department of Music Student Handbook states: “Courses required to be taken concurrently (MTC 151 & 161; MTC 152 & 162; MTC 251 & 261; and MTC 252 & 262) must BOTH be passed with a minimum grade of “C” before moving on to the next two courses! Thus students who meet the minimum requirement in only one of the two courses may NOT move on to the next level until the deficiency is rectified.”

5. **Withheld Grades Semester Grades Policy (A-54):** Ordinarily, at the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the
student cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F. If students register for the same course in future terms the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average.

6. **Academic Integrity (A-9.1):** Academic integrity is a responsibility of all university faculty and students. Faculty members promote academic integrity in multiple ways including instruction on the components of academic honesty, as well as abiding by university policy on penalties for cheating and plagiarism. **Definition of Academic Dishonesty:** “Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes but is not limited to (1) using or attempting to use unauthorized materials to aid in achieving a better grade on a component of a class; (2) the falsification or invention of any information, including citations, on an assigned exercise; and/or (3) helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism. Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were your own. Examples of plagiarism are (1) submitting an assignment as if it were one's own work when, in fact, it is at least partly the work of another; (2) submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from an Internet source or another source; and (3) incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one's paper without giving the author due credit.” Please read the complete policy at [http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_integrity.asp](http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_integrity.asp)

7. **Acceptable Student Behavior**
Classroom behavior should not interfere with the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or the ability of other students to learn from the instructional program (see the Student Conduct Code, policy D-34.1). Unacceptable or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Students who disrupt the learning environment may be asked to leave class and may be subject to judicial, academic or other penalties. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including electronic, classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The instructor shall have full discretion over what behavior is appropriate and inappropriate in the classroom. Students who do not attend class regularly or who perform poorly on class projects/exams may be referred to the Early Alert Program. This program provides students with recommendations for resources or other assistance that is available to help SFA students succeed.

8. **Students with Disabilities:** To obtain disability related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, and Room 325, 468-3004 / 468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to [http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices](http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices).

9. **End of Semester Course Evaluations:** Students are expected to evaluate this course electronically. Constructive feedback is useful so that changes can be incorporated, and positive aspects of the course can be reinforced for future classes.

Violation or neglect of these procedures is grounds for dismissal from class. In such cases the student will be receive an unexcused absence.

**FALL 2012 MUSIC THEORY 1 COURSE SCHEDULE**
(Subject to revision)

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topic(s)</th>
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| 1    | Introduction  
Chapter 0: Notation of Pitch and Rhythm. |
| 2    | Chapter 1: Scales |
3 Chapter 2: Intervals
4 Chapters 1 & 2. Review and Exam 1.
5 Chapter 3: Triads and Seventh Chords
6 Chapter 3, continued.
7 Chapter 3, continued.
8 Review & Midterm Exam
9 Chapter 8: Species Counterpoint.
10 Chapter 8, continued
11 Review and Exam 3.
12 Chapter 4&5: Four-Part Harmony & Voice Leading
13 Chapter 5&6: Voice Leading & Harmonic Progression
14 Chapter 7: Figuration and Embellishing Tones
15 Chapter 7 and Review.

Week 16: Thursday, December 12th 10:30 – 12:30 am—Final Examination

Important Dates

Wednesday, October 23rd: Last day to withdraw without WP or WF
November 23-December 1st: Thanksgiving Break

Please do not hesitate to contact me regarding class content and extra help.

Have a great semester!