

Syllabus

MUSC 115

Music Theory I

Spring 2023

42 class meetings

3.0 credit hours

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Academic Bulletin Description

A survey of the sound, harmony, melody, rhythm, and form of diatonic tonal music of a variety of styles.

Full Course Description

This course is a survey of the sound, harmony, melody, rhythm, and form of diatonic harmony, with a brief introduction to chromaticism. Topics include triadic harmony, embellishing tones, chord loops, cadences, melody harmonization, the phrase model, harmonizing scales, twelve-bar blues, the sentence, and the period. The course is required for music majors and minors. It may be taken by others to fulfill the AIU requirement of the Carolina Core.

Prerequisites

C or better in MUSC 114 or passing score on the Undergraduate Theory Diagnostic Exam

Learning Outcomes

After successful completion of this course, you will be able to:

1. Harmonize melodies with triads
2. Identify paradigmatic chord progressions
3. Identify cadences
4. Analyze music with Roman numerals, Leadsheet symbols, and Nashville Number Notation
5. Compare music of different styles
6. Compose melodies with embellishing tones
7. Compose small formal units
8. Speak and write critically about musical examples

Required Texts

There is not a required text that students must purchase. Supplemental readings, worksheets, and recordings of diatonic tonal music from a variety of styles will be made available on blackboard.

Course Assignments and Grading

I. Homework (70%)

A. Daily Assignments (20%)

Daily assignments will include reading, web-based assignments, worksheets, short analyses, short composition assignments, and listening assignments. If you do not turn in homework on the date it is due, it will be late and will receive a grade of "0." If you are absent from class, and the absence is *excused*, then you must turn homework in by the next class meeting in order to receive credit.

Homework can receive two types of grades:

- Completeness – Some homework tasks will be graded for their completeness. Assignments that are at least 85% complete will receive a grade of "100." Otherwise, the grade will be "0."
- Accuracy – This type of grading rewards you for the percentage correct you achieve.

B. Composition and Analysis Assignments (30%)

Composition and Analysis Assignments are of more considerable length than daily homework assignments. In these assignments you will demonstrate your knowledge of diatonic tonal music of a variety of styles.

Assignment	Topic	Due Date
Composition Assignment #1	Chord loops	January 30
Analysis Assignment #1	TSDT model and harmonic rhythm	February 6
Analysis Assignment #2	Scale harmonization and Embellishing Tones	February 20
Composition Assignment #2	Melody Harmonization	March 3
Analysis Assignment #3	Small Formal Units	April 17
Composition Assignment #3	Small Formal Units	April 24

C. Standard Assessments (20%)

Standard Assessments measure your mastery of fundamental knowledge of music theory.

Standard Assessments are taken asynchronously on Blackboard. Standard Assessments are graded on a pass/fail basis. Each standard requires a score of 7 out of 8 to pass. You must continue to take a standard assessment as many times as you need in order to pass it. Your grade will be based on how many attempts you take:

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|---|-----|
| • Achieve the standard on a First Attempt | 100 |
| • Achieve the standard on a Second Attempt | 90 |
| • Achieve the standard on a Third Attempt | 80 |
| • Achieve the standard on a Fourth Attempt | 75 |
| • Achieve the standard on a Fifth or Subsequent Attempt | 70 |

A student must attempt 20 standards and pass 18 before they will receive a grade for the Standards Assessment portion of the course. Failure to pass at least 18 Standards will result in a grade of "0" for the entire Standard Assessment portion.

II. Tests (20%)

Tests are graded for accuracy. Tests are extremely important course requirements. If you have an *excused* absence on the day of a test, you will be allowed to take a makeup. In general, make up tests will be on the Monday following the absence. If your absence from an assessment or test is *unexcused*, you must contact Dr. Jenkins before a makeup will be granted.

Test	Topic	Due Date
Test #1	Cadences and Phrases	February 10
Test #2	Diatonic Harmony in Motion	March 24
Test #3 (Oral Examination)	Comprehensive	April 17–21 (individual meetings during class)

III. Final Exam (10%)

A comprehensive final exam will take place at the time advertised by the registrar.

Evaluation and Grading Scale

All grades will be posted on Blackboard. You are strongly encouraged to check your scores in Blackboard regularly. A final letter grade will be assigned based on percentages.

Assignment Weights	Percent
Homework Daily Assignments (20%) Composition and Analysis Assignments (30%) Standard Assessments (20%)	70%
Tests	20%
Final Exam	10%
Total	100%

Grading Scale

89.5% - 100% = A

84.5% - 89.4% = B+

79.5% - 84.4% = B

74.5% - 79.4% = C+

69.5% - 74.4% = C

64.5% - 69.4% = D+

59.5% - 64.4% = D

0% - 59.4% = F

Course Policies and Procedures

Attendance Policy

We recognize excused absences for the following reasons (with proper documentation):

- military duty
- legal obligation to appear in court
- any medical condition related to pregnancy or childbirth
- a disability
- observance of a religious practice, holiday or holy day
- participation in an official university activity
- severe illness or injury
- death of an immediate or dependent family member
- closure for weather-related emergencies
- any other absence required by state or federal law

In addition, your instructor will consider the following as excused absences on a case-by-case basis:

- non-closure, weather-related emergencies
- mandatory professional interviews that cannot be rescheduled
- any other reason deemed acceptable

Any homework or classwork that a student misses due to an excused absence will be due one class day after the student returns. In the case of an extended absence, the student will have the same number of class days as days they missed to complete the outstanding homework and classwork assignments.

Students are allowed two unexcused absences in this course. Each additional unexcused absence will result in the lowering of your grade by two percentage points. Three tardies will equal one unexcused absence.

Your instructor will take attendance at every class meeting.

Academic Integrity

You are expected to practice the highest possible standards of academic integrity. Any deviation from this expectation will result in a minimum academic penalty of your failing the assignment, and will result in additional disciplinary measures. This includes improper citation of sources, using another student's work, and any other form of academic misrepresentation.

The first tenet of the Carolinian Creed is, "I will practice personal and academic integrity."

Below are some websites for you to visit to learn more about University policies:

- [Carolinian Creed](http://www.sa.sc.edu/creed) (http://www.sa.sc.edu/creed)
- [Academic Responsibility](http://www.sc.edu/policies/staf625.pdf) (http://www.sc.edu/policies/staf625.pdf)
- [Office of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity](https://www.sa.sc.edu/academicintegrity/) (https://www.sa.sc.edu/academicintegrity/)
- [Information Security Policy and Standards](https://sc.edu/about/offices_and_divisions/division_of_information_technology/security/policy/universitypolicy/) (https://sc.edu/about/offices_and_divisions/division_of_information_technology/security/policy/universitypolicy/)

Disability Services

Student Disability Resource Center

(<http://www.sa.sc.edu/sds/>): The Student Disability Resource Center (SDRC) empowers students to manage challenges and limitations imposed by disabilities. Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact me to discuss the logistics of any accommodations needed to fulfill course requirements (within the first week of the semester). In order to receive reasonable accommodations from me, you must be registered with the Student Disability Resource Center (1705 College Street, Close-Hipp Suite 102, Columbia, SC 29208, 803-777-6142). Any student with a documented disability should contact the SDRC to make arrangements for appropriate accommodations.

Course Schedule (Spring 2023)

Day	Date	Topic
1	M 1/9	Who are you as a musician?
2	W 1/11	Roman numerals, Lead sheet symbols, Nashville Number Notation
3	F 1/13	Harmonizing Melodies with I, IV, V
Monday, January 16 – Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Service Day (no classes)		
Tuesday, January 17 – Last day to change/drop a course without a grade of "W" being recorded		
4	W 1/18	Harmonizing Melodies ctd. 12-bar blues progression triad version
5	F 1/20	Chord Loops
6	M 1/23	Connecting Chords
7	W 1/25	Harmonizing Melodies w/Chord Loops Introduction to Functional Layers

Day	Date	Topic
8	F 1/27	Analyzing Songs with multiple chord loops Introduction to Texture
9	M 1/30	Models of Melodic Closure: Cadences
10	W 2/1	Melodic Closure contd.
11	F 2/3	Shaping a phrase: TSDT model and harmonic rhythm
12	M 2/6	Embellishing Tones
13	W 2/8	Embellishing Tones
14	F 2/10	Test 1 during class
15	M 2/13	Harmonizing a scale: Triads in first inversion
16	W 2/15	Harmonizing a scale contd.
17	F 2/17	Harmonizing a scale contd.
18	M 2/20	Triads in 2 nd inversion
19	W 2/22	Harmonizing a scale with triads of all types
20	F 2/24	Review
21	M 2/27	Workshop Composition Assignment #2
22	W 3/1	Workshop Composition Assignment #2
23	F 3/3	In-Class Performance of Composition Assignment #2
Monday, March 6 to Friday, March 10 – Spring Break (no classes)		
24	M 3/13	Seventh Chord Types
25	W 3/15	Diatonic Seventh Chords 12-bar blues progression seventh chord version
26	F 3/17	Inversions of Seventh Chords
27	M 3/20	Scale Harmonization with seventh chords
28	W 3/22	Review
29	F 3/24	
Monday, March 27 – Last day to drop or withdraw without a grade of "WF" being recorded		
30	M 3/27	Sequences
31	W 3/29	Sequences

Day	Date	Topic
32	F 3/31	Sequences
33	M 4/3	Sentences
34	W 4/5	Sentences
35	F 4/7	Periods
36	M 4/10	Periods
37	W 4/12	Other forms
38	F 4/14	Other forms
39	M 4/17	Workshop on Composition Assignment #3 with GA
40	W 4/19	Workshop on Composition Assignment #3 with GA
41	F 4/21	Workshop on Composition Assignment #3 with GA
42	M 4/24	In-class performance of Composition Assignment #3
		Reading Day
		Final Exams