

MUS1649A: Studies in Music Theory I

Fall 2018 / Don Wright Faculty of Music / Western University

Instructor: Dr. Jonathan De Souza

Office hours: Thursdays, 11:30–12:30 (TC 218)

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Overview and Outcomes

Why do certain notes sound good together? Why do some chords feel stable or predictable, while others feel tense or surprising? And how does harmony relate to melody, rhythm, or other musical features? This course explores such questions, introducing principles of tonal harmony and voice leading. It examines functional relationships among notes and chords in a key, and how they are combined in musical phrases. We'll study these concepts in Western art music from the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, and in various genres of popular music.

By the end of this course, you'll know how to write and analyze music that is diatonically organized: for example, you'll be able to create a polyphonic accompaniment for a melody or bass line, and you'll be able to describe harmonic progressions in detail. You'll have a good understanding of musical phrase structure, and you'll begin to understand how phrases are organized into larger formal units.

Organization

Lectures: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10:30–11:20 (TC 141)

Tutorials:

Section 002	Thursdays, 1:30	TC 203	Jonathan De Souza	jdesou22@uwo.ca
Section 003	Thursdays, 2:30	TC 201	Matthew Nace	mnace2@uwo.ca
Section 005	Fridays, 9:30	TC 202	Margaret Fay	mfay@uwo.ca
Section 006	Fridays, 10:30	TC 201	Mary Blake Rose	mbonn2@uwo.ca
Section 007	Fridays, 10:30	TC 202	Kathryn Thomas	kthoma83@uwo.ca

Materials

Our textbook is the fourth edition of *The Complete Musician: An Integrated Approach to Tonal Theory, Analysis, and Listening* by Steven G. Laitz (Oxford University Press, 2016). It will be available at the Book Store, and a copy will be on reserve at the Music Library. Note that the textbook's companion website includes many audio examples and practice exercises (see <http://global.oup.com/us/companion.websites/9780199347094/stu/>).

I will post supplementary readings, handouts, assignments, and other materials on the course's OWL site (owl.uwo.ca). The website also includes a discussion forum where you may ask questions about assignments, course content, and so on. (If you have a question, please post it either before emailing us.) Please check OWL regularly for updates.

You will need a device to respond to iClicker polls in lectures. Any WiFi-enabled device—a laptop, tablet, or smartphone—will work. Alternatively, please speak to me about acquiring dedicated clicker hardware. For more information on clickers at Western, see presswestern.uwo.ca/students.html.

Finally, you will require staff paper, pencils, and a good eraser. Please bring these supplies with you to lectures and tutorials.

Evaluation

On Tuesdays at the beginning of class, you will usually turn in a homework *assignment*. These assignments will involve exercises and analysis related to the week's readings and work in class. They will typically be posted on OWL one week before they are due. The assignments and other graded work will be returned in your weekly tutorial. Because of this quick turnaround time, *we generally do not accept late assignments*. Your lowest assignment score will not factor into your final grade.

Quizzes are short, timed exercises, designed to assess skills that are central to the course. These quizzes will be completed online on OWL, and you may retake each one as many times as you like. All quizzes will be available in the first half of the term (for dates and topics, see below). Note, however, that you may not take fluency quizzes after the end of classes (i.e., after December 7). These quizzes will be graded on a pass/fail basis, with at least 90% required for a pass.

The *midterm exam* and *final exam* will include technical exercises, short-answer

questions, and/or analysis of brief excerpts. The midterm will be one hour long, written during class time on Tuesday, October 30. The exam will be three hours long, sometime in the Examination Period (December 10–21). Please do not make holiday travel plans until the final examination date has been announced.

These elements will combine in your final grade as follows:

Assignments	25%
Quizzes	15%
Midterm exam	25%
Final exam	35%

Quiz Topics

1. Key signatures
2. Intervals (*available September 11*)
3. Triads (*available September 18*)
4. Scale degrees (*available September 25*)
5. Seventh chords (*available October 2*)
6. Inversions of V7 (*available October 18*)

Policies

Attendance. I expect you to attend and participate in lectures and tutorials. Note that you must attend the tutorial section in which you are enrolled. If you wish to change sections, this must be done before November 12 (the last day to drop a first-term half course without academic penalty). After that, you may switch sections only in extraordinary circumstances, and you must officially register the change with the Administrative Assistant for the Department of Music Research and Composition (TC 210). In exceptional cases where a student needs to switch sections for just one or two tutorial sessions due to personal conflicts, the student may make arrangements to attend another section, provided that both tutorial leaders involved give prior permission. Please notify your tutorial leader in advance if you will be absent.

Of course, if we have been notified in advance, you may be excused without penalty to observe a religious holy day or to participate an approved music faculty event (such as a concert or dress rehearsal).

If you cannot submit an assignment in class, please email your tutorial leader beforehand to make alternative arrangements. Your tutorial leader might ask you to leave it with the MRC Administrative Assistant in TC 210 or to scan the assignment and submit it via email. I would recommend that you do *not* send an assignment with a classmate.

Accessibility/Accommodations. Students with disabilities are welcome in this course. If you require academic accommodations because of a disability, please let me know as soon as possible. You can learn more about the Student Development Centre's Student Accessibility Services at www.sdc.uwo.ca/ssd. If you use mobility aids and have any unexpected mobility difficulties due to inclement weather, problems with transportation, construction on campus, or other unforeseen circumstances, do not hesitate to let me know; we will make every effort to ensure that you have full access to this course.

Accommodations may also be possible for students suffering from medical illness. You may consult the university's policy on medical accommodations at www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf and download the Student Medical Certificate (SMC) at www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf.

In cases where students miss work that is worth less than 10% of the total course grade (i.e., three or fewer assignments) due to medical illness or compassionate grounds, if documentation is voluntarily submitted to the Associate Dean's office and the Associate Dean deems that accommodation is warranted, then the missed assignment(s) will be discounted in the calculation of the final grade for the course. If documentation is not voluntarily submitted then the missed assignment(s) will received a grade of 0. (Because the lowest assignment grade is dropped, missing just one assignment will not affect your overall course mark.)

To ensure fairness and consistency for all students, academic accommodation for work representing 10% or more of the student's overall grade in the course, including midterm tests and/or the final exam, shall be granted only in those cases where there is documentation indicating that the student was seriously affected by illness—or equivalent non-medical, compassionate grounds—and could not reasonably be expected to meet the academic responsibilities of the course. Documentation should be

submitted, as soon as possible, to the Associate Dean, Undergraduate (TC 210).

Mental health. Students that are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western for a complete list of options about how to obtain help. Their website is www.health.uwo.ca/mental_health/, and their services are free and confidential.

Electronics. We will be using electronic devices as clickers, and you may also wish to use them to access handouts or take notes in class. That said, I expect you to use such devices in a respectful manner. Please silence devices during class time, and leave the room if you need to answer your cell phone, check Instagram, watch a hilarious cat video, and so on. Our time together is limited and valuable, so it is very important to minimize distractions.

Electronic devices will not be allowed during tests and examinations.

Academic integrity. Though I would encourage you to discuss music theory outside of class, I will also remind you that homework for this course is always to be completed *independently*. Submitting assignments that you have not done on your own is a form of *plagiarism*, known as *unauthorized collaboration*. Since students often find this confusing, a more detailed explanation is available on OWL. Scholastic offences are taken seriously, and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, as found here: www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf.

Personal Response Systems. Personal Response Systems (“clickers”) may be used in some classes. If clickers are to be used in a class, it is the responsibility of the student to ensure that the device is activated and functional. Students must see their instructor if they have any concerns about whether the clicker is malfunctioning.

Students must use only their own clicker. If clicker records are used to compute a portion of the course grade:

- the use of somebody else’s clicker in class constitutes a scholastic offence,
- the possession of a clicker belonging to another student will be interpreted as an attempt to commit a scholastic offence.

Your privacy will be protected with respect to data gathered from the responses, and

such data will not be used for research purposes without students' express written permission.

Prerequisite. Unless you have either the prerequisite for this course or written permission from the Dean to enrol in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

MUS1649A / Fall 2018 Schedule

Dates	Topic	Reading	Due (Tuesdays)
Sept 6	Musical Space & Time	Ch. 1 (3–25; 49–57)	
Sept 11/13	Intervals	Ch. 1 (27–41), 2 (78–96)	
Sept 18/20	Triads	Ch. 3 (107–16), 2 (97–105)	Assignment 1
Sept 25/27	Tonality	Ch. 3 (117–21, 130–36), 4–5	Assignment 2
Oct 2/4	Seventh Chords	Ch. 3 (123–26), 6	Assignment 3
Oct 8–12	Reading Week		
Oct 16/18	Contrapuntal Expansions	Ch. 7–8	Assignment 4
Oct 23/25	Predominants	Ch. 9–10, 23 (554–57)	Assignment 5
Oct 30	Midterm Exam		
Nov 1	Six-four Chords	Ch. 11	
Nov 6/8	Tonic Substitutes	Ch. 12–14	Assignment 6
Nov 13/15	Themes	Supplement	Assignment 7
Nov 12	Last day to drop a first-term half course without academic penalty		
Nov 20/22	Tonicization & Modulation	Ch. 18 (435–48), 19 (461–73)	Assignment 8
Nov 27/29	Binary Form	Ch. 20 (483–89)	Assignment 9
Dec 4/6	Review		Assignment 10
Dec 7	Last Day of Classes		
Dec 8–9	Study Days		
Dec 10–21	Examination Period		
TBA	Final Exam		