WESTERN UNIVERSITY, CANADA
DON WRIGHT FACULTY OF MUSIC
MUSIC 9527b—Topics in Schenkerian Analysis
WINTER 2021

Dr. Peter Franck
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Thursday, 9:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.
Online
Individual office hours: by appointment


OWL Powered by Sakai. All course materials will be posted on OWL. For more information, please visit this URL: https://owl.uwo.ca/portal

Course content. This course is an introduction to Schenkerian techniques as applied to musical works within the jazz idiom. The beginning of the course concerns reviewing primary concepts of Schenkerian theory as they apply to common-practice works and jazz works. Following this review stage, the course will focus on Schenkerian and Schenkerian-inspired analyses of jazz works within the secondary literature and apply the knowledge gained from this study to novel analyses of jazz works. The repertoire includes works within bebop (c. 1940s), hardbop (c. 1950s), and postbop styles (1960s–present). The goal of the course is to learn, not only, how to apply Schenkerian techniques to jazz works, but also intriguing aspects of Schenkerian theory. Moreover, the course endeavors to show that analyzing jazz works from a Schenkerian perspective uncovers the possible extensions that Schenkerian theory affords and the limits it imposes.

Learning outcomes. By the end of this course, students will be able to do the following:

- Analyze short tonal pieces (in common-practice and jazz idioms) by creating Schenkerian voice-leading graphs;
- Interpret voice-leading graphs into Schenkerian principles by contributing to class-discussions and writing short prose summaries;
• Critically evaluate secondary literature within the Schenkerian field through class-
discussion and prose summaries.
• Apply Schenkerian techniques to repertories outside the tonal canon.

Marking scheme:

Assignments: 20% (4 assignments, each weighted equally)
Participation: 5%
Presentation: 25%
Term Paper: 50%

Requirements. Students must complete four assignments, one presentation, one term paper,
prepare and be able to discuss assigned readings in class, and prepare any and all exercises
assigned for in-class activity. The assignments are largely analytical, consisting of Schenkerian
graphs, though some may also require short prose summaries of said graphs. Due dates for
readings and assignments are listed on the Class Schedule (last page of syllabus) and made
available on OWL. Criteria for the presentation and term paper will be distributed later in the
semester.

Online environment. Classes will be taught synchronously through the Zoom portal on OWL. If
appropriate, it may be necessary to move to an asynchronous format.

Netiquette statement. Be respectful of the diversity of viewpoints that you will encounter in the
class and in your readings. The exchange of diverse ideas and opinions is part of the scholarly
environment. Additionally, be courteous toward the instructor, your colleagues, and authors
whose work you are discussing.

Assignments. Assignments must be handed in on time. Students may be penalized for handing in
late assignments.

Accessibility. For issues concerning accessibility on campus, please visit
http://www.accessibility.uwo.ca

Religious Accommodation. Students should consult the University’s list of recognized religious
holidays, and should give reasonable notice in writing, prior to the holiday, to the Instructor and
an Academic Counsellor if their course requirements will be affected by a religious observance.
Additional information is given in the Western Multicultural Calendar.
Accommodation for Medical Illness. The Graduate Program in Music recognizes that a student’s ability to meet his/her academic responsibilities may, on occasion, be impaired by physical or mental illness. Illness may be acute (short term), or it may be chronic (long term), or chronic with acute episodes. The Graduate Program in Music further recognizes that physical or mental illness situations are deeply personal and respects the need for privacy and confidentiality in these matters. In order 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 shall be granted only in those cases where there is documentation indicating that the student was seriously affected by illness and could not reasonably be expected to meet his/her academic responsibilities. Documentation shall be submitted, as soon as possible, to the office of the Associate Dean (Graduate Studies), not to the course instructor. Students with special learning needs or other circumstances are asked to inform the instructor as soon as possible so that necessary accommodations can be considered.

Health and Wellness. As part of a successful graduate student experience at Western, we encourage students to make their health and wellness a priority. Western provides several on-campus health-related services to help students achieve optimum health and engage in healthy living while pursuing a graduate degree. Students seeking help regarding mental health concerns are advised to speak to someone in whom they feel comfortable confiding, such as a faculty supervisor, a program advisor, or the Associate Dean (Graduate Studies). Campus mental health resources may be found at http://www.health.uwo.ca/mental_health/resources.html

Scholastic Offences. 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 at http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_grad.pdf.
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<th>Day</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>HW</th>
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<tr>
<td>January 14</td>
<td>Schenkerian Techniques</td>
<td>R1</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 21</td>
<td>Schenkerian Techniques, contd.</td>
<td>R2</td>
<td>HW1</td>
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<td>January 28</td>
<td>AABA Forms</td>
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<td>February 4</td>
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<td>R4</td>
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<td>February 11</td>
<td>Other 32-Bar Forms</td>
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<td>February 18</td>
<td><strong>Spring Reading Week: NO CLASS</strong></td>
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<td>R6</td>
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<td>March 4</td>
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<td>March 11</td>
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<td>R7</td>
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<td>Rhythm Changes</td>
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<td>March 25</td>
<td>Hardbop and Postbop</td>
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<td>Hardbop and Postbop contd.</td>
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<td>April 8</td>
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Due-date for paper: April 30, 2021