

LSMSA Course Syllabus

MU 401 – Advanced Music Theory III

MWF 2:00-2:50; Room 214 MAB

Dr. Al Benner (318) 357-2537

Room 214 MAB - office hours as posted on office door or on website

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COURSE GOALS & OBJECTIVES

To continue the knowledge and comprehension of how music developed through the various Musical Periods concentrating on modes and the development of counterpoint, common period practice theory (c.p.p.t) and techniques critical to understanding of how music theory expanded throughout the 20th century and where it stands today in the 21st century. We will continue our study of the structure and form of pieces, score reading and analysis, new types of scales and tonality, and 20th-century techniques. We will also begin a comprehensive practice of sight-singing and dictation. Proper preparation in the above will aid the student not only in an effective use of c.p.p.t., modal counterpoint, and 20th century practices, but will also be a tremendous benefit in the performance of music. The student will be given the opportunity to be challenged; to develop musical skills that will express his/her abilities that will aid in future instrumental and/or vocal playing, and will be beneficial in other music courses.

MATERIALS

Pencil, paper and manuscript paper brought to each class.

Your text book must be brought to each class.

You will be instructed when to bring your supplemental text.

TEXT

Benjamin, Thomas, Horvit, Michael, and Nelson, Robert: *Techniques and Materials of Tonal Music, 3rd ed.*

Benjamin, Thomas, Horvit, Michael, and Nelson, Robert: *Music for Analysis*

The Instructor will also provide individual music sheets as needed.

Supplemental Text

Telfer, Nancy: *Successful Sight Singing*

EXAMINATIONS AND GRADING

Specifics about grading procedures will be discussed in class by the Instructor. In general:

- The Instructor expects material to be learned in a timely manner. Exams will be given to ensure proper understanding of the material covered and as a review.
- Each student will lead class discussions on a given composer depending upon the enrollment.
- There will be 1 or 2 composition projects. These will be discussed at the proper time.
- There will be listening assignments outside of class period. It is the responsibility of the student to do the listening and be prepared to recognize either all or excerpts from a particular piece. Listening identification will be either a part of a major exam or presented as a separate quiz.
- There will be an individual mid-term exam on material covered up to that point. There will also be a final exam covering material for the entire semester.
- There will tests covering, but not limited to, musical analysis and compositional techniques. There may also be tests on, but is not limited to, an in-depth examination of a particular composer, particular compositional school, or a particular theory concept. It is also highly likely that a composition or compositions will be required to demonstrate understanding of a particular technique. This will be discussed in detail when the time arises.
- There will be class assignments (or homework) fairly frequently. These assignments will either be on materials already discussed and/or materials we will be discussing in the next class period. One will be given a mark of up to 10 points based on the effort put into the assignment—not necessarily all correct answers. Assignments not turned in, however, when due will receive 0 points. If the assignment is late, then you will have points deducted. It is better, however, to turn in all assignments, no matter how late. Some credit will be awarded. Sometimes these assignments will not be written; rather they will be an oral presentation by the student to the class. These types of assignments will not be given the same type of “grace” period.
- Depending upon how the class proceeds, a paper or papers will be assigned upon the discretion of the Instructor. The paper may be, but is not limited to, an in-depth examination of a particular composer, particular compositional school, or a particular theory concept. It is also highly likely that a composition or compositions will be required to demonstrate understanding of a particular common practice or 20th century technique. This will be discussed in detail when the time arises.

- Students are required to attend **two** musical performances (as described by the Instructor) during the semester and turn in a written (computer or typed) report, minimum one page, single and ½ spaced, font no larger than 12 point, about the event (**due no later than one week after the performance date**). **One is required by the mid-term exam; the other the last day of class.** Reports turned in after the week period will not receive full credit. You can always turn in your reports before the due dates. You will receive up to 10 points for each paper depending upon meeting the qualifications above. If one of your papers is not turned in by mid-term, you will receive a 5 point deduction from your mid-semester grade. For the overall semester, missing reports will result in a 10 point deduction from your overall class average—consequently, without both reports, you cannot make an "A" in this course.
- At the discretion of the Instructor, points can be given for either exceptional work or points subtracted for behavior that is disruptive or refusal to participate in class requirements or assignments. This will be part of your participation grade given at the end of the semester.

For the quizzes, projects and exams, you will be given a letter grade of A, B, C, or D. Grades are determined as a percentage according to: 100-90=A; 89-80=B, 79-70=C, 69 or below=D. Exams and projects are based on 100 points.

EXAMS SCHEDULE

The following is a guideline and may be altered depending upon the progress of the class. Major exams will be during the prescribed weeks covering the Arts Faculty. These will be discussed at least a week in advance of when they are given. The mid-term exam will be either Oct. 4 or 6. Final exam is as posted. Quizzes will be spaced throughout the semester to correspond to when material should be learned in a timely manner. The projects will be assigned a specific due date to fall within the Arts Faculty testing guidelines. These dates will be told to the student when the project is assigned. At the discretion of the Instructor, an additional project may be assigned in place of an exam. This will be discussed in class before the assignment is given. Depending upon discussed changes, the percentages that comprise the breakdown of grades will be altered. If this occurs, students will be notified about those percentage changes.

OVERALL GRADE BREAKDOWN

In general, the following applies:

Class Discussion and Participation 40%
 Sight-singing and dictation: 10%
 Exams/Quizzes: 20%
 Concert Reviews: 10%
 Final Exam: 20%

ATTENDANCE

Students must adhere to the LSMSA attendance policy. Failure to attend a class will be reported on the attendance report. The administration and/or the school nurse, not the Instructor, will determine whether or not an absence is excused. If you do miss a class for any reason, it is your responsibility to contact a classmate to know what took place during your absence and to prepare for any class assignment or exam that will take place upon your return. Unexcused absences will result in a minus for any class assignment you missed. Attendance is taken at the beginning of class. If you enter after attendance is taken, you will be marked tardy. Three unexcused tardies are considered as one absence. You are tardy once class begins. If you are tardy, it is your responsibility to get the material you missed from a classmate.

HONOR CODE

Students will abide by the Honor Code regulations as stated in the student handbook.

LIFE PHILOSOPHY

Do what is right even if it is unpopular.
 Take responsibility for your actions.
 Don't let others think for you.
 There is always a choice.
 Be true to yourself.

I can think of no good reason to use "curse" words in the context of this class. You will not hear such language from me either in or out of the classroom. I don't expect to hear it from you.