



Course Syllabus: Music Theory III

Lamar D. Fain College of Fine Arts

MUSC 3602 Section 001

Fall 2026: 8/24/26 – 12/10/26

Contact Information

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Course Description

Analysis and 4-part composition of chromatic music in the Common Practice Period style involving common rhythmic/metric patterns in simple and compound meter.

Textbook & Instructional Materials

Burstein, Poundie L. and Joseph N. Straus. *A Concise Introduction to Tonal Harmony*. 3rd Ed. New York: W.W. Norton, 2025.

You will use these resources for five courses: Music Theory I, II, III, and IV and Analysis of Musical Form.

- The **textbook** may be in a format of your choice: e-Book, loose leaf, paperback, or hardcover.
- You will need to purchase a physical copy of a new **workbook** or have a **device that can access a copy of the digital workbook**.
- You will also need access to the **digital resources**, which are provided for 1080 days (approximately 3 years) with every new textbook purchase. If you have purchased a used textbook, access to the digital resources can be obtained at <https://digital.wwnorton.com/conciseharmony3>.

Student Learning Objectives

The curriculum for all four music theory courses are aligned with the Texas Examination of Educator Standards (TExES) State Board of Educator Certification (SBEC) EC-12 music standards. See Appendix A for a complete list of standards covered in Music Theory I-IV.

- The student can recognize rhythms and meters commonly used in the Common Practice Period style. (SBEC 004.B, 004.C)
- The student can analyze the use of diatonic and chromatic harmonic techniques used in the Common Practice Period style. (SBEC 004.B, SBEC 004.D, SBEC 004.E)
- The student can compose simple 4-part compositions in standard written notation. (SBEC 005.A)
- The student can critique a simple music composition and offer suggestions for its improvement. (SBEC 005.D)

Study Hours and Tutoring Assistance

The music department provides free tutoring for all music theory courses. Please see the instructor for more information.

Student Handbook

Refer to: [Student Handbook](#)

Academic Misconduct Policy & Procedures

Academic Dishonesty: Cheating, collusion, and plagiarism (the act of using source material of other persons, either published or unpublished, without following the accepted techniques of crediting, or the submission for credit of work not the individual's to whom credit is given). Additional guidelines on procedures in these matters may be found in the Office of Student Conduct.

[Office of Student Conduct](#)

Moffett Library

Moffett Library provides resources and services to support student's studies and assignments, including books, peer-reviewed journals, databases, and multimedia materials accessible both on campus and remotely. The library offers media equipment checkout, reservable study rooms, and research assistance from librarians to help students effectively find, evaluate, and use information. Get started on this [Moffett Library webpage](#) to explore these resources and learn how to best utilize the library.

Grading

This course will use an alternative competency-based grading model. This section will lay out the details of this system so that you know what you must achieve to earn a particular grade. Appendix B provides a checklist for students to monitor their grades.

Table 1: Requirements for Final Grade

Assignments	A	B	C	D
9 Fluency Quizzes (SBEC 004.B)	Proficient or higher on all 9	Proficient or higher on all 9	Developing or higher on all 9	All 9 attempted
5 Analysis Unit Assessments (SBEC 004.D, SBEC 004.E)	Proficient or higher on all 5	Developing or higher on all 5	Developing or higher on 3	
5 Composition Unit Assessments (SBEC 005.A)	Proficient or higher on all 5	Developing or higher on all 5	Developing or higher on 3	
5 Discussion Board Replies (SBEC 005.D)	2 completed	1 completed		

Table 2: Grading Scale

Grade	Points	Next Steps
DNA	Did Not Attempt	Submit the assignment.
NI	Needs Improvement	Book a tutoring session.
DEV	Developing	Review feedback and reattempt.
PRO	Proficient	None required.
EXCEL	Excellent	None required.

Fluency Quizzes

Fluency quizzes are designed to measure your comfort and speed with the identification (e.g. labeling a chord) and construction (e.g. building a chord on the treble clef staff) of music fundamentals, as described in Student Learning Outcome SBEC 004.B. As you progress through your study of music theory, you should become more fluent with these fundamentals. To help you achieve this goal, fluency quizzes are offered in every music theory course.

These fluency quizzes will be taken on D2L and involve clicking on a notation or a label. You may request an oral fluency exam via Zoom or in person in lieu of any electronic timed quiz. You may take these quizzes as many times as you like throughout the semester to raise your grade. All quizzes are due **by the last day of classes at 11:59 p.m. CST**, but I will provide you with recommended due dates throughout the semester to help you manage your workload.

To pass the course with a D or higher, you must attempt all fluency quizzes.

To score a PRO or EXCEL on a fluency quiz, the percentage score must be 70% or higher. The purpose of these quizzes is not to check how fast you can click a screen. The purpose is to check how fast you can recall music fundamentals.

Table 3: Fluency Quiz Target Scores

Assignments	*EXCEL	*PRO	DEV	NI
FQ 1 Pitch ID (Treble & Bass Clefs)	55+ (70%)	45-54 (70%)	32-44	1-31
FQ 2 Major Key Sig ID	66+ (70%)	54-65 (70%)	39-53	1-38
FQ 3 Minor Key Sig ID	40+ (70%)	33-39 (70%)	24-32	1-23
FQ 4 2 nd ID (Major, minor)	35+ (70%)	28-34 (70%)	20-27	1-19
FQ 5 Major Scale Construction	9+ (70%)	7-8 (70%)	5-6	1-4
FQ 6 3 rd ID (Major, minor, diminished)	51+ (70%)	42-50 (70%)	30-41	1-29
FQ 7 Major/V7 Construction	32+ (70%)	26-31 (70%)	19-25	1-18
FQ 8 Triad ID (Major, minor, diminished)	49+ (70%)	40-48 (70%)	29-39	1-28
FQ 9 Seventh Chord ID	41+ (70%)	34-40 (70%)	24-33	1-23

Unit Assessments

There will be four units in this course that cover Student Learning Objectives SBEC 004.D, 004.E, and 005.A. Each unit will cover two skills: analysis and composition (realization/part-writing).

- Unit 1: Fundamentals Review (Clefs, Key Signatures, Scales, Rhythm/Meter)
- Unit 2: Diatonic Harmony Review
- Unit 3: Diatonic Sequences
- Unit 4: Secondary Dominants and ii-V-I Jazz Progressions
- Unit 5: Modulation and Modal Mixture (Borrowed Chords)

A pretest will be given at the beginning of each unit of study. If you pass a competency measured on the pretest, you will be exempt from any homework or examinations relating to the material from that competency. (e.g. If you pass the

analysis portion of the Unit 1 pretest, you will only need to complete any assignments/exams for the composition portion of the unit.)

Homework

Homework will be assigned to students who do not pass a pretest or a competency on a pretest. Analysis homework will consist of completing tutorials and InQuizitives on the textbook's digital resources site. Composition homework will consist of posting exercises from the workbook on a discussion board to be reviewed in class. Students may submit discussion board posts anonymously if desired.

Exams

There will be 5 exams for each of the 5 units. Retakes of unit exams will be allowed for scores of Needs Improvement (NI) or Developing (DEV). The student should book an appointment through Calendly to schedule a unit exam retake.

Composition Projects

Students will have the opportunity to complete two composition projects this semester—the creation of a simple piano accompaniment based on 4-part writing and a composition using diatonic chords. These projects will be due at the end of the semester.

Late Work and Retakes

There will be no retakes allowed of pretests. Homework will not be accepted past the deadline.

Retakes of fluency quizzes will be allowed until the last day of the semester. Students wishing to retake a fluency quiz can submit an unlimited number of attempts through D2L.

Retakes of unit exams will be allowed for scores of Did Not Attempt (DNA), Needs Improvement (NI), or Developing (DEV). Students can either retake an exam during a subsequent pretest or exam time or book an appointment through Calendly to schedule a unit exam.

Important Dates

- Last day for term schedule changes: Check date on [Academic Calendar](#).
- Last Day to drop with a grade of "W:" Check date on [Academic Calendar](#).
- Refer to: [Drops, Withdrawals & Void](#)

Desire-to-Learn (D2L)

Extensive use of the MSU D2L program is a part of this course. Each student is expected to be familiar with this program as it provides a primary source of communication regarding assignments, examination materials, and general

course information. You can log into [D2L](#) through the MSU Homepage. If you experience difficulties, please contact the technicians listed for the program or contact your instructor.

Attendance

Students are expected to attend all class meetings unless exempted by the instructor. In case of absence, a student should view the missed class on the unlisted YouTube video playlist for the course.

Online Computer Requirements

This class requires you to have access to a computer (with Internet access) to complete and upload your assignments. It is your responsibility to have (or have access to) a working computer or mobile device in this class. ****Assignments are due by the due date, and personal computer technical difficulties will not be considered reason for the instructor to allow students extra time to submit assignments or discussion postings.*** Computers are available on campus in various areas of the buildings as well as the Academic Success Center. ****Your computer being down is not an excuse for missing a deadline!!***

There are many places to access your class! Our online classes can be accessed from any computer in the world which is connected to the internet. Contact your instructor immediately upon having computer trouble. If you have technical difficulties in the course, there is also a student helpdesk available to you. The college cannot work directly on student computers due to both liability and resource limitations; however, they are able to help you get connected to our online services. For help, log into [D2L](#).

Recording Classes

The professor will provide an unlisted YouTube playlist of class recordings. Class recordings are for personal use only and may not be uploaded to the internet or otherwise shared, transmitted, or published without the professor's prior consent. When it is feasible and appropriate, students may record classes to accommodate disabilities under the Americans With Disabilities Act, with prior approval of Disability Support Services. Such recordings may not be uploaded to the internet or otherwise shared, transmitted, or published.

Hearing Loss and Health

As a musician, your hearing is one of your most valuable assets. Unfortunately, high exposure to sound-producing activities can lead to noise-induced hearing loss. While this can be temporary, it can lead to tinnitus (ringing in the ears), permanent loss of hearing (particularly in the higher frequencies), and deafness. In addition to affecting a student's enjoyment of music, it also may render them incapable of continuing as a professional musician or music educator.

Musicians are also susceptible to musculoskeletal and vocal injury, particularly overuse injury. Failure to take adequate precautions can greatly shorten a student's performing career.

Means to minimize risks associated with hearing loss and performance-related injuries will be discussed during applied lessons and/or masterclasses. Faculty members can only present information to students and offer resources and assistance in seeking professional medical help when needed. The student has the final responsibility to take proper precautions.

Change of Schedule

A student dropping a course (but not withdrawing from the University) within the first 12 class days of a regular semester or the first four class days of a summer semester is eligible for a 100% refund of applicable tuition and fees. Dates are published in the Schedule of Classes each semester.

Refund and Repayment Policy

A student who withdraws or is administratively withdrawn from Midwestern State University (MSU) may be eligible to receive a refund for all or a portion of the tuition, fees and room/board charges that were paid to MSU for the semester. HOWEVER, if the student received financial aid (federal/state/institutional grants, loans and/or scholarships), all or a portion of the refund may be returned to the financial aid programs. As described below, two formulas (federal and state) exist in determining the amount of the refund. (Examples of each refund calculation will be made available upon request).

Services for Students with Disabilities

In accordance with Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Midwestern State University endeavors to make reasonable accommodations to ensure equal opportunity for qualified persons with disabilities to participate in all educational, social, and recreational programs and activities. After notification of acceptance, students requiring accommodations should make application for such assistance through Disability Support Services, located in the Student Wellness Center, (940) 397-4140. Current documentation of a disability will be required in order to provide appropriate services, and each request will be individually reviewed. For more details, please go to [Disability Support Services](#).

Emergency Aid Resources for Basic Needs

Unexpected life circumstances can affect anyone. If you are experiencing challenges meeting basic needs—such as housing, utilities, food, transportation, healthcare, technology, textbooks or other life necessities, resources may be available to help. Visit the [Student Emergency Support and Resources webpage](#) to learn more, and explore emergency support opportunities through MSU and

how to access them. For additional information, please contact the Office of Student Affairs: Clark Student Center #108, (940) 397-7500, student.affairs@mstuexas.edu.

College Policies

Campus Carry Rules/Policies

Refer to: [Campus Carry Rules and Policies](#)

Smoking/Tobacco Policy

College policy strictly prohibits the use of tobacco products in any building owned or operated by WATC. Adult students may smoke only in the outside designated-smoking areas at each location.

Alcohol and Drug Policy

To comply with the Drug Free Schools and Communities Act of 1989 and subsequent amendments, students and employees of Midwestern State are informed that strictly enforced policies are in place which prohibits the unlawful possession, use or distribution of any illicit drugs, including alcohol, on university property or as part of any university-sponsored activity. Students and employees are also subject to all applicable legal sanctions under local, state and federal law for any offenses involving illicit drugs on University property or at University-sponsored activities.

Campus Carry

Effective August 1, 2016, the Campus Carry law (Senate Bill 11) allows those licensed individuals to carry a concealed handgun in buildings on public university campuses, except in locations the University establishes has prohibited. The new Constitutional Carry law does not change this process. Concealed carry still requires a License to Carry permit, and openly carrying handguns is not allowed on college campuses. For more information, visit [Campus Carry](#).

Active Shooter

The safety and security of our campus is the responsibility of everyone in our community. Each of us has an obligation to be prepared to appropriately respond to threats to our campus, such as an active aggressor. Please review the information provided by MSU Police Department regarding the options and strategies we can all use to stay safe during difficult situations. For more information, visit [MSUReady – Active Shooter](#). Students are encouraged to watch the video entitled “Run. Hide. Fight.” which may be electronically accessed via the University police department’s webpage: ["Run. Hide. Fight."](#)

Grade Appeal Process

Students who wish to appeal a grade should consult the Midwestern State University [MSU Catalog](#)

Course Schedule:

***Notice:** Changes in the course syllabus, procedure, assignments, and schedule may be made at the discretion of the instructor.

The complete course schedule will be available by September 1, 2026.

Week	Monday	Wednesday	Due Dates
Week 1 8/24 to 8/30	Syllabus Quick Review of Pitch Reading & Key Signatures	Review of Scales, Intervals, Triads, and Seventh Chords	
Week 2 8/31 to 9/6	Unit 1 Pretest (Chapters 0-3)	Review: Tonic Inference and Cadences	1st Attempt Due Sunday by 11:59 p.m. FQ 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8
Week 3 9/7 to 9/13	Labor Day – No Classes	Review: Pitch Inventory & Roman Numerals	Due Sunday by 11:59 p.m. Unit 1 Homework
Week 4 9/14 to 9/20	Review: Roman Numerals & Embellishing Tones; Homework Revisions	Unit 1 Exam	Due Monday by 11:59 p.m. Unit 1 Homework Revisions
Week 5 9/21 to 9/27	Unit 2 Pretest	Unit 2 Review	
Week 6 9/28 to 10/4	Unit 2 Review	Unit 2 Review	Due Sunday by 11:59 p.m. Unit 2 Homework
Week 7 10/5 to 10/11	Unit 2 Review	Unit 2 Exam	Due Monday by 11:59 p.m. Unit 2 Homework Revisions
Week 8 10/12 to 10/18	Unit 3 Pretest	Unit 3 Review	Due Sunday by 11:59 p.m. Unit 3 Homework

Week	Monday	Wednesday	Due Dates
Week 9 10/19 to 10/25	Unit 3 Review	Unit 3 Exam	Due Monday by 11:59 p.m. Unit 3 Homework Revisions
Week 10 10/26 to 11/1	Unit 4 Pretest	Unit 4 Review	
Week 11 11/2 to 11/8	Unit 4 Review	Unit 4 Review	Due Sunday by 11:59 p.m. Unit 4 Homework
Week 12 11/9 to 11/15	Unit 4 Review	Unit 4 Exam	Due Monday by 11:59 p.m. Unit 4 Homework Revisions
Week 13 11/16 to 11/22	Unit 5 Pretest	Unit 5 Review	
Week 14 11/23 to 11/29	Unit 5 Review	Thanksgiving – No class	Due Sunday by 11:59 p.m. Unit 5 Homework
Week 15 11/30 to 12/6	Unit 5 Review	Unit 5 Review	Due Sunday by 11:59 p.m. Unit 5 Homework Revisions
Week 16 12/7	Unit 5 Exam 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.	Due Thursday by 11:59 p.m. All Fluency Quiz retakes	

Appendix A

TExES SBEC Competencies

The curriculum for all four music theory courses are aligned with the Texas Examination of Educator Standards (TExES) State Board of Educator Certification (SBEC) EC-12 music standards. Following is a list of the SBEC competencies addressed in this course.

SBEC Competency 004: I can read, write, and interpret standard music notation.

SBEC 004.A

I can:

- Identify standard music terminology,
- Identify and interpret music symbols and terms from notation, such as:
 - Dynamics,
 - Embellishments,
 - Articulation markings, and
 - Tempo markings.

SBEC 004.B

I can:

- Recognize [pitched on all] clefs, such as:
 - Treble
 - Bass
 - Alto
 - Tenor
- Recognize [major and minor] keys
- Recognize meters, such as:
 - Simple, compound, asymmetrical
 - Duple, triple, quadruple, quintuple, sextuple, etc.
- Recognize [major and minor] scales
- Recognize pitch collections, such as:
 - Diatonic modes
 - Pentatonic scales, and
 - Whole-tone scales.
- Identify specific melodic and harmonic intervals, such as:
 - Major vs. minor 2nds
 - Major vs. minor vs. diminished 3rds
 - Perfect vs. augmented 4ths
 - Perfect vs. diminished 5ths
 - Major vs. minor 6ths
 - Major vs. minor vs. diminished 7ths
 - Compound intervals

- Identify different rhythms, such as:
 - Common simple meter rhythms, such as:
 - Ta-ti, 1-and, or 1-te,
 - Ta-ka-ti-ki, 1-e-and-a, or 1-ti-te-ta.
 - Ta—ti-ki, 1—and-a, or 1—te-ta,
 - Ta-ka-ti—, 1-e-and—, or 1-ti-te—
 - Ta-ka—ki, 1-e—a, or 1—te-ta,
 - Ta—ki, 1—a, or 1—ta,
 - Common compound meter rhythms, such as:
 - Ta-tu-te or 1-la-li
 - Ta—te or 1—li
 - Ta-ka-tu-ku-te-ke or 1-t-la-t-li-t
 - Ta—tu-ku-te-ke or 1—la-t-li-t
 - Ta-ka-tu-ku-te— or 1-t-la-t-li—
 - Ta—ku-te— or 1—t-li—

SBEC 004.C

I can:

- Read melodies in various modes and tonalities, such as:
 - Major
 - Natural minor (or Aeolian)
 - Harmonic minor
 - Melodic minor
 - Natural minor with a raised sixth scale degree (or Dorian)
 - Major with a lowered seventh scale degree (or Mixolydian)
- Interpret rhythmic and melodic phrases from notation (see
- Read music that incorporates complex rhythmic patterns in simple, compound, and asymmetric meters.

SBEC 004.D

I can:

- Recognize and describe the [characteristics of a] melody in a musical work, such as:
 - Range
 - Contour
 - Phrase structure, such as:
 - Parallel period
 - Contrasting period
 - Sentence

- Recognize and describe harmony of a musical work, such as:
 - Diatonic
 - Chromatic
 - Modal (Dorian, Phrygian, Lydian, Mixolydian, Aeolian, Locrian)
 - Tonal
 - Atonal
 - Tonicization
 - Modulation to a closely related key
 - Modulation to a distant key
- Recognize and describe texture of a musical work, such as:
 - Monophonic
 - Homophonic
 - Polyphonic

SBEC 004.E

I can:

- Analyze chordal structures, such as:
 - Major, minor, diminished, and augmented triads
 - Major (MM7), dominant (Mm7 or V7), minor (mm7), diminished (dd7 or $\circ 7$), and half-diminished (dm7 or $m7 (\flat^5)$) seventh chords
 - Tonic (I, i) or tonic substitutes (vi, VI)
 - Dominant (V) or dominant substitutes (vii°)
 - Predominant or subdominant (IV, iv, ii, ii°)
 - Secondary dominants (V-I, V-i, vii° -I, vii° -i in a related key)
 - Modal mixture or borrowed chords (i, ii° , $\flat III$, iv, $\flat VI$, $\flat VII$ in a major key)
 - Picardy third chords (I in a minor key)
 - Augmented sixth chords (It^{+6} , Fr^{+6} , and Ger^{+6})
 - Tritone substitutions
 - Common-tone diminished seventh chords ($ct^{\circ 7}$)
- Analyze harmonic progressions, such as:
 - D-T or V-I
 - PD-D-T, SD-D-T, ii-V-I, or IV-V-I
 - PD-D-Ts, ii-V-vi, or IV-V-vi
 - Ts-PD-D-T, Ts-SD-D-T, or vi-ii-V-I
 - Diatonic circle progressions (vi-ii-V-I)
 - Modulation

- Analyze cadences, such as:
 - Perfect Authentic (PAC),
 - Imperfect Authentic (IAC),
 - Half (HC),
 - Phrygian Half (PHC)
 - Deceptive (DC), and
 - Plagal (PC)
- Analyze harmonic textures, such as
 - Polyphonic,
 - Homophonic, and
 - Monophonic.

SBEC Competency 005: I understand methods and techniques of musical composition and improvisation, and I know how to arrange music for specific purposes and settings.

SBEC 005.A

I can:

- Compose simple vocal and instrumental music for specific purposes and settings
- Arrange simple vocal and instrumental music for specific purposes and settings

SBEC 005.B

I can:

- Analyze compositional devices, such as:
 - Repetition/contrast
 - Delayed resolution
- Apply knowledge of music forms
 - Binary
 - Rounded binary
 - Ternary

SBEC 005.D

I can:

- Apply criteria for evaluating and critiquing musical compositions, such as:
 - Advanced Placement part-writing rubric
- Evaluate specific musical works and styles using appropriate music terminology
- Offer constructive suggestions for the improvement of a musical composition

Appendix B

Table 5: Grading Checklist

Grade	Discussion Board Replies	Unit Composition	Unit Analysis	Fluency Quizzes
D				9 completed ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ 6 ☐ 7 ☐ 8 ☐ 9
C		Developing ☐ ____ ☐ ____ ☐ ____	Developing ☐ ____ ☐ ____ ☐ ____	Developing ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ 6 ☐ 7 ☐ 8 ☐ 9
B	Completed ○ DB ____	Developing ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5	Developing ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5	Proficient ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ 6 ☐ 7 ☐ 8 ☐ 9
A	Completed ○ DB ____ ○ DB ____	Proficient ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5	Proficient ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5	Proficient ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ 6 ☐ 7 ☐ 8 ☐ 9