



Course Syllabus: Musicianship III

Lamar D. Fain College of Fine Arts

MUSC 3601 Section 001

Fall 2026: 8/24/26 – 12/10/26

Contact Information

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Course Description

Identification, transcription, error detection, and performance of diatonic melodies/harmonies and common patterns in simple and compound meter.

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 aurally identify major and minor scales. (SBEC 001.A)
- The student can transcribe common non-syncopated patterns in simple and compound meter. (SBEC 001.B)
- The student can transcribe diatonic melodies and chord progressions. (SBEC 001.C, 001.D)
- The student can identify common rhythmic errors in musical performances. (SBEC 003.B)
- The student can identify common pitch errors in musical performances involving leaps in the tonic, subdominant, and dominant chords. (SBEC 003.B)
- The student can sing melodies containing diatonic leaps and perform common syncopated patterns in simple and compound meter. (SBEC 001.A, 001.B, 004.A, 004.B, 004.C, 005.A, 008.A, 008.B, 008.D, 008.E)

Textbook & Instructional Materials

Rogers, Nancy and Ottoman, Robert W. *Music for Sight Singing*. 10th Ed. New York: Pearson, 2019.

Rhythm Bible (without CD), Dan Fox

Study Hours and Tutoring Assistance

Students are expected to practice musicianship skills and assignments outside of class. A minimum of 30 minutes per day is suggested.

The music department provides free tutoring for all musicianship 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Dishonesty: Cheating, collusion, and plagiarism (the act of using source material of other persons, either published or unpublished, without following the accepted techniques of crediting, or the submission for credit of work not the individual's to whom credit is given).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

Table 1: Percentage allocated to each assignment category

Assignments	Percentage
Class Participation	30%
Teaching Demonstrations	20%
Exams/Quizzes/Tests	50%
Total Percentage for Final Grade	100%

Table 2: Grading Scale

Grade	Percentage
A	90-100%
B	80-89%
C	70-79%
D	60-69%
F	Less than 60%

Exams/Quizzes/Tests

Exams/Quizzes/Tests will assess major concepts from class objectives (see above)

Teaching Demonstrations

Each student will lead the class in two teaching exams/assessments. You will design a test based on the material we are covering, present a plan to the instructor, and lead the class using the piano, whiteboard, and any other materials you need. The instructor will help and guide you to make sure you are successful. You will be graded on your preparation and quality of presentation.

Late Work/Make-Up-Work/Tests

Assignments must be turned in on time. Students may turn in late work one class after the original due date for a 30% point reduction or at the professor's discretion. If extenuating circumstances arise, the Professor will work with the student.

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 participate in daily group activities designed to develop musical skills that will benefit practice as a performer, collaborator, and teacher.

Therefore, attendance is crucial to personal development. Students may miss class three times without a final grade reduction. Each absence above the allotted absences reduces the final grade one letter grade. Tardies count toward absences. Students who arrive ten minutes late will be marked absent from class. Nonparticipation in class equals one absence for each occurrence. Save absences for when you are sick or for extenuating circumstance.

The instructor may drop a student from the course for excessive absences (5 or more). A verbal or written warning will be given to a student prior to being dropped from the class.

Online Computer Requirements

Some assignments may require 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 for this purpose. 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

****Recording classes is generally prohibited without the professor's explicit permission.*** Such recordings, when permitted, 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. Some faculty may not permit recordings of their classes. 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.

AI Statement

The use of generative AI tools (e.g. ChatGPT, AI Chat, etc.) are not permitted in this course; therefore, any use of AI tools for work in this class may be considered a violation of MSU Texas' Academic Integrity policy and the Student Code of Conduct since the work is not your own. The use of unauthorized AI tools will result in referral to the Office of Student Conduct.

Instructor Class Policies

Students are required to participate in all class activities. Students are to read weekly assignments (when applicable), prepare written responses (when applicable), and discuss assigned material. Assignments are reviewed in class for clarity and understanding.

Students are to conduct themselves in a professional manner so that all students may learn without distraction or disruption. This includes cell phones turned off and no texting or other personal phone use under any circumstance.

College students are adults and are expected to behave accordingly. Classroom behavior that interferes with either the instructor's ability to conduct class or the ability of the other students to benefit from instruction will result in the instructor's removing the disruptive student(s) from class, either temporarily or permanently (instructor drop). Any disruptive student asked to leave class will receive an absence.

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.

Weather Statement

This course follows MSU Guidelines for inclement weather. Classes will not meet if campus is closed during the time of class. The class will NOT meet online if campus is closed. If assessment deadlines coincide with university closure, an extension will be stated the next class meeting.

Privacy Statement

Federal privacy law prohibits the instructor from releasing information about students to certain parties outside of the university without the signed consent of the student. Thus, in almost all cases the professor will not discuss students' academic progress or other matters with their parents. Please do not have them call. Regardless of these important legal considerations, the professors' general policy is to communicate with the students, not their parents, even when a student has signed a consent form.

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.

Week	Activities/Assignments/Exams	Due Date
Week 1 8/24 to 8/29	• Course Syllabus • Pre-Testing	
Week 2 8/31 to 9/4	• Pre-Testing • Diatonic Collection: Major • Intro to error detection • Chord Inversions - major	
Week 3 9/7 to 9/11	• Diatonic Collection: Major • Review chord inversions - major • Introduction to Diatonic Collection: Minor • Dictation: Simple meter	
Week 4 9/14 to 9/18	• Review Diatonic Collection: Major • Review Diatonic Collection: Minor • Error Detection • Dictation: Simple meter	TEST #1

*Instructor will pace the course, content, and assessments with discretion based on the needs of the class and will clearly communicate expectations and assessments in advance via email and in class.

Appendix A

TEGES SBEC Competencies

SBEC 001 The teacher applies standard terminology to describe and analyze various elements in a musical recording.

- A. Interprets music symbols and terms aurally (e.g., dynamics, embellishments, articulation, tempo markings), identifies specific melodic and harmonic intervals and recognizes scales and pitch collections (e.g., modal, major, minor, pentatonic, whole-tone).
- B. Identifies different rhythms and meters and interprets rhythmic and melodic phrases aurally (e.g., syncopation, hemiola, augmentation, contour, sequence, repetition).
- C. Recognizes and describes the melody, harmony and texture of a musical work (e.g., modal, tonal, atonal, ostinato, doublings, melody and countermelody).
- D. Analyzes chordal structures (e.g., major, minor, dominant seventh, diminished seventh), harmonic progressions, cadences (e.g., authentic, half, deceptive, plagal) and harmonic textures (e.g., polyphonic, homophonic, monophonic).

SBEC 003 The teacher evaluates and critiques musical compositions and performances in a musical recording.

- A. Identifies vocal and instrumental sounds and distinguishes among timbres (e.g., voice and instrument types and ensembles).
- B. Recognizes accurate pitch, intonation, rhythm and characteristic tone quality; recognizes and diagnoses performance problems; and detects errors accurately.
- C. Identifies and analyzes musical forms in performance and listening repertoire (e.g., twelve-bar blues, binary, ternary) and characteristics of style and expression in musical performance (e.g., dynamics, tempo, articulation, embellishments).

SBEC 004 The teacher knows how to read, write, and interpret standard music notation.

- A. Knows standard music terminology and identifies and interprets music symbols and terms from notation (e.g., dynamics, embellishments, articulation markings, tempo markings).
- B. Recognizes clefs, keys and meters; recognizes scales and pitch collections (e.g., modal, major, minor, pentatonic, whole-tone); identifies specific melodic and harmonic intervals; and identifies different rhythms and meters.
- C. Reads melodies in various modes and tonalities; interprets rhythmic and melodic phrases from notation; and reads music that incorporates complex rhythmic patterns in simple, compound and asymmetric meters.
- D. Recognizes and describes melody, harmony and texture of a musical work (e.g., modal, tonal, atonal, ostinato, doublings, melody and countermelody).

SBEC 008 The teacher demonstrates knowledge of methods and techniques for singing.

- A. Understands performance skills and appropriate techniques for singing (e.g., tone production, sight-singing methods).
- B. Understands proper health techniques to use during vocal rehearsals and performances (e.g., maintaining good posture, protecting the changing voice).
- C. Selects appropriate vocal literature to enhance technical skills and provide musical challenges.
- D. Understands standard terminology used in communicating about students' musical skills and performances.
- E. Knows how to offer meaningful prescriptions for correcting performance problems and errors (e.g., diction, tone production, intonation, phrasing) and understands the constructive use of criticism when evaluating musical skills or performances.