



Course Syllabus: Theory IV

College of Fine Arts

MUSC 3613

Spring 2026 01/20/26 - 05/14/26

Contact Information

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Course Description

Sight-singing and dictation of more difficult melodies. Introduction of two-part and four-part dictation. Voice leading figured basses and melodies using altered chords, modulations, 9th, 11th, and 13th chords and augmented sixth chords. Composing and improvising in various styles involving advanced chords are included.

This is the fourth of four classes designed to give the student the necessary knowledge, vocabulary, and skills germane to a collegiate music graduate. Music Theory IV will introduce chromaticism and challenge the student to analyze changing tonal centres and non-tonal examples. A lab is to be taken simultaneously with this class, which, will be dedicated to the instruction of aural skills such as sight-singing, ear-training, and melodic, rhythm, and harmonic dictation.

Student Learning Outcomes

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 with their specific Student Learning Objectives for this course.

SBEC Competency 001: I can apply standard terminology to describe elements in a musical recording.

SBEC 001.A I can identify pitch collections by ear:

- Major and minor scales
- Chromatic scales
- Pentatonic scales
- Diatonic modes
- Whole-Tone scale

SBEC 001.B I can identify common rhythms, meters, and composition devices by ear:

- Common syncopated and non-syncopated patterns
- Non-syncopated patterns in uncommon time signatures
- Patterns involving triplets and hemiola

SBEC 001.C I can recognize and describe tonal, modal, and atonal melodies by ear.

- Melodic dictation/transcription of tonal melodies
- Aural identification of tonal, modal, and atonal melodies

SBEC 001.D I can recognize common harmonic elements, progressions, and cadences by ear.

- Harmonic dictation/transcription involving diatonic chords and tonicization
- Aural identification of authentic, half, deceptive, and plagal cadences

SBEC Competency 003: I can evaluate and critique compositions and performances in a musical recording.

SBEC 003.B I can detect rhythmic and pitch errors in musical performances.

- Errors involving common patterns in simple and compound meter
- Errors involving skips in the tonic, dominant, subdominant, and supertonic chords

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

SBEC 004.B I can recognize pitches, pitch collections, intervals, rhythms, and meters written in standard music notation:

- Pitch identification on treble, bass, and C clefs
- Major and minor key signature identification
- Diatonic interval identification
- Simple, compound, and asymmetrical meter identification

SBEC 004.C I can perform phrases using simple, compound, and asymmetrical meters and major/minor tonality and diatonic modes written in standard music notation.

- Diatonic melodies with tonicization
- Modal melodies
- Common patterns in simple, compound, and asymmetrical meter

SBEC 004.D I can analyze the use of common pitch collections in a musical work written in standard music notation.

- Tonic inference in tonal passages involving chromaticism
- Centricity inference in musical passages using diatonic modes
- Identification of modes and scales

SBEC 004.E I can analyze the harmonic techniques used to compose a musical work written in standard music notation.

- Analysis of diatonic and chromatic chords using Roman Numerals
- Analysis of authentic, half, deceptive, and plagal cadences and motion

Competency 005: I understand methods and techniques of musical composition and improvisation.

SBEC 005.A I can compose simple compositions in standard written music notation.

- 4-part writing involving chromatic harmony in the Common Practice Period style
- Harmonization of chromatic melodies
- Melodic composition using diatonic modes

SBEC 005.B I can analyze musical passages employing non-functional harmony written in standard music notation.

- Analysis of musical works using Neo-Reimannian theory
- Analysis of musical works using set theory and 12-tone matrices

SBEC 005.C I can improvise using standard techniques.

- Chord-scale theory

Textbook

Burstein, Poundie L. and Joseph N. Straus. *A Concise Introduction to Tonal Harmony*. 2nd Ed. New York: W.W. Norton, 2020.

You will use these resources for four courses: Music Theory I, II, III, and IV.

- 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 easily use the Noteflight workbook in the digital resources. No scans of workbook pages will be provided.**
- 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/conciseharmony2> The site allows you to sign up for a 21-day (3-week) trial access.

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.

Table 1: Assignments Required for Final Grade

Assignments	A	B	C	D
11 Fluency Quizzes (SBEC 001.A, SBEC 004.B)	Proficient or higher on all 11	Proficient or higher on all 11	Developing or higher on all 11	At least 9 attempted
2 Performance Opportunities (SBEC 004.C)	Proficient or higher on both	Developing or higher on both	Developing or higher on 1	At least 1 attempted
3 Aural Skills Quizzes (SBEC 001.A, SBEC 001.B, SBEC 001.C, SBEC 001.D, SBEC 003.B)	Proficient or higher on all 3	Proficient or higher on 2	Developing or higher on 1	At least 1 attempted
1 Diatonic Harmony Exam (SBEC 004.D, SBEC 004.E, SBEC 005.A)	Proficient or higher	Proficient or higher	Developing or higher	Attempted
1 Chromatic Harmony Exam (SBEC 004.D, SBEC 004.E, SBEC 005.A)	Proficient or higher	Developing or higher	Developing or higher	
1 Jazz and Commercial Music Exam (SBEC 004.D, SBEC 004.E, SBEC 005.C)	Proficient or higher	Developing or higher		
1 Post-Tonal and Serialism Category Exam (SBEC 004.D, SBEC 005.B)	Proficient or higher	Developing or higher		
1 Composition Project (SBEC 005.A)	Developing or higher			

Table 2: Grading Scale

Grade	Percentage Equivalent
Excellent (EXCEL)	86% or higher
Proficient (PRO)	70-85%
Developing (DEV)	50-69%
Needs Improvement (NI)	1-49%
Did Not Attempt (DNA)	0%

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.A and 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 C or higher, you must demonstrate that you are developing proficiency on all fluency quizzes.**

Performance Opportunities

Performance opportunities are designed to demonstrate your ability to perform melodies and rhythms, as outlined in Student Learning Outcome SBEC 004.C.

Performance opportunities will be submitted via video on D2L. You may request an in-person performance opportunity in lieu of the video submission.

Resubmissions of performance opportunities for a higher grade are allowed for scores of Needs Improvement (NI) or Developing (DEV). No resubmissions for Did Not Attempt (DNA) will be accepted.

Aural Skills Quizzes

Aural Skills Quizzes are designed to measure your ear-training skills as outlined in SBEC 001.A, SBEC 001.B, SBEC 001.C, SBEC 001.D, and SBEC 003.B. These quizzes are designed to mimic questions you will see on the TExES EC-12 Music Certification exam.

Resubmissions of these quizzes for a higher grade are allowed for scores of Needs Improvement (NI) or Developing (DEV). No resubmissions for Did Not Attempt (DNA) will be accepted.

Unit Exams

There will be four unit exams in this course that cover Student Learning Objectives SBEC 004.D, 004.E, 005.B, and 005.C. The first two exams, Diatonic Harmony and Chromatic Harmony, will involve two skills: 4-part realization of figured bass and Roman numerals and analysis using Roman numerals.

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 the unit exam and any homework relating to the material from that competency. (e.g. If you pass the realization portion of the Diatonic Harmony pretest, you will only need to complete the analysis portion of the Diatonic Harmony unit exam.)

Retakes of unit exams will be allowed for scores of Needs Improvement (NI) or Developing (DEV). No retakes will be allowed for Did Not Attempt (DNA). The student should book an appointment through Calendly to schedule a unit exam retake.

Composition Project

Students can choose a composition project from three different units—Chromatic Harmony, Jazz and Commercial Music, or Post-Tonal and Serialism. The project will be due at the end of the semester.

Important Dates

- Last day for term schedule changes: Check date on [Academic Calendar](#).
- Deadline to file for graduation: Check date on [Academic Calendar](#).
- Last Day to drop with a grade of "W:" 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 meetings of the classes in which they are enrolled unless exempted by the instructor.

Online Computer Requirements

This class requires you to have access to a computer or mobile device (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 and tests 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, tests, or discussion postings.*** Computers are available on campus in various areas of the buildings as well as the Academic Success Center. 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](#).

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](#).

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

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

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

Course Schedule:

Please see D2L for the Course Schedule.