

HSU Music Department
MUS 214: Theory I – Spring 2017
M/W/F: 9:00–9:50 AM (MUSB, Rm. 203A)

Contact Information

Professor: Dr. Gillian Robertson

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Office hours: M: 4:00–5:00 pm and T/TH: 2:00-3:00 pm. Additional times by appointment.

Before contacting me please be sure to read the syllabus, which has answers to a number of common questions. I am happy to discuss anything covered in class, to answer questions about completed or nearly completed homework assignments (before the due date), and to review graded homework assignments before revisions.

Course Information

Course Description

MUS214 (Theory I): Diatonic melodic and harmonic practices involving analysis and 4-part writing. Species counterpoint, modes, triads, 7th chords, figured bass, nonharmonic tones, chord progressions, cadences.

This course will briefly review some of the fundamental concepts of music theory including intervals, key signatures, scale construction, triads and their inversions, and seventh chords. Students will be introduced to figured bass, triads and seventh chords in four-part harmony, cadence types, tonal chord progressions, nonharmonic tones, and the basics of species counterpoint.

Pre- and Co-Requisites

The pre-requisite for this class is either passing MUS110 (Fundamentals of Music) or receiving a passing score on the theory placement test. Additionally, you should be enrolled in MUSI112 (Piano I) if you have not already completed this class.

Textbook and Required Materials

- Clendinning and Marvin: *Musician's Guide to Theory and Analysis*, 3rd edition textbook, anthology, and Total Access code
- Staff paper and notebook paper
- Pencil (no pen, please)
- Binder for collecting class materials

Classroom Conduct

Students are expected to show basic professionalism in the classroom. Class will commence promptly at 9:00 am so plan to arrive a few minutes before the start of class. I expect that you will stay for the duration of the class (50 minutes), but if you need to leave class temporarily, please do so without asking, as quietly as possible. Students will come to class with the necessary course materials (e.g., homework, staff paper) and will turn off cell phones and other electronic devices and place them in a closed bag or case so that they are not a distraction to you or anyone else in class. Please remove ear-buds or headphones during class.

Attendance, Tardiness, and Make-Up Assessments

- Attendance in this class is *mandatory*. Students will be allowed *three unexcused absences* without penalty to their final grade. Each unexcused absence after the first three will result in the final grade being lowered one grade step (e.g. B+ to B)
- Students who arrive to class more than 5 minutes late or leave class early will be considered tardy. The accumulation of 3 tardies count as 1 unexcused absence.
- Missed assessments can only be made up for *excused absences* (e.g. Music Dept. events, illness) or for serious/compelling reasons (e.g. death in the family). Students may be required to provide some form of documentation for the absence.
- Absences resulting from an unusual situation or other personal circumstance may be considered excused on a case-by-case basis. If this seems relevant to your situation, please contact me as soon as possible.
- If you are absent from class, it is your responsibility to: contact me (preferably before class if possible), provide documentation (when necessary), get notes from a classmate, and print out any handouts or homework assignments from Moodle (these may often be available in the Theory 3 folder on my office door).

Student Learning Outcomes

HSU SLOs

HSU graduates will have demonstrated:

- Effective communication through written and oral modes.
- Critical and creative thinking skills in acquiring a broad base of knowledge and applying it to complex issues.
- Competence in a major area of study.
- Appreciation for and understanding of an expanded world perspective by engaging respectfully with a diverse range of individuals, communities and viewpoints.

HSU graduates will be prepared to:

- Succeed in their chosen careers.
- Take responsibility for identifying personal goals and practicing lifelong learning.
- Pursue social justice, promote environmental responsibility, and improve economic conditions in their workplaces and communities.

Music Department SLOs

This course will contribute to your acquisition of skills and knowledge relevant to these Music Department (and National Association of Schools of Music) Learning Outcomes:

- Students will demonstrate the ability to hear, identify, and work conceptually with the elements of music – rhythm, melody, harmony, and structure.
- Students will demonstrate familiarity with, and an ability to perform a wide selection of musical literature representing principal eras, genres, and cultural sources.
- Students will demonstrate ability in performing areas appropriate to the student's needs, interests, and degree path.
- Students will demonstrate effective English writing skills.

Course-level SLOs

- Students will demonstrate understanding of principles of voice-leading and consonance and dissonance in the writing of Species Counterpoint.
- Students will demonstrate understanding of harmony and principles of voice-leading using all the diatonic triads and V7 chords.
- Students will demonstrate the ability to analyze excerpts of music that include all diatonic triads and V7 chords.

Course Requirements and Grading

Final Grade Calculation

Class Participation	5%
Homework Assignments	45%
Online Quizzes	10%
In-class Quizzes	10%
Midterm Exam	15%
Final Exam	15%

Letter Grades

A = 93%–100%	A- = 90%–92%	B+ = 87%–89%	B = 83%–86%
B- = 80%–82%	C+ = 77%–79%	C = 73%–76%	C- = 70%–72%
D+ = 67%–69%	D = 60%–66%	F = below 60%	

Homework

You should expect to have a homework assignment for most classes, especially up through the midterm. These assignments will include part-writing exercises, analyses, and readings from the textbook. As you work on the assignments, refer to your notes and the textbook, and as much as possible listen to the music you are writing or analyzing.

Due dates

Homework is always due at the **beginning** of class and due dates will be printed on each assignment as well as on Moodle. Please do not leave homework assignments in my mailbox or drop them off at my office *unless* you're turning in an assignment early because you will be missing class because of a professional conflict (e.g. ensemble tour) or you've made some arrangement with me to do so.

Late and Incomplete Homework

I will accept *up to three homework assignments* one class period late without penalty (e.g. if you don't turn in an assignment on Monday, you have to turn it in at the beginning of class on Wednesday of the same week). If you have exhausted your three late assignments and turn in a fourth and fifth assignment late, these assignments will each be subject to a 10% deduction. Any further late assignments beyond these five will not receive credit (i.e. you will receive a 0). Homework assignments are still due by the beginning of class even if you are absent, so here are some options for getting the assignment in on time: 1) hand it in early if you know you're going to be away, 2) scan/take a picture of your assignment and email it to me before class (you will still need to turn in the hard copy of the assignment when you return to class) or 3) give the assignment to another student to turn in. If none of these options are possible, then you can use one of the five late passes.

Homework Revisions

If your homework assignment receives a grade less than 90%, you **may** revise the assignment *once*. The maximum score for revised assignments will be 90% instead of 100%. Revisions must be completed on a new page, attached to the original assignment. **Do not** erase or write over the original. Revisions will be accepted up through two class periods after the assignment is returned in class (this will be maintained whether or not a student is in class the day the assignment is returned or if a student turned in the original assignment late).

Academic Honesty

There is a fine line between helping a classmate and cheating. Consider the following:

- Cheating occurs if two people compare every answer on an interval or chord-spelling assignment.
- Cheating has usually occurred if two people hand in identical part-writing assignments.
- Giving answers, or telling someone if something is correct is usually cheating.
- Helping occurs if two people review how to spell a chord or interval, practice a few examples together, and then complete the assignment separately.
- Asking a student questions which will lead him/her to discover their mistake, or how to do something is always helping.

Quizzes

There will be several in-class quizzes to drill concepts and practice speed and fluency. Practice quizzes will be given in class a few days before the actual quiz (e.g. practice quiz on Monday, actual quiz on Friday). Quizzes will take place promptly at the beginning of class. You can only make up a quiz if you have an excused absence (see attendance policy above).

Exams

Midterm Exam: Fri. March 10 (in class)

Final Exam: Mon. May 8 (8:00–9:50 am)

Incompletes

A grade of incomplete will be given only if the following conditions are met: 1) Near the end of the semester a severe illness or other catastrophe makes completing the semester's coursework impossible; 2) You request a grade of incomplete as soon as you realize that you will be unable to complete your coursework; 3) You are passing the course when you request the incomplete.

University Policies, Procedures, and Resources

Students are responsible for reading/reviewing and knowing various University policies and procedures. The Syllabus Addendum website (URL listed below) provides links to policies and procedures as well as helpful resources:

- **Information about Campus Policies**
 - Academic Honesty Policy, Attendance and Disruptive Behavior Policy, Student Code of Conduct, etc.

- **Information about Campus Procedures**
 - Adding or Dropping a Class and Campus Emergency Procedures

- **Information about Student Services and Resources**
 - Counseling and Psychological Services, Student Disability Resource Center, Financial Aid, and Academic and Career Advising Center.

<http://www2.humboldt.edu/academicprograms/syllabus-addendum-campus-resources-policies>

Course Schedule

Topic headings roughly correlate to dates given. Due dates are listed on the homework assignments as well as on Moodle. Schedule is subject to change with fair notice.

Week 1: Review of Fundamentals		Week 9: 4-part Harmony, D and T Areas	
Jan. 16	MLK Day (no class)	Mar. 20	
Jan. 18	Introductions, Review	Mar. 22	
Jan. 20		Mar. 24	
Week 2: Review of Fundamentals		Week 10: V7, PD Area	
Jan. 23		Mar. 27	
Jan. 25	Quiz #1 (Scales, Key Signatures)	Mar. 29	
Jan. 27		Mar. 31	Cesar Chavez Day (no class)
Week 3: Intro to Species Counterpoint		Week 11: Fig. Bass, Chorale Harmonization	
Jan. 30		Apr. 3	
Feb. 1	Quiz #2 (Rhythm/Meter)	Apr. 5	Quiz #6 (Resolving V7)
Feb. 3		Apr. 7	
Week 4: 1st & 2nd Species Counterpoint		Week 12: Fig. Bass, Chorale Harmonization, Expanding Basic Phrase (6/4 chords)	
Feb. 6		Apr. 10	
Feb. 8	Quiz #3 (Intervals)	Apr. 12	
Feb. 10		Apr. 14	
Week 5: 2nd & 4th Species Counterpoint		Week 13: 6/4 Chords Cont., New Cadence Types, Diatonic Root Progressions	
Feb. 13		Apr. 17	
Feb. 15	Quiz #4 (Triads)	Apr. 19	
Feb. 17		Apr. 21	
Week 6: 4th Species & 18th C. Style Cntpt.		Week 14: Cadences, Root Progressions, Embellishing Tones	
Feb. 20		Apr. 24	
Feb. 22	Quiz #5 (Seventh Chords)	Apr. 26	Quiz #7 (Cadences)
Feb. 24		Apr. 28	
Week 7: 18th C. Cntpt., Basic Phrase, Cadences		Week 15: Embellishing Tones Cont.	
Feb. 27		May 1	
Mar. 1		May 3	
Mar. 3		May 5	Review
Week 8: Basic Phrase, Cadences, Midterm			
Mar. 6			
Mar. 8	Review		
Mar. 10	Midterm Exam		
Spring Break (Mar. 13–17)		Final Exam: Monday, May 8 (8:00–9:50 am)	