

Eastern Oregon University Course Syllabus

Number of Course:

MUS 111

Name of Course:

Music Theory

Catalog Description:

Tonal harmony in common practice: study of scales, intervals, triads and harmonic progressions in terms of structure, procedures and application to four-part music writing. Part of the core curriculum for music majors and minors. Taken concurrently with MUS 112, MUS 192, and MUS 140.

Credit Hours:

3

Required Texts or Suggested Materials:

Link to the EOU Bookstore: [Eastern Oregon University Bookstore \(opens in new tab\)](#)

Prerequisites:

Musical background or MUS 101.

Learning Outcomes:

- Spell and identify all intervals (major, minor, perfect, augmented, diminished, etc.). Invert intervals, re-spell them enharmonically, or convert them from simple to compound and vice versa, and identify the result. Distinguish between consonant and dissonant intervals.
- Spell and identify major, minor, augmented and diminished triads in root position, first inversion and second inversion. Be fluent in the chord symbols commonly used in modern lead-sheet notation.
- Demonstrate an understanding of diatonic harmonies in major and minor keys, including diatonic triads and seventh chords in major keys, and the most commonly used diatonic triads and seventh chords in minor keys.
- Spell and identify the five most common types of seventh chords (MM, Mm, mm, dm, and dd), in root position, first, second and third inversion. Be fluent in the chord symbols and names used in modern lead-sheet notation.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the use of figured-bass inversion symbols, and be able to realize chords using figured bass symbols. Analyze harmonies, using a combination of Roman numeral (function) and figured bass (chord position) symbols.
- Identify common embellishing tones including passing and neighbor tones, changing tones (double neighbor), appoggiaturas and escape tones, anticipations, suspensions, retardations, and pedal tones, and compose simple examples of them.

- Through analytical and compositional exercises, demonstrate an understanding of good melodic writing, 1st species and 2nd species counterpoint.

Means of Assessment:

- 60%: Homework average
- 10%: First quiz
- 10%: Second quiz
- 20%: Final Exam (comprehensive)

Course Requirements

- Class Attendance (EOU Student Handbook, p. 29):
 - Students are expected to be on time and be in attendance for all class and laboratory sessions for each of their courses.
 - It is assumed that academic gains are reduced by missing class meeting and a student's final grade in a course may reflect attendance.
- Attendance and Late Work Policy:
 - Regular attendance is essential. An unexcused absence at the time of a test or quiz will result in a "0" for that day's work. Students will only be allowed to make up tests given on days of excused absences.
 - Examples of "excused" absences are legitimate illnesses, emergencies, and official school field trips or athletic trips when *I have been personally notified in advance*. You must state a specific reason for your absence.
 - If you are ill enough to miss this class, you are ill enough to miss other instructors' classes, rehearsals, and evening performances. If you are ill, **STAY HOME FOR THE DAY**.
 - It is your responsibility to contact the me using either a) my EOU phone number and voice mail or b) my EOU email address.
 - The instructor reserves all right to final determination of what is or is not an "excused" absence.
 - **LATE WORK WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. ALL WORK IS DUE AT THE BEGINNING OF THE NEXT CLASS PERIOD.** Late work will be given a '0.'

Grading Policies:

| Letter Grade | Percentage |
|--------------|------------|
| A | 92–100 |
| A- | 90–92 |
| B+ | 88–90 |
| B | 82–88 |
| B- | 80–82 |
| C+ | 78–80 |
| C | 72–78 |
| C- | 70–72 |
| D+ | 68–70 |

| Letter Grade | Percentage |
|--------------|------------|
| D | 62–68 |
| D- | 60–62 |
| F | below 60 |

Brief Outline of Course:

- Week 1:
 - Intervals
 - Review major, minor, and perfect intervals. New: augmented and diminished intervals. Interval inversions. Simple and compound intervals. Enharmonic intervals. Consonant and dissonant intervals.
 - Basic Harmonic Structures: Triads
 - Review major and minor, and add augmented and diminished triads. Triad inversions.
- Week 2:
 - Basic Harmonic Structures: Seventh Chords.
 - Musical Shorthand: Lead Sheets and Figured Bass. Lead sheet symbols for root position and inverted triads and seventh chords.
- Week 3:
 - Musical Shorthand: Lead Sheets and Figured Bass.
 - Realizing a figured bass; nonchord tones; passing tones.
 - FIRST QUIZ Intervals, triads, sevenths, lead sheets and figured bass.
- Week 4:
 - Harmonies of the Major and Minor Scales. Diatonic triads in major and minor.
- Week 5:
 - Harmonies of the Major and Minor Scales. Diatonic sevenths in major and minor. Chord function; chord progressions, retrogressions, repetition; circle of fifths; ground bass.
- Week 6:
 - Cadences/Harmonic Rhythm.
- Week 7:
 - SECOND QUIZ. Harmonies of the Major and Minor Scales, Chord Progressions, Cadences.
- Week 8:
 - Embellishing Tones. Step-step and step-leap combinations.
- Week 9:
 - Embellishing Tones. Step-repetition combinations. Embellishing tones and jazz. Review of embellishing tones.
- Week 10:
 - Melodic Principles of Part Writing: The Outer-Voice Framework. Melodic principles; 1:1 counterpoint; 2:1 counterpoint.
- Week 11:
 - Final Exam

General Education Category and Outcomes:

- Content Knowledge:
 - Demonstrate increased vocabulary, content, and conceptual knowledge in a breadth requirement.
- Aesthetics and Humanities
 - The course employs critical and evaluative analyses to understand the discipline, particularly based on interpretation of written, oral, aural, and/or visual texts. These analyses pay special attention to genre and technique, the history of ideas and art forms, and the diverse cultures and social contexts from which they arise. In addition, analyses consider the role art and the study of humanities play as social expression and impetus for social change.
 - The course requires synthesis of different texts, ideas, and interpretations, including those beyond popular mainstream American culture, and introduces terminology and research methods appropriate to the discipline.

University Writing Requirement Outcomes:

NA

Writing Center Statement:

The EOU Writing Center provides a place — physical or virtual — where every EOU student can find an interested, responsive reader. Writing tutorials are free of charge for EOU undergraduate and graduate students and are available for writing at any course level and for writing resumes, job letters, and graduate applications. For drop-in hours or to schedule in-person, synchronous online, or asynchronous online tutoring, please visit the EOU Writing Center: [Writing Center – Eastern Oregon University \(opens in new tab\)](#).

Classroom Decorum:

NA

Academic Misconduct Policy:

Eastern Oregon University places a high value upon the integrity of its student scholars. Any student found responsible for an act of academic misconduct (including but not limited to cheating, unauthorized collaboration, fabrication, facilitation, plagiarism or tampering) may be subject to having his or her grade reduced in the course in question, being placed on probation or suspended from the University, or a combination of these.

Accommodations/Students with Disabilities Policy:

Any student who feels they may need accommodation for any type of disability must contact the Disability Services Office in Loso Hall, Room 233. Phone: 541-962-3081.

Disclaimer:

This standard syllabus provides only general information on the course. For those enrolled in the course a detailed syllabus will be provided by the Instructor at the beginning of the term. Please keep in mind that not all courses are offered every year.

Syllabus Prepared By:

Date:

Edited 03/24/2026