

MUT 1111 Music Theory I

SYLLABUS – Spring 2026 – University of Florida

M/W 8:30-9:20am – MUB 144

Instructor Information

Instructor

Anna Higgins

Email

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Office Location & Hours

YON 437 by appointment
MUB Atrium TBD

Course Information

Description

This course covers rhythms, intervals, motifs, phrases, melodies, chords, and chord progressions in the standard clefs through listening, playing, and writing. Chord study includes primary and secondary triads in root position and inversions, non-harmonic tones, and seventh chords. (2 credits. At least a C is required to advance to MUT 1112, per baccalaureate music degree requirements.)

Expectations and Goals

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Recognize and notate intervals, modes, rhythms, melodies, chords, cadences, and progressions.
- Transpose excerpts into different keys.
- Analyze phrases, periods, motifs, and chord progressions.
- Notate, analyze, and voice lead chorales and progressions using primary and secondary triads, non-harmonic tones, and seventh chords.
- Demonstrate and apply knowledge of the fundamental components of music theory to support the highest level of musicianship and performance.

Required Materials

Staff paper, the textbook, and a pencil are required for in-class assignments and notetaking. No electronic devices are permitted during class. A free scanning app is needed in order to submit assignments through Canvas.

Required Text

Benward, Bruce and Marilyn Saker. *Music in Theory and Practice*, Volume I, 10th ed. New York: McGraw Hill, 2020.

Benward, Bruce and Marilyn Saker. *Workbook to Accompany Music in Theory and Practice*, Volume I, 10th ed. New York: McGraw Hill, 2020.

Grading

A = 93-100%	B- = 80-82%	D+ = 67-69%
A- = 90-92%	C+ = 77-79%	D = 63-66%
B+ = 87-89%	C = 73-76%	D- = 60-62%
B = 83-86%	C- = 70-72%	F = 59% and below

Evaluation Weight

Attendance	15%
Homework	60%
Midterm Exam	10%
Comprehensive Final	15%

Attendance (15%)

The attendance category accounts for the following: class attendance, active participation, and any applicable graded in-class exercises. Students are responsible for missed notes and work. I will not reach out to you regarding any notes you may have missed. I will give you two discretionary unexcused absences, no questions asked, that will not count against your attendance. University functions and sports, religious holidays, doctor excuses, and an email regarding illness (sent **before** the class period) do not count against you in attendance and are considered excused. Each unexcused absence beyond the discretionary two will lower your final grade in this category. Only excused absences warrant any accommodation and/or extension for make-up exercises completed in class.

Students not present by 8:30 will be considered late at a 1/3 penalty for that day's attendance. Any late attendance after 8:55 loses 2/3 of the grade for that day. An unexcused absence loses all points for that day's attendance.

Exams (25%)

The exam category accounts for the midterm and final. The midterm exam, worth 10% of the final grade, will test only the materials from the first half of the semester. Only material gone over in class will be eligible for the exam. Only excused absences with outside written documentation or extenuating/emergency circumstances allow a make-up midterm exam. An unexcused absence is an automatic 0% on the midterm exam with no exceptions.

The final exam will be comprehensive, worth 15% of the final grade, and will be administered during the date and time declared by the University. The final exam must be completed during the assigned period. Not appearing for the final exam is an automatic 0% with no exceptions.

Homework (60%)

Each chapter will have at least one homework assignment to be due as determined by the course schedule. All homework will be submitted through the Canvas portal. Scan all pages and upload each one to the same attempt in Canvas. Do not put separate pages in separate attempts. Only the most recent attempt will be considered for grading. Feedback and grades will be posted in your individual assignments through in-document annotations and grading box comments. Specific point values/rubrics will be posted in the assignment portal.

Homework must be submitted by the posted due date at 11:59pm for the possibility of full credit. Any alterations to the syllabus schedule that lead to changes regarding homework due dates will be modified on that assignment portal on Canvas. The portal will remain open for an additional 48 hours after the due date. Any submission after the due date is an automatic 10% penalty per day. Once the assignment portal closes, the homework will not be accepted. Do not email homework assignments.

Extensions will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Any request for an extension must be made via email at least 24 hours before the homework is due.

Homework with elements that are not legible will be marked incorrect. Homework may be done in pencil, pen, or through an editor on computer/tablet if you are using an e-book. Homework must be submitted on its page(s) in the workbook. Incorrectly submitted or completely illegible homework is an automatic 0% with no opportunity for resubmission.

University Resources

Academic Integrity and Artificial Intelligence

All students of the University of Florida are bound by The Honor Pledge. Any use of Artificial Intelligence in this course is considered cheating and will result in an Honor violation.

Accommodations

If you anticipate needing any type of accommodation in order to fully participate in this class, please advise me and make appropriate arrangements with the Disability Resource Center. It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs as early as possible in the semester. The University provides additional resources here: disability.ufl.edu

Plagiarism

Plagiarism policies can be found within the University's statement on academic integrity and honesty, but as it is such a serious offense, it deems another warning. Plagiarism is neither tolerated by the University nor myself, and any such infraction will be reported to Academic Affairs. My plagiarism policy is simple: DON'T DO IT. I will catch you immediately, and you will fail the class. Students found to be copying each other's homework will receive an automatic 0% on that assignment. A second infraction will be reported.

Online Course Evaluations

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online. Students can complete evaluations in three ways: 1. the email they receive from GatorEvals, 2. their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or 3. the central portal at my-ufl.bluer.com

Guidance on how to provide constructive feedback is available at gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/

Other Academic and Health Resources

All additional academic policies and health resources can be found here:

syllabus.ufl.edu/syllabus-policy/uf-syllabus-policy-links/

Course Schedule

Week	Topic	Reading	Homework Due Dates
Week 1			
Mon. 01/12	<i>Syllabus and Course Introduction</i>	Syllabus	
Wed. 01/14	<i>Notation</i>	Chapter 1	
Week 2			
Mon. 01/19	No Classes		Homework 1 Due 01/20
Wed. 01/21	<i>Scales, Tonality, Keys, and Modes</i>	Chapter 2	
Week 3			
Mon. 01/26	<i>Scales, Tonality, Keys, and Modes</i>		Homework 2 Due 01/25
Wed. 01/28	<i>Scales, Tonality, Keys, and Modes</i>		Homework 3 Due 01/30
Week 4			
Mon. 02/02	<i>Intervals and Transposition</i>	Chapter 3	Homework 4 Due 02/05
Wed. 02/04	<i>Intervals and Transposition</i>		
Week 5			
Mon. 02/09	<i>Intervals and Transposition</i>		Homework 5 Due 02/10
Wed. 02/11	<i>Chords</i>		
Week 6			
Mon. 02/16	<i>Chords</i>		Homework 6 Due 02/15
Wed. 02/18	<i>Chords</i>		Homework 7 Due 02/19
Week 7			
Mon. 02/23	<i>Cadences and Non-Chord Tones</i>	Chapter 5	Homework 8 Due 02/26
Wed. 02/25	<i>Cadences and Non-Chord Tones</i>		
Week 8			
Mon. 03/02	<i>Cadences and Non-Chord Tones</i>		Homework 9 Due 03/02
Wed. 03/04	<i>Review</i>		
Week 9			
Mon. 03/09	Midterm Exam		
Wed. 03/11	Midterm Exam		
Week 10			
SPRING BREAK			
Week 11			
Mon. 03/23	<i>Phrases and Periods</i>	Chapters 6 and 7	Homework 10 Due 03/26
Wed. 03/25	<i>Phrases and Periods</i>		
Week 12			
Mon. 03/30	<i>Phrases and Periods</i>		Homework 11 Due 03/30
Wed. 04/01	<i>Voice Leading in 4-Part Writing</i>	Chapter 9	

Week	Topic	Reading	Homework Due Dates
Week 13			
Mon. 04/06	Voice Leading in 4-Part Writing		Homework 12 Due 04/06
Wed. 04/08	Voice Leading in 4-Part Writing		
Week 14			
Mon. 04/13	Voice Leading in 4-Part Writing		Homework 13 Due 04/13
Wed. 04/15	Voice Leading in 4-Part Writing		
Week 15			
Mon. 04/20	Review		Homework 14 04/19
Wed. 04/22	Review		

Final Exam

Thursday, April 30

7:30 AM – 9:30 AM

**Class policies, course components, schedule, and evaluation are subject to change at the instructor's discretion if deemed necessary*