

Analysis of Rhythm, Meter, and Groove (MUT 6936)

University of Florida Spring 2026

Instructor: Dr. Scott Lee - scott.lee@ufl.edu

Th 4:05-7:05 PM, MUB 144

Office: MUB 339 Office Hours: TBA

How to get in touch with me:

For short questions: E-mail me or the teaching assistant. As a general rule, I answer e-mails between 9:00am-5:00pm, and I try to answer emails within 24 hours of receipt, except on weekends.

For everything else: Come to office hours or make an appointment. Office hours are a chance for you to get help on assignments, go over material covered in class, talk about connections between class material and other ideas, and so on. I strongly encourage you to take advantage of this time.

Course Description and Goals:

In this course we will discover an alternate universe of music theory where rhythm, rather than pitch, reigns supreme. We will encounter numerous tools and concepts of metric theory and analysis rooted in human perception, including grouping theory, hypermeter, phrase rhythm, metric dissonance, complex meters and polyrhythms, postmodern musical time, the broad influence of African rhythms, micro-rhythms, and theories of groove and flow. We will apply these tools broadly across classical and popular genres, covering repertoire ranging from the common practice period to 20th and 21st-century classical repertoire to jazz and other genres of American vernacular music, such as pop, rock, heavy metal, EDM, and rap. Coursework will consist of weekly readings, participation in class discussions, analysis and reading response assignments, and a final paper.

Required Course Materials

Readings and assignments will be available via the course Canvas site.

Manuscript paper and pencil

Digital Resources

We will make use of Canvas for communication and assignments <https://ufl.instructure.com/>
Please check it frequently.

Attendance

Students are expected to attend all regularly scheduled classes. Attendance is critical in this course since we only meet once each week. Each unexcused absence over one will result in a two-point deduction from your final grade. Any student with four or more unexcused absences will fail the course. An excused absence is an approved UF event, a family emergency, or an illness. If more than one absence results from an extended illness, a doctor's note will need to be provided for those absences to be excused.

Students knowing in advance that they will miss a class must be in contact **beforehand via email**. Please do not schedule non-urgent doctor's appointments during class time. In the case of an absence (excused or unexcused), that student is responsible for determining what material was covered, and what assignments were given.

Tardy Policy

Attendance will be taken at the beginning of class. Students who are not present when attendance is taken will be marked as tardy. Three tardies will count as one unexcused absence. There are no excused tardies.

Evaluation:

Students will be evaluated through participation & preparation, assignments, and a final paper and presentation:

Participation & Preparation:	10%
Assignments:	50%
Final Paper:	30%
Final Paper Presentation:	10%

Scale:

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 = 66-65 / D- = 63-64 / E = 0-62

Assignments and Late Submission Policy

Assignments will primarily consist of short reading responses, in-class presentations, and analyses. Late assignment submissions (not including late submissions due to excused absences) will be accepted with a grade deduction of 5% if submitted within 24 hours of the due date, and a 2.5% further reduction for each additional day the assignment is late. Late assignments will be accepted up to two weeks after the initial due date. Late assignments may be scanned and emailed even if assigned on paper. **Assignments that have not been turned in within two weeks of the original deadline will receive zero credit and will not be accepted afterwards.**

To avoid grade deductions for late submission, students may request due-date extensions for assignments via email at least 24 hours in advance of the original due date. Extensions will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

Technology Policy:

Your attention is your most valuable asset; use it to the best of your ability. I reserve the right to dock your grade and/or ask you to leave class if you are inappropriately using technology in class.

UF Course Policies

University-wide policies and resources can be found here: <https://go.ufl.edu/syllabuspolicies>

Schedule below (subject to change)

Week	Date	Unit	Topic
1	1/15	Introduction	Introduction
2	1/22	Grouping, Phrase Rhythm, and	Grouping Theory
3	1/29	Hypermeter	Phrase Rhythm & Hypermeter
4	2/5		Phrase Rhythm & Hypermeter Across Styles
5	2/12	Metrical Dissonance	Metrical Consonance & Dissonance
6	2/19		Metrical Dissonance Across Styles
7	2/26	Metrical Projection	Metrical Projection
8	3/5	Complex Meters	Complex Meters and Perception
9	3/12		Meter in Heavy Metal and Spectral Music
10	3/26		Irrational Meter
11	4/2	African Rhythms & Influence	African Rhythms and the Clave in Jazz
12	4/9		Microtiming
13	4/16		Metric Flow in Rap
	4/30	Final Paper Presentations	Final Paper Presentations