

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT TYLER
School of Performing Arts

course syllabus for

MUSI 4199: Independent Study in Music Theory (1 credit hour)

Fall 2025

W 11:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. (or TBD) – FAC 2006

Professor: Dr. Kyle Gullings

Office: FAC 1215

Email (preferred contact method): kgullings@uttyler.edu

Office Phone: 903.565.5653

Office Hours: (subject to change)

Mondays 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.

Wednesdays 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.

Thursdays 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.

(other times by appointment)

Course Description: Independent study in specific areas of music not covered by organized undergraduate courses. A maximum of six credit hours of independent study courses may be applied toward an undergraduate degree.

Prerequisite: Consent of SPA Director.

Fall 2025 Course Learning Objectives: Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. **Explain and critique** the arguments of several published **music theory articles** in oral and written formats
2. **Teach and tutor** novices in all aspects of **undergraduate music theory basics**
3. **Write and deliver short lesson plans** for a variety of lower-division music theory and/or aural skills topics
4. Prepare a **final music theory project** (formal analytical/pedagogical paper, teaching resources packet, teaching philosophy statement, etc.)

Required Texts:

Academic Journals: (all free and online)

https://digitalcollections.lipscomb.edu/jmtp/	<i>Journal of Music Theory Pedagogy</i>
http://flipcamp.org/engagingstudents/	<i>Engaging Students: Essays in Music Pedagogy</i> v.1-6
https://engagingstudentsmusic.org/index.php/engagingstudents/	... v.7-8
https://www.mtosmt.org/index.php	<i>Music Theory Online</i>
https://www.smt-v.org/archives/	<i>SMT-V: The Society for Music Theory Videocast Journal</i>
http://libguides.uttyler.edu/music	Resources curated by your campus music librarian

Online Textbooks and Related Teaching Resources:

http://openmusictheory.com/	<i>Open Music Theory Volume 2</i> – A free, online theory textbook
https://uen.pressbooks.pub/auralskills/	<i>Foundations of Aural Skills</i> – A free, online aural skills textbook
https://tobyrrush.com/theorypages/index.html	Free one-page summaries of many core theory topics
https://tobyrrush.com/theorywiki/index.php	A collaborative wiki for sharing undergraduate theory resources
https://musictheoryexamples.com/	<i>Internet Music Theory Database</i> (no longer up–see Wayback Machine?)
https://diversemusictheoryexamples.com/examples/	<i>Diverse Music Theory Examples</i>
https://www.musictheory.net/	A free, online resource for learning and practicing music theory
http://www.dolmetsch.com/theoryintro.htm	A free, online resource for learning and practicing music theory

Additional Resources:

<i>The Routledge Companion to Music Theory Pedagogy</i>	Edited By Leigh VanHandel; login required; excerpts on Canvas
https://www.taylorfrancis.com/books/edit/10.4324/9780429505584/routledge-companion-music-theory-pedagogy-leigh-vanhandel	
<i>Teaching Approaches in Music Theory, Second Edition: An Overview of Pedagogical Philosophies 2nd Edition</i> , by Michael R. Rogers	
https://www.amazon.com/Teaching-Approaches-Music-Theory-Second/dp/0809325950	
<i>Teaching Music Theory</i>	By Jennifer Snodgrass
https://www.amazon.com/Teaching-Music-Theory-Jennifer-Snodgrass/dp/0190879947	
<i>Intelligent Music Teaching: Essays on the Core Principles of Effective Instruction</i> , by Robert A. Duke; excerpts on Canvas	
https://www.notedoctorspodcast.com/	Note Doctors: The music theory and pedagogy podcast

Other Required Materials: Manuscript paper and a pencil are required at each class meeting.

Grading:

Grade Weighting	Weekly Meeting Progress	30%
	Final Paper	70%
Grading Scale	90–100%	A
	80–89%	B
	70–79%	C
	60–69%	D
	Below 60%	F

Methods for Assessing Outcomes: The final grade will reflect the degree of significant progress made by the student each week, as well as the scope and quality of the final project.

Methods of Instruction: Enrolled students will meet weekly with the instructor to receive guidance in the development of their final project, discuss relevant scholarship and trends in the field of music theory and music theory pedagogy, assess and develop specific proficiencies aimed at working toward the final project, and set specific goals and directions for the following week. Outside assignments may include observations of experienced music theory and aural skills instructors and offering private or group tutoring for lower-division music theory and aural skills courses.

**** Format/Expectations:** In the first few weeks of the semester, the instructor and the student will jointly create a contract outlining the final project topic to be approached and relevant outside scholarship to read during the semester. Student progress and grading will be evaluated based on fulfillment of this contract.

**** Attendance Policy:** Weekly attendance is essential and expected. Make-up meetings may not be rescheduled for unexcused absences or due to lack of preparation or progress. Weekly grades are given for each meeting, and absences without advance notice will result in a grade of 0% for that week's meeting. Four (4) "no-show" meetings within a semester may result in an automatic semester grade of "F", and no further meetings will be scheduled for the remainder of the semester.

At the instructor's discretion, absences may be considered excused only for legitimate, *documented* reasons (serious illness, family emergency, etc.). In cases of excused absences, the weekly meeting grade will not be impacted, and all attempts will be made to make up the missed meeting. In all cases, students who must miss a meeting should inform the instructor, with as much advance notice as possible.

At the instructor's discretion, absences may be considered *excused* only for legitimate, *documented* reasons (serious illness, family emergency, etc.). Even in cases of *excused absences*, any outstanding assignments are due at the following class period. In all cases, it is the student's responsibility to inform the instructor of absences as soon as possible, and to *document* that absence if an *excused absence* is being requested.

**** Communication:** Students are required to regularly check their Patriot e-mail account and the class Canvas page.

**** Academic Integrity:** Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated (cheating, copying homework, plagiarism, etc.).

Statement on the Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in This Course: For this course, students are allowed to use artificial intelligence (AI) to brainstorm or improve on reading/writing strategies, project ideas, pedagogical techniques, and lists of outside reading. All such uses of AI in this course must be disclosed at the time of submission. Unless you get prior permission from your instructor, you may **not** use AI to fully write or fully edit a reflection, paper, or other assignment, or for any other purposes.

Other: For additional **Student Resources** and **University Policies and Information**, please those sections on our course Canvas site under the Syllabus Module.

Independent Study in Music Theory – Fall 2025

Course Calendar

(subject to change)

Date(s)	Event
8/25 Mon.	- Classes Begin (Meeting day / time scheduled during Week 1)
9/1 Mon.	- <i>NO CLASSES</i> : Labor Day
9/8 Mon.	- <i>Census Date</i> (Last day to withdraw from course without penalty)
9/10 Wed.	(Week 3) Final Project: Proposal / Contract Due on Canvas
10/15-10/17	- <i>NO LESSON</i> : Instructor at Victoria Symphony (reschedule if needed)
10/22 Wed.	(Week 9) Final Project: First Draft Due on Canvas
10/27-11/2	- <i>NO LESSONS</i> : Instructor out of town for conferences (reschedule)
11/3 Mon.	- <i>Withdrawal Deadline</i>
11/12 Wed.	(Week 12) Final Project: Second Draft Due on Canvas
11/24-11/28	- <i>NO CLASSES</i> : Thanksgiving Holiday
12/10 Wed.	(Finals Week) Final Project: Final Draft Due 11:59pm on Canvas