UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT TYLER
School of Performing Arts

course syllabus for

MUSI 1211: Music Theory I (2 credit hours)
Fall 2026
MWF 9:05–10:00 a.m. – FAC 2006

Professor: Dr. Kyle Gullings
Office: FAC 1215
Email (preferred contact method): kgullings@uttyler.edu
Office Phone: 903.565.5653

Office Hours: (contact me to set an appointment, or…)
Mondays 10:10 – 11:10 a.m.
Wednesdays 2:00 – 3:00 p.m.
Thursdays 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Course Description: An elementary study of melody, rhythm, and diatonic tonal harmony in four voices and in simple instrumental textures. Emphasis on rudiments of music, voice leading, harmonic progression, and elemental melodic forms.

Co-Requisite: MUSI 1116 (Aural Skills I). Students not possessing the co-requisite(s) will be administratively removed from the class unless otherwise approved by the department.

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

1. **Identify and write all elements of the fundamentals of music**, including pitches in various clefs, rhythms, simple and compound meters and time signatures, major and minor scales and key signatures, intervals, triads, and seventh chords, at a mastery level (proficient level only for tenor and alto clefs)
2. **Evaluate and write single-voice cantus firmus lines and counterpoint in first and second species**, at a proficient level
3. **Compose an original melody**, using and analyzing various musical elements covered in class

Required Texts:

Online Textbook and Other Resources:
https://viva.pressbooks.pub/openmusictheory/ (our free, online, open-access textbook)

Other Required Materials: Manuscript paper and a pencil are required at each class meeting. Composition assignments may be written on manuscript paper or notated using software.

Additional Online Resources: (for independent practice)
https://www.musictheory.net/ (another free, online resource for learning about and practicing music theory)
https://tobyrush.com/theorypages/ (free concise theory posters – Music Theory for Musicians and Normal People)
https://www.dolmetsch.com/theoryintro.htm

Grading:

Grade Weighting	Homework Assignments and Quizzes	25%
	Analysis Projects	15%
	Participation	10%
	Composition Project	10%
	Midterm Exam	20%
	Final Exam	20%

Grading Scale	90–100%	A
	80–89%	B
	70–79%	C
	60–69%	D
	Below 60%	F

Methods for Assessing Outcomes: Students will be evaluated through regular out-of-class assignments, analysis projects, **in-class quizzes**, in-class participation, a composition project, a midterm exam, and a final exam.

Methods of Instruction: A variety of instructional methods will be used, including in-class lectures, group and individual exercises and discussion, listening examples, and online assignments.

**** Due Dates and Excused Absences Policy:** All assignments are due on the days indicated, at the start of class. At the instructor's discretion, reduced credit *may* be given for homework, projects, or other work that is late or missing due to *unexcused* absences, with the following penalties applied:

Less than 1 day late = 5% off
1–6 days late = 10% off
7–13 days late = 20% off
14+ days late = no credit / not accepted

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.

**** Attendance Policy:** Full attendance and participation are expected in this course. Arrival after class has begun will be considered a tardy, which will count as one-third of an unexcused absence.

For absences in this course, the following penalties may be applied:

5–7.9 unexcused absences = maximum grade of B
8+ unexcused absences = maximum grade of C

(This penalty is not part of the Participation grade, which reflects engaged activity in class.)

Additionally, avoidable distractions such as cell phone use/texting, eating food, outside work, and unnecessarily leaving the room during class time may results in a tardy or absence for the day, at the instructor's discretion. Multiple occurrences will result in the student being asked to leave the class session.

**** 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.). I report 100% of suspected academic dishonesty issues to the Office of Student Conduct and Intervention.

Statement on the Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in This Course: AI is not permitted in this course at all. To best support your learning, you must complete all graded assignments by yourself. This exclusion of other resources to help complete assignments includes artificial intelligence (AI). Refrain from using AI tools to generate any course context (e.g., text, video, audio, images, etc.) for an assignment or classroom activity.

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

Music Theory I – Fall 2026

Course Calendar

(subject to change)

Week	Date	Topic or Event
1	8/24	First Class Day / Intro to our online textbook and Wednesday's readings
		Brief Introduction to Analysis Project #1, Part 1 of 2 due Fri. (find some "great music")
		Introduction to Tonal Music, Music Theory, Analysis, more info on Analysis Project #1
		Discuss Music Theory Fundamentals Assessment
		Intro. to Syllabus
	8/26	Take questions on Analysis Project #1
		Introduction to the "textbook"
		I. Fundamentals *[unit heading]*
		Introduction to Western Musical Notation
		Notation of Notes, Clefs, and Ledger Lines
		Reading Clefs
	8/28	**Due:** Analysis Project #1 (Great Music, and How It Works), Part 1 of 2
		The Keyboard and the Grand Staff
		Half- and Whole-steps and Accidentals
2	8/31	American Standard Pitch Notation (ASPN)
		Other Aspects of Notation (dynamics, expression marks, etc.)
	9/2	Rhythmic and Rest Values
	9/4	**Due:** Analysis Project #1 (Great Music, and How It Works), Part 2 of 2
		Simple Meter and Time Signatures
3	9/7	**NO CLASS:** Labor Day
	9/8	**Census Date** (last day to withdraw from courses without penalty)
	9/9	Simple Meter and Time Signatures
		Compound Meter and Time Signatures
	9/11	"
		Other Rhythmic Essentials
4	9/14	Major Scales, Scale Degrees, and Key Signatures
	9/16	"
	9/18	"
		Minor Scales, Scale Degrees, and Key Signatures
5	9/21	Minor Scales, Scale Degrees, and Key Signatures
		Due: Practice Exercises #1 (Major Scales, Major Key Signatures)
	9/23	**Due:** HW#1 (Major Scales, Major Key Signatures)
		Minor Scales, Scale Degrees, and Key Signatures
	9/25	Introduction to Diatonic Modes and the Chromatic "Scale" *[not graded]*
		The Basics of Sight-singing and Dictation *[not graded]*
		Intervals
6	9/28	**Due:** Practice Exercises #2 (Minor Scales, Minor Key Signatures)
		Intervals
	9/30	**Due:** HW#2 (Minor Scales, Minor Key Signatures)
		Intro. to Analysis Project #2 (Interval Study)
		Intervals
		Triads
	10/2	"

Week	Date	Topic or Event
7	10/5	**Due:** Practice Exercises #3 (Intervals)
		Triads
	10/7	**Due:** HW#3 (Intervals)
		Triads
	10/9	Seventh Chords
8	10/12	**Due:** Practice Exercises #4 (Triads)
		Seventh Chords
	10/14	**Due:** HW#4 (Triads)
		Seventh Chords
		Inversion
	10/16	**Due:** Analysis Project #2 (Interval Study)
		Inversion
9	10/19	**Due:** Midterm Exam Review sheet
		Due: Practice Exercises #5 (Seventh Chords)
		Inversion
		Midterm Exam Review
	10/21	**Midterm Exam**
	10/23	**Due:** HW#5 (Seventh Chords)
		Intro. to Analysis Project #3 (Chord Qualities in Popular Songs)
		Inversion
		Roman Numerals
10	10/26	Intro. to Composition Project
		Roman Numerals
	10/28	“
	10/30	**Withdrawal Deadline** (last day to withdraw from courses without a grade of “W”)
		Figured Bass and Roman Numerals with Figures
11	11/2	**Registration Begins**: Meet CAS Advising and your Music faculty for advising prior to today
		Due: Practice Exercises #6 (Inversion and Roman Numerals)
		Figured Bass and Roman Numerals with Figures
		Chords in SATB Style
	11/4	**Due:** HW#6 (Inversion and Roman Numerals)
		Check progress on Analysis Project #3 (Chord Qualities in Popular Songs)
		Chords in SATB Style
		II. Counterpoint and Galant Schemas *[unit heading]*
		Introduction to Species Counterpoint (includes cantus firmus writing)
	11/6	“
12	11/9	Check progress on Composition Project
		First-species Counterpoint
	11/11	**Due:** Analysis Project #3 (Chord Qualities in Popular Songs)
		First-species Counterpoint
	11/13	Instructor out of town for College Music Society National Conference, see Canvas for plans
13	11/16	First-species Counterpoint
	11/18	**Due:** Composition Project Draft #1 (Single-Line Melodies w/Fundamentals & Cantus Firmus)
		Second-species Counterpoint
	11/20	“
14	11/23–27	**NO CLASS:** *Thanksgiving Break*

Week	Date	Topic or Event
15	11/30	**Due:** Practice Exercises #7 (Cantus Firmus and First-species Counterpoint)
		Second-species Counterpoint
		Discuss Composition Project
		Final Exam Review
	12/2	**Due:** Composition Project Final Draft (Single-Line Melodies w/Fundamentals & Cantus Firmus)
		Due: HW#7 (Cantus Firmus and First-species Counterpoint)
		Final Exam Review
	12/4	**Due:** Final Exam Review sheet
		Composition Project Performances
		Final Exam Review
		Optional Review Session: Friday, Dec. 4 at 3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.
16	12/7 (M)	**Final Exam:** Monday, Dec. 7 at **8:00 a.m.** – 10:00 a.m.