

South Plains College
Course Syllabus: MUSI 1311.001
Fall 2026

Department: Fine Arts

Discipline: Music / **Course Title:** Music Theory I

Meeting Time/Location: M/W 11:00am-12:15pm; FA 104

Instructor: Dr. Sessa Wallace

Office: FA 114C / **Office Phone:** (806) 716-2265 / **Email:** swallace@southplainscollege.edu

Purpose of this Course

The purpose of this course is to develop an understanding of analysis and writing of tonal melody and diatonic harmony, including fundamental music concepts, scales, intervals, chords, 7th chords, early four-part writing, and analysis of small compositional forms. Optional correlated study at the keyboard.

Course Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

1. Construct and identify major scale and all forms of the minor scale.
2. Construct and identify triads and seventh chords in all inversions.
3. Analyze triads in harmonic context utilizing standard roman-numeral symbols.
4. Compose music in standard four-part chorale style.
5. Identify small musical forms.
6. Demonstrate musical concepts covered in class, including scales, triads, and basic harmonic progression on the keyboard.
7. Demonstrate an understanding of rhythmic meter and note duration through score analysis and composition.

Required Materials

eBook and workbook: *Tonal Harmony*, 9th edition by Kostka, Almen.

Notebook paper

Five-line staff paper

Pencil

Helpful Websites

<https://musictheory.pugetsound.edu/mt21c/MusicTheory.html>

<https://viva.pressbooks.pub/openmusictheory/>

<http://www.musictheory.net>

<http://www.teoria.com>

Attendance Policy

Students are expected to attend class and to be on time. The Attendance portion (10%) of the final grade average will be determined by the percentage of classes actively attended by the student.

This grade is calculated daily in Blackboard as follows:

Present 100%

Late 75%

Unexcused absence 0%

Tardiness: Late students will be marked tardy. If the student is more than 10 minutes late to class, the student will be marked absent for the day.

Excused Absences: An excused absence is defined as an absence due to illness, an official trip or activity authorized by the college, or family emergency. The student must notify the instructor of the absence prior to the start of class and must provide documentation in the form of a doctor's note or release form from the college. In the case of illness, if no doctor's note is presented and the instructor is not notified before class, the absence will be unexcused.

Please see statement on Covid-19

The student is responsible for obtaining any notes or assignments missed due to absence or tardiness from other classmates or from Blackboard, except in the case of an excused absence. Do not email the instructor asking what was missed in class. The instructor will not answer these emails.

Withdrawal Policy: The last day to withdraw/drop with a grade of "W" is December 3. It is the student's responsibility to withdraw from this course. Otherwise, students will be assigned their earned letter grade at the end of the course. Course averages will be updated weekly, and guidance will be provided throughout the term to help students decide whether they need to drop the class or not. For more information regarding drops/withdrawals, please visit <https://www.southplainscollege.edu/admission-aid/apply/schedulechanges.php>.

If the student does not communicate with the professor or attend class for 3 consecutive weeks, the student will be advised to drop the course.

Grading Standards

Homework

- Homework assignments are due by the *beginning* of the next class meeting after they are assigned.
- Written assignments must be completed in PENCIL.
- Any assignment submitted with unreadable manuscript will be returned to the student to be completed again and will be counted as a late assignment.
- Late assignments that are incomplete will not be accepted.
- Students will not attempt to complete due homework during class, nor will they work on assignments for other classes.
- The single lowest homework grade will be dropped when figuring the student's average at the end of the semester.

Homework Deductions

- -5 for assignments completed in PEN
- -10 for assignments submitted after the start of class or later in the day on due date
- -25 for late assignments up to a week late
- Automatic 0 for assignments not submitted within a week

Homework Corrections

- The student will be given the opportunity to make corrections to homework assignments and written quizzes.
- In order to make corrections to homework assignments or quizzes, the student must first meet with the assigned tutor or the instructor.
- Corrections will not be accepted if the student has not met with the assigned tutor or the instructor.
- Corrections are due the next class day after the student has received the graded assignment.
- Corrections may be made to late assignments but will still incur late assignment point deductions.

Exams

- There will be **three** written exams scheduled during the semester, and a **comprehensive final exam** at the end of the semester.
- Exams *may not* be taken late or early except in the case of a legitimate emergency. The instructor must be notified *in advance* and for which documentation is provided upon the student's return to class.
- The final exam will follow the same format of the three previous exams and will be taken at the time specified in the college finals schedule. Under no circumstances will any student be allowed to take the final exam early.

Grade Book

The course grade book is maintained on Blackboard Ultra. Class assignments will also be posted to Blackboard. You are encouraged to log in regularly to keep track of your personal records. If you have questions about using this website, please do not hesitate to ask the instructor.

Tutoring Policy

You are required to meet with the class tutor, or instructor if there is no tutor, during the first two weeks of class to discuss any concerns or difficulties you may be having. If your grade drops below a "C" at any time during the semester, you are required to meet weekly with the tutor or the instructor until your grade comes back up to a "C." Your instructor and the tutor will work together to make sure you are attending any required meetings.

Final Grade Calculation

The Final grade will be calculated as follows:

Written Homework Assignments/Reading Quizzes 40%
Quizzes 10%
Three Regular Exams 30%
Final Exam 10%
Attendance/Class Participation 10%

The Final Grade will be determined as follows:
90-100% = A
80-89% = B
70-79% = C
60-69% = D
59% and under = F

For Fine Arts Music Majors

Although the grade of a "D" is considered passing, it is highly recommended that the student earns a grade of at least a "C" to show competency in the subject before moving on to the next level of Music Theory. Students who earn a "D" will be encouraged to retake the course.

Technology in the Classroom

Cells phones must remain on silent and put away, unless the student has communicated an urgent need to keep their phone visible prior to the start of class. If a student is asked to put away the cell phone after class begins, that student will be counted tardy for the class. A second offense in the same class will result in the student being counted absent for that class day.

The use of tablets and laptops will not be permitted in class.

The use of earbuds will not be permitted in class.

Tentative Course Calendar

Week 1

- Syllabus/Basics of Rhythm
- Simple Meter

Week 2

- Labor Day Holiday
- Basics of Pitch

Week 3

- Quiz 1
- Basics of Pitch cont.
- Major Scales & Key Signatures

Week 4

- Intervals: Perfect, Major, Minor
- Exam 1

Week 5

- Intervals: All
- Minor Scales & Key Signatures

Week 6

- Minor Scales & Key Signatures
- Quiz 2
- Basics of Rhythm: Compound Meter

Week 7

- Compound Meter
- Triads

Week 8

- Triad Inversions & Lead Sheet
- Exam 2: Midterm

Week 9

- Roman Numerals & Cadences
- Seventh Chords

Week 10

- Seventh Chord Inversions & Lead Sheet
- Quiz 3
- Analysis

Week 11

- Voice Leading: Triads
- Parallel Motion
- Rules of Melody & Spacing

Week 12

- Root Position Part Writing: Repeated Roots
- Exam 3

Week 13

- Root Position Part Writing: All Root Relationships
- Part Writing

Week 14

- Melodic Analysis
- Phrases in Combination
- Thanksgiving Holiday

Week 15

- Form
- Review for Final Exam

Week 16

- Final Exam

*This course calendar can also be found on Blackboard.

COVID-19

If you are experiencing any of the following symptoms, please do not attend class and either seek medical attention or get tested for COVID-19.

- Cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing
- Fever or chills
- Muscles or body aches
- Vomiting or diarrhea
- New loss of taste and smell

Please also notify DeEtte Edens, BSN, RN, Associate Director of Health & Wellness, at dedens@southplainscollege.edu or 806-716-2376

1. SPC will follow the recommended 5-day isolation period for individuals that test positive.
 - a. **Please note that day 0 is the date of positive test. Day 1 begins the first full day after the date of positive result.**
2. COVID reporting
 - a. Please have students and employees notify DeEtte Edens if they have tested positive to verify dates before returning to class or work.
 - b. The home tests are sufficient but students need to submit a photo of the positive result. The date of test must be written on the test result and an ID included in the photo. If tested elsewhere (clinic, pharmacy, etc.), please submit a copy of the doctor's note or email notification. Results may be emailed to DeEtte Edens, BSN, RN at dedens@southplainscollege.edu.
 - c. A student is clear to return to class without further assessment if they have completed:
 - The 5-day isolation period, symptoms have improved and
 - they are afebrile for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication.
3. Please instruct students and employees to communicate with DeEtte Edens prior to their return date if still symptomatic at the end of the 5-day isolation.
4. Exposed individuals will not be required to quarantine. If exposed, SPC does request individuals closely monitor themselves. If an individual does become symptomatic, please do not attend class or work and be tested.

Artificial Intelligence Statement

• Purpose of Artificial Intelligence (AI) Applications:

AI applications such as ChatGPT, OpenAI, Bard, Grammarly, WordTune and others are advanced language models designed to aid and engage in meaningful conversations, as well as, generate and revise content. AI is intended to supplement learning, stimulate critical thinking, and enhance academic discourse. However, its use comes with certain responsibilities.

• Academic Integrity:

Using AI to generate academic work, including essays, reports, or assignments, without proper attribution is a violation of SPC academic integrity policies. Plagiarism undermines the learning process and is strictly prohibited. Students must ensure that their work reflects their own ideas, research, synthesis, and analysis and appropriately cites all sources, including AI.

• Collaboration and Consultation:

While AI can be a valuable resource, it is essential to strike a balance between seeking assistance and maintaining personal responsibility. Collaboration with peers, consulting instructors, and utilizing other approved learning resources should be prioritized. Overreliance on AI for solutions without actively engaging in the learning process is discouraged and can be grounds for academic integrity violations.

Utilizing AI as a tool for brainstorming or research is allowed but the writing should be the student's own work and thoughts.

• **Critical Thinking and Originality:**

AI usage can provide suggestions and information, but it is essential to critically evaluate the responses and exercise independent thought. Relying solely on AI for answers deprives students of the opportunity to develop their analytical and problem-solving skills. In assignments where originality, creativity, and independent thinking are valued, AI would be detrimental to the student learning process. Critical thinking and originality emphasize the importance of independent thinking in all academic endeavors as part of the student's learning experience apart from outside influence and offers the student the opportunity to refine their unique, individual voice through academic discourse with other students and faculty.

• **Ethical Use and Bias Awareness:**

AI is trained on large amounts of data from the internet, which may include biased or inaccurate information. Be mindful of the potential for bias and critically evaluate the responses provided by AI. Therefore, when using AI, just like with using any other database, students must verify that the information is from reliable sources, question any potential biases, and ensure that the information and sources used in the paper are neutral, peer-reviewed sources.

• **Responsible Engagement:**

Students should engage with AI in a respectful and responsible manner and avoid using offensive language, discriminatory remarks, or engaging in any form of harassment or inappropriate behavior. Students should also uphold the standards of respectful communication in addressing both AI and fellow classmates.

• **Compliance with South Plains College Policies:**

Policies regarding the appropriate use of AI in South Plains College courses are set by instructional departments and individual instructors. Appropriate use of AI may range from strict prohibition to assignments they may require the use of AI. Misusing or violating the guidelines outlined in this syllabus warning may result in disciplinary action, including academic penalties. Students are expected to familiarize themselves with the specific course policies regarding the use of AI and adhere to them throughout the semester.

• Remember, AI can be a tool to support your learning in certain courses and assignments, but it cannot replace the critical thinking, creativity, and independent work that are integral to your overall academic growth.

Plagiarism and Cheating

Students are expected to do their own work on all projects, quizzes, assignments, examinations, and papers. Failure to comply with this policy will result in an F for the assignment and can result in an F for the course if circumstances warrant.

Plagiarism violations include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Turning in a paper that has been purchased, borrowed, or downloaded from another student, an AI generator, an online term paper site, or a mail order term paper mill;
- Cutting and pasting together information from books, articles, other papers, or online sites without providing proper documentation;
- Using direct quotations (three or more words) from a source without showing them to be direct quotations and citing them; or
- Missing in-text citations.
- Cheating violations include, but are not limited to, the following:
- Obtaining an examination by stealing or collusion;

- Discovering the content of an examination before it is given;
- Using an unauthorized source of information (notes, textbook, text messaging, internet, apps) during an examination, quiz, or homework assignment;
- Entering an office or building to obtain unfair advantage;
- Taking an examination for another;
- Altering grade records;
- Copying another's work during an examination or on a homework assignment;
- Rewriting another student's work in Peer Editing so that the writing is no longer the original student's;
- Taking pictures of a test, test answers, or someone else's paper.

Intellectual Exchange Statement

In South Plains College courses, the instructor will establish and support an environment that values and nurtures individual and group difference and encourages engagement and interaction. Understanding and respecting multiple experiences and perspectives will serve to challenge and stimulate all of us to learn about others, about the larger world and about ourselves. By promoting intellectual exchange, we will not only mirror society as it is, but also model society as it should and can be.

Disabilities Statement

Students with disabilities, including but not limited to physical, psychiatric, or learning disabilities, who wish to request accommodations in this class should notify the Disability Services Office early in the semester so that the appropriate arrangements may be made. In accordance with federal law, a student requesting accommodations must provide acceptable documentation of his/her disability to the Disability Services Office. For more information, call or visit the Disability Services Office at Levelland (Student Health & Wellness Office) 806-716-2577, Lubbock Centers (located at the Lubbock Downtown Center) 806-716-4675, or Plainview Center (Main Office) 806-716-4302.

Non-Discrimination Statement

South Plains College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability or age in its programs and activities. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies: Vice President for Student Affairs, South Plains College, 1401 College Avenue, Box 5, Levelland, TX 79336. Phone number 806-716-2360.

Title IX Pregnancy Accommodations Statement

If you are pregnant, or have given birth within six months, under Title IX you have a right to reasonable accommodations to help continue your education. To activate accommodations you must submit a Title IX pregnancy accommodations request, along with specific medical documentation, to the Health and Wellness Center. Once approved, notification will be sent to the student and instructors. It is the student's responsibility to work with the instructor to arrange accommodations. Contact the Health and Wellness Center at 806-716-2529 or email dburleson@southplainscollege.edu for assistance.

CARE (Campus Assessment, Response, and Evaluation) Team

South Plains College is committed to ensuring the safety, health, and well-being of its students and community. To support its campus community SPC has a CARE Team. This is a dedicated group of campus professionals responsible for assessing and responding to students who could benefit from academic, emotional, or psychological support, as well as those presenting risk to the health or safety of the community. If you see someone experiencing challenges, appearing distressed, posing a threat to their safety or someone else's safety, or causing a significant disruption to the SPC community, please submit a CARE Team referral. You may also submit a referral for yourself if you would like additional support. NOTE: In cases where a person's behavior poses an imminent threat to you or another, contact 911.

Campus Concealed Carry Statement

Texas Government Code 411.2031, et al. authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in South Plains College buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and South Plains College policy, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations. For a list of locations and Frequently Asked Questions, please refer to the Campus Carry page at: <http://www.southplainscollege.edu/campuscarry.php>

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all South Plains College campuses. Report violations to the College Police Department at 806-716-2396 or 9-1-1.

Syllabus Extra Credit

For 2 points added to your final grade at the end of the semester, find an image of a sasquatch and email it to me by Sunday 8/30/26 at swallace@southplainscollege.edu. Make sure you email from your student email account and include your name and class section number. Late pictures will not receive extra credit, regardless of how cute or funny they are.