TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SAN ANTONIO

MUSI 1303.001 – FUNDAMENTALS OF MUSIC
SPRING 2025 – MW 9:30-10:45 – CLASSROOM HALL 301

COURSE INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Martha Saywell
COURSE NUMBER: 23744
DEPARTMENT: Language, Literature, and Arts
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PHONE: 210-784-2563
OFFICE LOCATION: Classroom Hall 314H
OFFICE HOURS: By appointment, in-person Monday-Thursday or online Monday-Friday

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
An introduction to the basic elements of music theory for non-music majors: scales, intervals, keys, triads, elementary ear training, keyboard harmony, notation, meter, and rhythm. This course meets the standards for the Creative Arts category of courses under the core curriculum.

COURSE GOALS:
- To gain a broader understanding of basic analytical elements of music and how they fit together.
- To gain and demonstrate music literacy.
- To obtain the necessary tools for creating and notating original compositions effectively and efficiently.

ONLINE TEXTBOOK and OTHER RESOURCES:
- Robert Hutchinson's *Music Theory for the 21st-Century Classroom* https://musictheory.pugetsound.edu/mt21c/MusicTheory.html
- Pencil – mandatory for all quizzes and pop quizzes
- Folder with pockets to collect and organize print materials for easy accessibility
- Sign up for a free Noteflight account at www.noteflight.com.
- Keyboards are on reserve in the University Library (located in BLH) to be checked out for three-hour increments.
- Any additional materials will be provided through Blackboard.

ATTENDANCE:

- Attendance is assumed. Students are still responsible for any materials and information from a missed class. Therefore it is advised to obtain the name and contact information of at least two other students in the class.
- Students who miss class on a quiz day or miss an assignment deadline may only make up the missed exam/work when appropriate documentation is provided to demonstrate extenuating circumstances. It is expected that the student will contact the instructor within 24 hours of the absence/missed deadline to discuss their options.
- See also "Professionalism" on page 2.

GRADING SCALE:

- 90% or higher = A
- 80% to 89% = B
- 70% to 79% = C
- 60% to 69% = D
- Below 60% = F

ASSESSMENT:

- Quizzes = 50%
- Mini-Compositions = 15%
- Final Composition and Presentation = 25%
- Professionalism = 10%
- Pop Quizzes = Extra Credit
- See also Academic Dishonesty.

QUIZZES:

- Since learning music works like a pyramid, it is essential to master an individual skill/concept before proceeding to the next one. This is the key to success on the quizzes and the course in general. See the Course Schedule below for quiz dates.
- There is no traditional final exam for this class. However, students will have the option to retake up to two quizzes of their choice during the final exam time assigned to the class. Students must notify the instructor at least 24 hours prior to the exam time of which quizzes they intend to retake. Please refer to the university's academic calendar for final exam days and times.

MINI-COMPOSITIONS:
Students will be asked to create two, small, original compositions using the skills learned in class. A separate assignment sheet will be posted to Blackboard with details on the requirements for each mini-composition. See the Course Schedule below for due dates.

FINAL COMPOSITION AND PRESENTATION:
Students will receive a list of selected poems and will create a composition using the poem of their choice from that list. Students will then share their composition and their creative process via an oral presentation to the class. A separate assignment sheet will be posted to Blackboard

with details on the requirements for the final composition and presentation. Students will also write peer responses as part of this assignment. See the Course Schedule below for due dates.

PROFESSIONALISM:
Students will refine and demonstrate soft skills that transcend all academic disciplines and are a fundamental part of success in the professional world. These soft skills include, but are not limited to, time management and punctuality, interpersonal skills, communication skills, work ethic, accountability, self-discipline, and a positive attitude. A full assessment of these skills necessitates, by default, regular and consistent class attendance.

POP QUIZZES:
Pop quizzes are occasionally given as an additional measure for monitoring progress. Since pop quizzes are an unannounced surprise, they will only be for extra credit. However, this surprise nature also means that pop quizzes cannot be made up at a later time.

COURSE SCHEDULE:
Due dates, quiz dates, and class cancellations are noted below. Otherwise, classes will consist of working through the first six chapters of the online textbook along with ear training and keyboard exploration.
- Wednesday, January 22 - Welcome and Syllabus Review
- Wednesday, January 29 – No class
- Monday, February 10 – Quiz 1
- Friday, February 21 – 1st draft of Mini-Composition 1 due by 5:00pm
- Friday, February 28 – Final draft of Mini-Composition 1 due by 5:00pm
- Wednesday, March 5 – Quiz 2
- SPRING BREAK – MARCH 10-15
- Friday, March 28 – 1st draft of Mini-Composition 2 due by 5:00pm
- Wednesday, April 2 – Quiz 3
- Friday, April 4 – Final draft of Mini-Composition 2 due by 5:00pm
- Wednesday, April 21 – 1st draft of Final Composition due by 5:00pm
- Wednesday, April 30 – Quiz 4
- Monday, May 5 – Final Composition Presentations

ELECTRONICS:
- Use of electronics during class is permitted for class-related activities only. Please keep phones in silent mode and refrain from taking calls and/or texting. Any exceptions to this rule must be approved *in advance* by the instructor. The instructor reserves the right to ban the use of electronics by any student.
- Please remove earbuds during class.

COMMUNICATIONS AND NOTIFICATIONS:
- All official communications from the University will be distributed through Jaguar email accounts. It is the responsibility of each student to obtain a Jaguar email account and check that address on a regular basis.
- Please use only Jaguar email when contacting your professor. Emails from personal accounts are not accepted and will receive a response of *Please use Jaguar email*. An additional document describing appropriate email etiquette (with samples) is located on Blackboard in the Syllabus module. Correspondence that does not adhere to these standards will receive an automatic reply of *Please see syllabus information on email etiquette*.
- Email is monitored Monday-Friday during standard business hours. Please allow at least two business days for email replies.
- While Blackboard does contain a messaging feature, it is not regularly monitored. However, the announcements feature will be used to communicate to the class as a whole. Therefore, it is advised to check Blackboard regularly.
- Difficulties with Jaguar email, Blackboard, or other IT services should be addressed through the Office of Information Technology Services in Room 233 of the Central Academic Building. They can also be reached at helpdesk@tamusa.edu or 210-784-4357.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:
- TAMUSA Academic Misconduct Policy: Students at Texas A&M University-San Antonio are expected to adhere to the highest standards of academic honesty and integrity. Academic misconduct for which a student is subject to penalty includes cheating, plagiarism, fabrication, multiple submissions, misrepresentation of academic records, facilitating academic dishonesty, unfair advantage, violating known safety requirements and ethical misconduct. This includes holding other students to the same standards and reporting any incidents of alleged violation of the honesty policy to the instructor involved or, if necessary, to the appropriate academic department head. All students are responsible for being familiar with the Academic Misconduct Policy, which may be found in the Texas A&M University-San Antonio Student Handbook.
- Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy: All work submitted by students should be generated by the students themselves. Students should not have another person/entity do the writing of any portion of an assignment for them, which includes hiring a person or a company to write assignments and/or using AI tools like ChatGPT. Use of any AI-generated content in this course qualifies as academic dishonesty and violates Texas A&M-San Antonio's standards of academic integrity.
- All materials are subject to analysis by anti-plagiarism software and AI detection software. Instances of academic dishonesty result in an automatic grade of '0'.

EXTRACURRICULAR MUSIC OPPORTUNITIES:
- Interested in mariachi? **Mariachi Los Jaguares Del Sur** is dedicated to honoring and preserving the art of mariachi music. The group prides itself on a shared love of music, performance, and Mexican culture. If you are interested in joining, visit JagSync 2.0 to

sign up and/or email advisor Amelia Guzman at aguzman@tamusa.edu for more information.

- Interested in band? The **San Antonio Community Wind Ensemble** meets in the TAMUSA Auditorium on Sunday afternoons and gives several concerts throughout the year. Membership dues are waived for all TAMUSA students. If you are interested in joining, email director Albert Aguilar at sacwe@crossmen.org for more information.
- Interested in orchestra? The **Strings Club** is a place for students on campus who are interested in classical orchestral music and a place to play their instruments. While currently practicing as a small ensemble, the group strives to grow into an orchestra. If you are interested in joining, visit JagSync 2.0 to sign up and/or email student org president Leopoldo (Leo) Esquibel at lesqu05@jaguar.tamu.edu for more information.

ADDITIONAL UNIVERSITY RESOURCES:
Additional university resources and policies can be found on Blackboard in the Syllabus module. These include, but are not limited to, accommodations for persons with disabilities, counseling and mental health resources, the Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center, Military Affairs, and important dates.

DISCLAIMER: This syllabus is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor. Students will be notified as soon as possible of any changes.