



Course Syllabus MU 117, Section 03

Music Theory I (3 credits)

Fall 2025

Instructor: Prof. Samantha Brewer

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Office Hours: Fridays at 12:00pm and by appointment, UCA 305A

Time and Location: MWF 10:00-10:50am, UCA 142

Catalog Course Description

This course is the first in the four-part music theory sequence. Topics include introduction to diatonic harmony, harmonic analysis, and part-writing/counterpoint.

Prerequisite: Passing grade on diagnostic exam

Course Type: Face-to-face

Course Objectives

By the end of the term, successful students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate basic literacy in the fundamentals of music notation.
2. Construct scales, triads, and seventh chords in all major and minor keys.
3. Analyze diatonic progressions using Roman-numeral analysis.
4. Realize two-voice species counterpoint and four-part figured bass assignments appropriate to the common practice period.
5. Identify and compose rhythms that employ simple and compound meters, various subdivisions, and other basic rhythmic concepts (such as triplets, anacrusis, and syncopation).

Course Materials

The following texts are *required* material for this course.

Clendinning, Jane P and Elizabeth Marvin. *The Musician's Guide to Theory and Analysis*. 4th Ed. New York: W. W. Norton & Company, 2021.

Clendinning, Jane and Elizabeth Marvin. *The Musician's Guide: Workbook*. 4th Ed. New York: W. W. Norton & Company, 2021.

You are expected to have manuscript paper, pencils, and erasers on hand at all times. We will be continually working through materials in class, and you will be expected to actively participate in the process. Additionally, you will need a binder, folder, tablet, or notebook to collect your course notes and other course materials.

Evaluation

Assignments:	40%
Midterm:	25%
<u>Final Exam:</u>	<u>35%</u>
Total:	100%

Thursday, December 18th: 11:50am-1:50pm.

Excessive absences override these percentages-see "Participation" in the Important Dates and Deadlines document

Grades will be given with both a number and a corresponding letter. The following is the chart of letter/number equivalencies. Please note you must reach the number at the bottom of the chart to receive the corresponding letter. Final grades will not be rounded up.

A = 92-100	C+= 78-79
A-= 90-91	C = 70-77
B+=88-89	D = 60-69
B = 83-87	F = 0-59
B-= 80-82	

You must receive at least a C in the course to continue into MU118. Students receiving a grade lower than a C in the course may not continue until they have re-taken the course successfully (by achieving a grade of C or better). Music majors: You must also receive at least a C for this course to apply towards graduation.

Weekly Topics

Weeks 1-2:	Review and introductory materials, diatonic harmony including keys and scales (Ch. 1-6)
Weeks 3-4:	Triads and Seventh Chords (Ch. 7-8)
Week 5:	Note-to-note two-voice counterpoint (Ch. 9)
Week 6:	Melodic and Rhythmic Embellishment in Two-Voice Counterpoint (Ch. 10)
Weeks 7-8:	Counterpoint, cont'd, introduction to Roman numeral analysis (Ch. 10-11)

Midterm Exam

Weeks 9:	Introduction to four-part writing and Roman numeral analysis (Ch. 12)
Weeks 10-11:	Introduction to harmonic function and cadences (Ch. 12)
Weeks 12-13:	Dominant seventh chords and predominant function (Ch. 13)
Week 14:	Expanding Basic Phrase and Six Four Chords (Ch. 14)
Week 15:	Review
Week 16:	Final Exam on Thursday, December 18 th from 11:50am-1:50pm

Student Disability Center

If you have been granted accommodation by the SDC, you need to come meet with me during my office hours or email a request for an in-person meeting *within the first two weeks of classes* so we can discuss how this accommodation will be utilized in this course. I want to make sure there is full transparency about course expectations for any student with an accommodation.

This course will adhere to the Academic Integrity Policy of the Colorado State University General Catalog and the Student Conduct Code.

Please note the difference between collaborating with a colleague in the class and simply copying from one another. I recommend doing your own assignment first and then coming together to work on it. If you choose to work with another person, both parties will need to indicate that on the top of their homework assignment. All submitted work must be your own work.

Student, Faculty, and Staff Health and Safety Information

The School of Music, Theatre and Dance and Department of music are very concerned about the safety and health of our students, faculty and staff. As you receive instruction in applied lessons, classes, and rehearsals, instructors will provide basic information regarding the maintenance of hearing, vocal, and musculoskeletal health and injury prevention. Non-music major students enrolled in ensembles and music appreciation courses should be aware of possible hearing loss related to loud volumes of music, especially listening to headphones at excessive levels. Students are requested to immediately report any physical discomfort or injury related to their instrument to their applied faculty and ensemble directors so that that student's learning plan may be adjusted to best overcome those challenges. Students are encouraged to supplement information obtained in their lessons, masterclasses, and guest lectures regarding performing artist health and safety issues by utilizing some of the resources listed at <https://music.colostate.edu/safety-and-health/>. Additionally, SMTD students are encouraged to take advantage of the Performing Arts Medicine Association (PAMA) in order to obtain information about local resources available.