



Music Theory III (3 credits)

Fall 2025

Instructor: Prof. Samantha Brewer

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

Time and Location: MWF 9:00-9:50am, UCA 142

Catalog Course Description

This course is the third in the four-part music theory sequence. Topics include introduction to chromatic harmony and the analysis of small forms.

Prerequisite: Successful completion of MU118

Course Type: Face-to-face

Course Objectives

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

1. Analyze, label, and describe the function of basic chromatic materials in a common practice period composition.
2. Realize four-part progressions that utilize various chromatic techniques.
3. Analyze small forms for phrase structure, modulations, cadences and overall design as related to music of the common practice period.
4. Compose short works based on small forms of the common practice period.

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 or a tablet 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 to collect your course notes and other course materials.

Evaluation

| | |
|--------------|------|
| Assignments: | 40% |
| Midterm: | 25% |
| Final Exam: | 35% |
| Total: | 100% |

Wednesday, December 17th 4:10 p.m.-6:10 p.m.

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 MU218. 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 1-3: Review diatonic fundamentals, part writing guidelines, phrase structure, and modulation
Week 4-5: Binary and Ternary Forms (Ch. 23)
Week 6: Theme and Variations (Ch. 25)
Week 7: Modal Mixture, Secondary Pre-dominants (Ch. 26)
Weeks 8-9: Neapolitan and Augmented 6th Chords (Ch. 27)
Midterm Exam
Weeks 10-11: Other Chromatic Applications, Chromatic and Enharmonic Modulation (Ch. 30 and 31)
Weeks 12-14: Vocal Forms (Ch. 28)
Week 15: Review
Week 16: **Final Exam on Wednesday, December 17th 4:10 p.m.-6:10 p.m.**

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 your homework assignment.**

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. Student 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.