

Pedagogy of Music Theory (MUSI 6301), Spring 2005

Professor: Andrew Davis ([email <adavis@uh.edu>](mailto:adavis@uh.edu))

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Home page and syllabus

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Course information:

MUSI 6301 | Monday and Wednesday, 11:30P.M.–1:00P.M. | course web page: <http://www.uh.edu/~adavis5/musi6301>

This is a course in teaching and learning music theory. It is not a “theory” course per se, in the conventional sense—that is, the analysis of music is not a direct concern of this course. Rather, the course is about how we teach and learn the loose collection of sub-disciplines known collectively as “music theory”—which means that the question “what is music theory” will also be one of our concerns—albeit an indirect one—in this course. There has been a great deal of research in the last 10–15 years into how people learn and effectively teach music theory, and one of the main purposes of the course is to expose you to this research: to assign you to read it, to discuss it in class, and to point out where you might find more of it should you need it at some point in your future career. The market for textbooks in music theory and related fields is expanding rapidly as well; you will be assigned to review a large number of these. Finally, you will take the opportunity to observe teachers of various theory courses and report back to the class on what you have observed. In the end, the course should supply you with a large library of information that you can draw on should you be assigned to teach a music theory course on the college level.

Prerequisites:

You must have completed an undergraduate music theory and history curriculum (or demonstrated equivalent competency).

Materials:

There is no textbook for the course and there are no materials to purchase. Rather, you should expect to make a large number of photocopies, and should probably consider compiling all this information into a binder or organizing it some other fashion that makes it easily accessible.

You will be evaluated on the following:

1. Your participation in the class discussions and the degree to which you demonstrate you have completed the required listening and reading assignments. You **MUST** come to class familiar with the material and ready to discuss it.
2. Periodic assignments, mostly requiring you to read material or observe theory classes and summarize and/or report on this for the class.
3. One [class presentation](#).
4. One [final paper](#).

Grading:

Your grade will be computed as follows: class participation, 25% | assignments ([reports](#) and [observations](#)), 25% | [class presentation](#), 20% | [final paper](#), 30%.

The final grade is assigned according to the standard scale of percentages: A: 92.5–100 | A-: 90.0–92.5 | B+: 87.5–90.0 | B: 82.5–87.5 | B-: 80.0–82.5 | C+: 77.5–80.0 | C: 72.5–77.5 | C-: 70.0–72.5 | D+: 67.5–70.0 | D: 62.5–67.5 | D-: 60.0–62.5 | F: below 60.0

Academic dishonesty:

You are expected to do your own work on all assignments and exams unless instructed differently; any work you hand in at any time should be your own. Problems with academic dishonesty will be handled according to the procedures outlined in the student handbook (see <http://www.uh.edu/dos/hdbk/acad/achonpol.html>). Please note that the mere suspicion of academic dishonesty is enough to initiate official action; please do not put yourself in the position of having to deal with this kind of situation.

Disabilities:

If you have a disability that affects your capacity to complete assignments and exams in a timely manner, please inform me at the beginning of the semester so that appropriate arrangements can be made. You will need to document your disability with the UH Center for Students with Disabilities (see <http://www.uh.edu/csd/>). The CSD will provide me with information on your disability, and you and I will work out a mutually agreeable arrangement (based on recommendations provided by the CSD) for how to accommodate the disability.

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URL: <http://www.uh.edu/~adavis5/musi6301>
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