

BAIN MUSC 115
Music Theory I

SYLLABUS

Instructor

Dr. Reginald Bain, Professor
Composition & Theory

Contact Information

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Office: Music Building, R227
Office Hours: MTW 3:50-4:10, and by appointment

Course Information

Term: Summer 2023, 3-Week Session III (3S5),
June 19 - July 7¹
Location: Music Building, R215
Format: MTW 12:20-3:50 pm, B3WEB²
Blackboard: <https://blackboard.sc.edu>
Course Website: <https://reginaldbain.com>

COURSE MODULES

1. Fundamentals Review
2. Harmonic Schemas in Popular Music
3. Diatonic Harmony
4. Sentences & Periods
5. Form in Popular Music

Course Description

A survey of the sound, harmony, melody, rhythm, and form of diatonic tonal music of a variety of styles.
Prerequisite: MUSC 114 or passing score on the Undergraduate Theory Diagnostic Exam.

Learning Outcomes

Students will learn how to:

- Harmonize melodies with triads
- Identify paradigmatic chord progressions
- Identify cadences
- Analyze music with Roman numerals, lead-sheet symbols, and Nashville number notation
- Compare music of different styles
- Compose melodies with embellishing tones
- Compose small formal units
- Speak and write critically about musical examples

Required Textbook (Open Access)

Gotham, Mark, et al. 2020. *Open Music Theory*, Version 2 (OMT2). Viva Press Books.
Available online at: <https://viva.pressbooks.pub/openmusictheory/>.

Supplemental readings, worksheets, and recordings will be made available in class and via Blackboard.

Course Requirements

Daily reading, listening, and assignments/activities (see *Daily Schedule*). Weekly homework (handwritten and online *assignments/activities*). Daily use of Blackboard and the course website to access digital course materials. Three compositional/analysis projects: 1. *Chord Loop Project*, 2. *Melody Harmonization Project*, and 3. *Form Project*. Two in-class exams (1 hour each) and a comprehensive 2.5-hour online final exam. *Exams are extremely important course requirements and make-ups will only be offered under the most exceptional of circumstances.*

¹ The university-scheduled final exam day is July 7.

² Blended/Hybrid Up to 49% web. Course that is taught both face-to-face and online with 49% or less of the course offered online. Course meets in-person on Monday/Tuesday/Wednesday and writing activities/assignments are completed asynchronously online by students in lieu of a Thursday meeting.

I am always happy to help you. Please don't hesitate to ask for help. The earlier you ask for assistance the better.

Technical Requirements

A computer, Web access, and a university-provided Blackboard account are required to access the digital course materials and complete the online activities in Blackboard. If necessary, the computer-based work for this course may be completed in the School of Music's *Music Technology Center* (R209). If you run into technical difficulties at any point in the course, please e-mail me so I may assist you. For a more detailed explanation of technical requirements, see *Links for Students > Blended Courses* on the course website.

Homework Polices

All handwritten work must be done in pencil (pen is NOT acceptable). Homework due dates are available in the *Daily Schedule* and in Blackboard. Late work cannot be accepted – except in the case of an *excused absence*. Work that is not submitted is averaged into the student's grade using a score of zero. In the case of an *excused* or *extended absence*, the student must make arrangements with the instructor via e-mail to make up missed work.

Attendance Policy

This course will follow the university's *Attendance Policy* which is available online at:

<https://academicbulletins.sc.edu/undergraduate/policies-regulations/undergraduate-academic-regulations/>

University Policies and Student Services

Information about the university's **academic integrity** policy, **Student Disability Resource Center (SDRC)**, **Student Success Center**, **Wellness at the School of Music**, and **other student services** is available on the course website (see *Links for Students*). If you are registered with the SDRC, please be sure I receive a copy of your accommodation letter during the first week of class so I may work with you (and with SDRC as necessary) to make sure your accommodations are met. The SDRC is located in Close-Hipp, Suite 102. You may reach the SDRC via e-mail at sadrc@mailbox.sc.edu, or by phone at 777-6142. More information is available online at:

https://sc.edu/about/offices_and_divisions/student_disability_resource_center/index.php

Classroom Policies

I am committed to making each day we meet a safe, active, focused, positive, and distraction-free learning environment for everyone in the class. I expect all students to follow the university guidelines for classroom *safety* and *acceptable conduct*, as well as the guidelines for *classroom etiquette* and conduct below:

- Please do not enter the classroom while music is playing. You may enter the classroom (as quietly as possible) when the instructor indicates that the current group listening exercise has ended.
- Cell phones should be put in silent mode before the class begins and should typically be out of plain sight.
- The use of laptops and tablets can be a significant distraction to others. Please be sensitive to this fact and limit their potential for distraction by using your electronic devices only for class-related activities.
- During certain *active learning activities*, electronic devices will need to be stowed away.

Grading Scale

A = 90-100%; B+ = 85-89%; B = 80-84%; C+ = 75-79%; C = 70-74%; D+ = 65-69%; D = 60-64%; F = 0-59%.

Grade Distribution

Homework and Class Participation	20%
Two Exams (20% each)	40%
Three Composition/Analysis Projects (10% each)	30%
Final Exam	10%

Minimum Grade and Progression Requirements

- A minimum grade of 'C' is required for any course submitted for fulfillment of music major requirements.
- Acceptance as a music major does not guarantee progression to the upper division. This course, along with the entire music theory and aural skills sequence, is part of a sequence of courses that must be completed before you can enroll in upper division lessons. Students must complete a certain number of credits of upper division lessons (311 or 411) to complete a BM or BA degree plan. Therefore, failure to achieve a grade of "C" in this course could delay a timely graduation.

Course Overview

Calendar (Summer 2023)

	M	T	W	TH*
June	19	20	21	22
June/July	26	27	28	29
July	3		5	6

* - *Asynchronous Thursday;*
No class on July 4

Course Schedule

June 19-22

1. Fundamentals

- Triads
- Seventh Chords
- Roman Numerals
- Inversion and Figured Bass

2. Harmonic Schemas in Popular Music

- Lead-Sheet Notation
- The Nashville Number System
- The Blues
- Four-Chord Schemas
- Textural Layers

Chord Loop Project

Due: Mon., June 26, 12:20 pm

EXAM 1 (Mon., June 26)

June 26-29

3. Diatonic Harmony

- The Phrase Model
- Embellishing Tones
- Prolongation
- Sequences
- Harmonization

Melody Harmonization Project

Due: Mon., July 3, 12:20 pm

EXAM 2 (Mon., July 3)

July 3-7

4. Sentences & Periods

- Sentences
- Periods

5. Form in Popular Music

- Strophic Form
- AABA Form
- Verse-Course Form
- Melody and Phrasing

Form Project

Due: Fri., July 7, 11:59 pm

ONLINE FINAL EXAM

Due: Fri., July 7, 11:59 pm