

**BAIN MUSC 525**  
*Post-Tonal Theory*

**SYLLABUS**

---

**Instructor**

Dr. Reginald Bain, Professor  
Composition and Theory

**Contact Information**

E-mail: [rbain@mozart.sc.edu](mailto:rbain@mozart.sc.edu)  
Voice mail: (803) 777-8183  
Office: Music Building, R227  
Office Hours: MW 1:00-2:00 pm, and by appointment

**Course Information**

Term: Fall 2022  
Location: Music Building, R210  
Format: MW 10:50-11:40 am, B3WEB<sup>1</sup>  
Blackboard: <https://blackboard.sc.edu>  
Website: <https://reginaldbain.com>

---

**COURSE MODULES**

1. Pitch & Interval (Ch. 1)
2. Pitch-Class Sets (Ch. 2)
3. Set Properties & Relationships (Ch. 3)
4. Centricity & Referential Collections (Ch. 5)
5. Advanced Topics (Ch. 4)
6. Serialism (Ch. 6)

**Prerequisite**

MUSC 216

**Description**

Study of the theory and analysis of post-tonal music with a focus on pitch-class set theory and serialism.

**Required Textbook**

Joseph N. Straus, *Introduction to Post-Tonal Theory*, 4th ed. (New York: Norton, 2016).  
ISBN-13: 9780393938838. Available at campus bookstores and online retailers.

*Please be sure to bring your Straus 4/e textbook to class every day, as we will often work directly out of it in class.*

**Learning Objectives**

Students will learn how to:

- Critically interpret a wide array of post-tonal literature.
- Analyze post-tonal music, with a focus on theoretical problem solving in pitch-class set theory, scale theory, transformational theory, and twelve-tone serialism.
- Compose post-tonal music.
- Use electronic resources, analytical media, and software for computer-aided analysis and composition.

**Course Requirements**

Weekly reading, homework, listening/analysis as indicated in the following documents on the course website: (1) *Reading & Exam Schedule*, (2) *Daily Schedule*, (3) *Straus 4/e Theory Exercises*, and (4) *Listening/Analysis*. There will be two in-class exams (50 min.) and an online final exam (ca. 2.5 hours). There will also be a final composition project.

**500-Level Course Requirement**

As required by SACS, graduate students taking the course will be evaluated on a more rigorous basis and will be required to complete an instructor-mentored analysis project which is due at 11:59 pm on the university-scheduled final exam date. Guidelines for the project are available on the course website. The project will count as 25% of the homework grade.

---

<sup>1</sup> 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/Wednesday and activities/assignments are completed asynchronously online by students in lieu of a Friday meeting.

### Technical Requirements

A computer, Web access, and a university-provided Blackboard account are required to access the digital course materials and submit work. 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 any technical difficulties, please let me know as soon as possible via e-mail so that I may assist you.

### Homework

After completing the reading for a given chapter (see *Daily Schedule*), complete the assigned end-of-chapter theory exercises (see *Straus 4/e Theory Exercises*) and check your own work using my *Solution Guide*. As you complete the theory exercises, make note of any questions you have and bring them to our regularly scheduled interactive *Q & A Sessions*, or you may e-mail your questions. Students are encouraged to work in small groups on the theory exercises, and it is my hope that this will become a communal aspect of the course. There are also low-stakes Blackboard quizzes for each chapter that test your reading comprehension. These quizzes are designed to help you stay on track in the course. Two attempts are allowed and the average of your two attempts will be recorded as your grade for the assignment. Late work is recorded as using a grade of zero. To help you prepare for each in-class exam, a practice-test will be made available on the course website about a week before the exam.

### Attendance Policy

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

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

### Academic Integrity and Student Services

Information about the university's **academic integrity** policy, **Student Disability Resource Center** (SDRC), and **other student services** is available on the course website (see *Links for Students*). If you are registered with the SDRC, please be sure that I receive a copy of your accommodation letter during the first week of class so I may work with you (and 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 [sadrc@mailbox.sc.edu](mailto:sadrc@mailbox.sc.edu), or phone 777-6142. More information is available online at:

[https://sc.edu/about/offices\\_and\\_divisions/student\\_disability\\_resource\\_center/index.php](https://sc.edu/about/offices_and_divisions/student_disability_resource_center/index.php).

### Health and Wellness

The School of Music cares about the health, safety and wellbeing of its students, faculty, and staff. This site provides information on a variety of wellness topics to encourage our Gamecock Music Community to embrace and promote self-care:

[https://sc.edu/study/colleges\\_schools/music/spark\\_laboratory/music\\_wellness/index.php](https://sc.edu/study/colleges_schools/music/spark_laboratory/music_wellness/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 *classroom etiquette* guidelines below:

- For current safety guidelines, see *Links for Students*.
- Please do not enter the classroom while music is playing. You may enter the classroom (as quietly as possible) when the music stops playing.
- 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 classroom-related activities.

### Grading Scale & Grade Distribution

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

20%	-	Homework and class engagement/participation/preparedness Class engagement/participation/preparedness is evaluated through daily participation in class discussions, active participation in Q&A Sessions, and one-on-one interactions with your instructor.
50%	-	Exams 1-2 (25% ea.)
20%	-	Final Exam
10%	-	Composition Project