

Boston University
College of Fine Arts, Department of Music
MU 401 - Music Theory Review
Fall 2008
Syllabus

Instructor: Prof. Deborah Burton

Office Hours: CFA 414A, by appointment

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Teaching Assistant: Mary Montgomery - mkmk@bu.edu

Meeting Times and Location: Tuesday-Thursday 11:00-12:30, CFA 156

Course Description and Objectives

Review of fundamental music theory and analysis through the study of chord grammar, voice-leading principles, figured bass, and form. Materials are approached in the abstract and through the close study of Schubert and Schumann lieder and other repertoire. An aural skills component will be covered in the final half-hour of each weekly meeting.

Prerequisite

By placement exam, with graduate standing.

Texts

required: Franz Schubert. *Complete Song Cycles* (New York: Dover, 1970).

recommended: Kostka, Stefan and Paine, Dorothy. *Tonal Harmony*, 5th edition (Boston: McGraw-Hill, 2004).

Course Grade Components

• assignments and quizzes	25%
• midterm exam	20%
• student project	25%
• aural skills	15%
• attendance	15%

Assignments

- All written assignments are due at the beginning of class. Late assignments will go down one grade for every twenty-four hours the work is late. For example, an A assignment, one day late, will receive an A-. However, **the lowest grade you can receive for handing in a completed assignment is a D**. Therefore, even if your work is very late, you should still hand it in. Exceptions will be made only with valid written documentation of a conflict.
- If you want to hand in non-required written assignments for extra credit, they will be counted as one-half a normal assignment.
- You are responsible for keeping all graded work in the event there is a disagreement regarding grading.

Student Project

For your student project, you will prepare a class presentation and write a formal analytic paper. The project will entail, to some extent, relating theoretical concepts discussed in class to a piece of tonal repertoire of your own choosing. The subjects of your projects will be agreed upon with the instructor at least two weeks ahead of the due date. Further details about the length and nature of the analytical papers will be given in class. For all questions regarding bibliographic form, footnote citations, and other matters of writing and style, you must follow Kate L. Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1987). This book is available in the reference section of any library.

Attendance Policy

Your attendance is required at all class meetings and it is 15% of your grade. Excused absences include: (1) illness with a note/receipt from a doctor, the day you return to class, (2) official school business, (3) observance of religious holidays, or (4) extenuating family circumstances. If a class is missed, it is your responsibility to find out what was covered and what homework was assigned.

Conduct

You are expected to abide by the CFA Academic Conduct Code. Cases of suspected misconduct will be referred to the Dean's Office.

Cellular Phones

All cell phones are to be turned off in class. If your phone rings, you must silence it immediately and may not answer it during class time. If you are expecting an urgent phone call, please let me know before class and an exception can be made.

Disabilities

A student with disabilities must register with the Office of Disability Services prior to the beginning of the first term for which the assistance is being requested. Students will be requested to provide current appropriate documentation of their disability.

Course Schedule*

Week	Dates	Material	Assignments
1	September 2-4	course introduction	
2	9-11	the basics: diatonic harmony, voice-leading principles, inversions, NCTs	Assignment 1, <i>Kostka-Paine</i> review chapters 1-4
3	16-18	figured bass, cadences, seventh chords, part-writing, doublings	Assignment 2, chapters 5-7, 10-12
4	23-25	tonicization, secondary functions	Assignment 3, chapters 16-17
5	30 - October 2	modulation techniques	Assignment 4, chapter 18
6	7-9 [10/6 last day to drop classes without a W grade]	sequences	Assignment 5
7	16 [Monday schedule on Tuesday 10/14]	review	midterm review
8	21-23	midterm exam	
9	28-30	mode mixture	Assignment 6, chapter 21
10	November 4-6	Neapolitan 6th chord	Assignment 7, chapter 22
11	13 [no classes Tuesday, 11/11, 11/10 last day to drop classes with W grade]	Augmented Sixth chords 1	Assignment 8, chapter 23
12	18-20	Augmented Sixth chords 2	Assignment 9, chapter 24
13	25 [Fall recess 11/26-30]	Form I	Assignment 10, chapter 20
14	December 2-4	Form II	student project preparation
15	9-11	student project presentations	final projects due

* course material is subject to change; all alterations will be announced in class.