

Music Theory III

Music 2613-01

3 credit hours

Fall 2016

Professor

Dr. James William Sobaskie
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325-2871

Class Meetings

M, W, & F, 11:00 a.m., Room 112, Music Building B

Office Hours

M, T, W, TH, & F, 10:00 a.m., *and* by appointment – just ask!
E-mail consultation always available – just contact jsobaskie@colled.msstate.edu

Required Books and Supplies

Clendinning & Marvin: *The Musician's Guide to Theory and Analysis*, 2nd Ed. (Norton)
Clendinning & Marvin: Workbook for *The Musician's Guide to Theory and Analysis*, 2nd Ed.

Recommended Computer Software

Finale NotePad (a free download)

Instructional Outcomes

Music Theory III will:

- deepen your command of music theory terminology
- expand your harmony and voice-leading skills
- enhance your creativity
- improve your ability to write about music
- apply your knowledge of music theory to your performance and teaching
- help *you* build the discipline and responsibility essential to success in music

Educational Activities

To attain the instructional objectives of Music Theory III, you will:

- review Chapters 1 through 19 of your textbook
- study Chapters 20 through 29 your textbook
- create a composition project according to given directions and submit it *on time*
- submit an analytical essay according to given directions and submit it *on time*
- submit homework assignments *on time*
- take three in-class written examinations and a final written examination *on time*

Pedagogical Objectives for Music Theory III

After completion of Music Theory III, students will be able to:

- use music theory terminology more fluently in verbal communication
- use harmony and voice-leading skills more effectively in exercises and compositions
- use creative skills more imaginatively in artistic and pedagogical applications
- use writing skills more persuasively in formal applications
- use self-discipline more carefully to follow directions
- use self-responsibility more professionally to meet deadlines

Important Dates in Music Theory III

The following list – subject to announced adjustments – lists some important upcoming events:

<u>WEEK</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>EXAM / PROJECT / DEADLINE / ETC.</u>
1	Friday, August 19, 2016	Variations Composition/Reflective Essay details announced
3	Wednesday, August 31, 2016	Finale Workshop in the Library (attendance required!)
3	Friday, September 1, 2016	Finale Workshop in the Library (attendance required!)
4	Monday, September 7, 2016	Labor Day holiday – no classes!
4	Friday, September 9, 2016	Variations Composition draft due
5	Monday, September 12, 2016	Exam I given
5	Wednesday, September 14, 2016	Variation Analysis Essay details introduced
6	Wednesday, September 21, 2016	Variations Analysis Essay music selection due
6	Friday, September 23, 2016	Variations Composition and Reflective Essay due
7	Wednesday, September 28, 2016	Variations Analysis Essay title due
8	Wednesday, October 5, 2016	Variations Analysis Essay Intro/Thesis/Overview due
9	Monday, October 10, 2016	Exam II given
9	Thursday & Friday, October 13–14, 2016	FALL BREAK!
10	Wednesday, October 19, 2016	Variations Analysis Essay Musical Examples due
12	Wednesday, November 2, 2016	Variations Analysis Draft Essay due
13	Monday, November 7, 2016	Exam III given
15	Monday, November 21, 2016	Variation Analysis Final Essay due
15	W– Sun, November 23–27, 2016	THANKSGIVING BREAK!
16	Wednesday, November 30, 2016	Review: last class day
Finals	Thursday, December 8, 2016	Final Exam, 12:00–3:00 p.m. (UDPE)

Evaluation Criteria for Music Theory III

The following system will be used for determining course grades:

Components:

• Written Tests (in-class)	(3 @ 50 pts each)	150 points
• Written Final Exam (in-class) (UDPE)	(1 @ 100 pts)	100 points
• Homework Assignments	(7 @ 10 pts each)	70 points
• Variations Composition Draft	(1 @ 10 pts)	10 points
• Variations Composition	(1 @ 50 pts)	50 points
• Variations Composition Reflective Essay	(1 @ 20 pts)	20 points
• Variation Analysis Essay Title	(1 @ 5 pts)	5 points
• Variation Analysis Intro/Thesis/Overview Draft	(1 @ 15 pts)	15 points
• Variation Analysis Musical Examples	(1 @ 15 pts)	15 points
• Variation Analysis Draft Essay	(1 @ 15 pts)	15 points
• Variation Analysis Final Essay	(1 @ 50 pts)	<u>50 points</u>
		500 points

Grading scale:

450 – 500 points	(= 90 % – 100 %)	A
400 – 449.5 points	(= 80 % – 89.9 %)	B
350 – 399.5 points	(= 70 % – 79.9 %)	C
300 – 349.5 points	(= 60 % – 69.9 %)	D
0 – 299.5 points	(= 0 % – 59.9 %)	F

Course Policies

Academic Honesty. Honesty is at the foundation of all intellectual achievement. The pledge within the Mississippi State University Student's Honor Code (<http://students.msstate.edu/honorcode/>) asserts:

“As a Mississippi State University student I will conduct myself with honor and integrity at all times. I will not lie, cheat, or steal, nor will I accept the actions of those who do.”

Your signature, affixed to all written material handed in for evaluation, is understood to affirm that your submission represents solely your own work.

Academic dishonesty will be dealt with in accord with the Mississippi State University Academic Misconduct Policy (http://www.msstate.edu/web/student_policies.html).

Achievement. You are welcome to discuss your current status in this class anytime. Grades are recorded in *myCourses* and you can calculate your current grade status by determining the % of possible points you have earned.

Assignments. Assignments will be announced and discussed in class. If you miss class, aren't sure about an assignment, or want some advice, just ask! You also can e-mail your questions! Late assignments *will not* be accepted.

Attendance. Students are expected to attend ALL scheduled class sessions and to arrive for class *before* it begins. Attendance will be observed and recorded during the first five minutes of class. **Students who arrive up to ten minutes after attendance has been taken will be considered late and instances of lateness will be recorded. Anyone more than fifteen minutes late for class will be considered absent for that day, and an absence will be recorded.** All absences are considered unexcused until documentation is submitted and accepted to justify the conversation of an unexcused absence to an excused absence. Absence due to illness, extreme circumstances, or official University activities *may* be excused upon the presentation and acceptance of appropriate documentation, which may include letters of explanation from professional medical personnel (i.e., a doctor or a nurse), law enforcement officials, and University professors. Phone calls or e-mails are not acceptable for documentation. Absences for other reasons, such as duties of a part-time job, fraternity/sorority activities, studying for a test in another class, oversleeping, a family vacation, possession of a plane ticket, etc., will be considered unexcused.

- **A student who accumulates more than three (3) unexcused absences will have their course grade lowered by one level. Four (4) unexcused absences means an earned C lowers to a D.**
- **Three lates will be considered equivalent to one unexcused absence.**

If you are unsure of your attendance status on a given day, you may consult me immediately after that particular class. You also should monitor your attendance in the MSU Banner system. **With any absence or instance of lateness, it is *your* responsibility to learn what was missed, prepare new work, and to make arrangements for submission of assigned work by the deadline specified in class – absences do not extend assignment deadlines.**

Classroom Conduct. Courtesy and respect for everyone is crucial to a successful learning environment. Interactive discussion is a primary pedagogical activity in this class. These premises determine the following essential course policies:

- **Cell phone and personal computer use is not permitted during class.**
- **Eating and drinking in the classroom are not permitted.**
- **Private conversation during class is not permitted during class.**

Co-requisite. Students enrolled in this music theory course are expected to be simultaneously enrolled in, or have already earned a C in Ear Training III.

Disability. If you have a recognized learning disability and need accommodation, you should provide appropriate notification and documentation by the end of the first week of classes. For more information on this subject, see <http://www.msstate.edu/dept/sss/disabilities/>.

Exams. To ensure fairness of the examination process, as well as help you acquire the responsibility and discipline necessary for success in music, **you are expected to submit and complete all portions of all exams at their scheduled times.** Specific content of all exams will be announced at least two class periods before the administration of the exam. Make-up exams after a missed exam *will not* be possible. Failure to take a scheduled exam due to an unexcused absence will result in a score of zero (0) for that exam. **In the event of absence at the administration of an exam, the equivalent grade earned on the final exam (the equivalent % of 60 points) will replace the missing exam grade at the end of the semester. In the event of two or more missed exams, *only one* missing exam grade will be replaced by this method, and the other(s) will remain zero (0).** Final exams are scheduled by the university. **Unexcused absence at the final exam will earn a zero (0) for that exam and no incomplete will be given.**

Help. People learn at different rates, have different learning preferences, and may need a little or a lot of direction. However, getting the help you need is *your* responsibility. If you have questions, want to discuss class material, need advice about assignments or examinations, you are welcome to see me during office hours, e-mail me, or ask for an appointment.

myCourses. This class takes advantage of the online *myCourses* system to share course materials, record and post grades, administer certain assignments, enable electronic submission, and facilitate communication. For more information, see the *myCourses* channel by logging in at *myState*: <https://my.msstate.edu/cp/home/displaylogin>

Participation. Active participation – through discussion, questions, in-class exercises, readings, homework, quizzes, and examinations – is expected.

Preparation. Active preparation – through completion of assigned readings and homework before class – is essential for success.

Prerequisites. A “C” or higher in Music Theory II (MU 1413 or equivalent) AND a “C” or higher in Ear Training II (MU 1521 or equivalent) are required for students registered for this class.

Standards. This course is an advanced music major course, designed to prepare serious musicians for the competitive profession they hope to enter. Non-music majors should recognize that course standards, intended to maximize the success of future music professionals, cannot and will not be relaxed for those not pursuing music careers. Similarly, since most graduates of the MSU Music Department will teach within their professional careers, education-related activities are required of ALL students.

Syllabus. As in any university class, this syllabus specifies what a student can expect and what is expected of them. Details in the syllabus are subject to change by the professor, but will be announced in class in advance.

Upper Division Proficiency Examination. The last examinations in Music Theory III and Ear Training III correspond to those components belonging to the MSU Upper Division Proficiency Examination in Music Theory. For more on this, see the MSU Student Handbook (<http://www.music.msstate.edu/students/handbook/>).

Web Resources. Three web documents, including *Secrets of Academic Success*, *Strategies for Test-Taking*, and *Suggestions for Writing About Music*, written by your professor and available on the MSU Music Theory Area webpage (<http://www.music.msstate.edu/areas/theory/>), offer insights on how to excel at the university as well as in this class, express expectations had by most professors as well as this one, and convey common sense that you need to know.

