

University of Arkansas – Fort Smith

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General Syllabus

MUSI 2813 Music Theory IV

Credit Hours: 3

Lecture Hours: 3

Prerequisite: MUSI 2803 Music Theory III

Corequisite: MUSI 2791 Sight Singing and Ear Training IV

Effective Semester: Fall 2013

I. Course Information

A. Catalog Description

Study of chromatic harmony of the later Classical and Romantic eras and non-functional harmonic techniques from the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Students demonstrate synthesis of theoretical concepts by harmonizing bass lines and melodies and employing motivic, structural, harmonic, twelve-tone, and set theory analysis to examine representative literature.

B. Additional Information – None.

II. Student Learning Outcomes

A. Subject Matter

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will have:

1. Discussed important features of various nineteenth- and twentieth-century compositional styles.
2. Employed various analytical techniques to identify characteristic features in various musical examples, and associated them with appropriate structural forms, composers, and historical time periods.
3. Continued a timeline of music history begun in MUSI 2803, and studied significant composers and musical styles pertinent to the development of Western concert music in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

B. University Learning Outcomes

MUSI 2813 Music Theory IV enhances student abilities in the following areas:

Global and Cultural Perspectives

Course material consists of music primarily of the Western classical tradition, but includes music from a variety of other cultures. Composers and styles will be presented in a larger historical context, and students will be graded on their understanding of how the various periods of musical development around the world influenced the tradition of concert music with which we are familiar today.

Communication Skills

Students will demonstrate (1) written communication skills through analytical papers, exams, and a major project; and (2) oral communication skills through composer presentation assignments, a final project presentation, as well as daily discussion within the course's seminar format.

Technological Skills

Students are required to use internet resources to obtain recorded musical examples for study. Assessment for written assignments includes appropriate use of library resources and internet research databases as well as word-processing software to adhere to formal academic writing standards.

Analytical Skills

Course focuses on building and employing analytical techniques to (1) identify certain musical devices and (2) make reasonable decisions as to how to label and thereby interpret elements of music. Students analyze music in terms of phrasing, cadences, chord structures including Roman numerals, melodic organization (including motivic set theory and tone-row analysis), and formal structure.

Quantitative Reasoning

Students will apply theoretical models of musical phrases, cadences, and structural forms to interpret music, as well as represent harmonic information using Roman numeral symbols and figured bass numerals indicating chord quality, function, and inversion. Post-tonal musical information will be represented using interval set numerals and tone-row labels discovered through generating a 12 x 12 pitch matrix. Students will be graded on their use of appropriate analytical labels, as well as their ability to discern which model to employ in various musical contexts.

III. Major Course Topics

Course topics include: extended chromatic harmony (including 9th, 11th, 13th-chords, altered dominants, chromatic mediants), musical concepts of the Romantic, Post-Romantic, Impressionistic styles, and atonal analysis (including set theory and twelve-tone technique).