Music Theory III
Fall 2015 – MUSC-2234
M, W, F 11:00-11:50

Instructor:
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Assistant Professor of Piano & Music Theory

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Office Hours: Monday-Friday 2-4pm (Music Building Room 122)
Course Location: Music Building Room 106

Course Description: This course is designed to provide an overview of more advanced and complex tonal harmony in music, in various styles, through multi-media presentation. Fundamentals of music will be discussed as well as multi- and cross-cultural and disciplinary connections. Students will be encouraged to see the connections between music and their daily lives through an understanding of basic musical forms and various musical styles from approximately 450 to the present.

Learning Objectives:
Upon completion of this course the student will gain and apply:

1. Understanding of tonal harmony – As students become aware of the basic patterns and building blocks of music (e.g., scales, chords, arpeggios), they will gain the ability to ‘chunk’ several notes together, improving their ability to sight-read, analyze, and produce music.

2. Identify basic musical concepts in their current favorite music, where they came from, and all of the exciting things that happened in between.

3. Psychological and perceptual considerations - Considering the psychological and cognitive aspects of music theory from the listener’s perspective will provide unique insight into the theoretical aspects of a piece of music. For example, the connections between language processing and music can yield relevant connections in regard to phrasing.

In addition, students are encouraged to foster connections between what they are learning and:

4. Knowledge of music history – Considering the historical and stylistic conventions of a composer and piece of music will aid the student in various aspects of performance practice. [Overarching trend between decadence and minimalism]

5. Their daily lives - Many of these rules may not apply in music of today.
Course Materials:
- **Required Text** – *Tonal Harmony* by Stefan Kostka (book & workbook)
- **Recommended** – 3 ring binder to organize guided notes, handouts, and assignments

*Staff paper - print free at [http://www.blanksheetmusic.net/](http://www.blanksheetmusic.net/)

Instructional Methods:
- Seminar & Traditional Lecture; Practice assignments and computerized drills; Powerpoint Jeopardy in preparation for Proficiency tests (4), Harmonic Analyses (4), and 2 Composition/Arranging Exercises

Class Participation & Attendance: Since this course is primarily lecture-based, attendance is necessary to master the course material. Any student who has more than five unexcused absences in the class will be automatically withdrawn from the course. Exceptions may be granted only if adequate medical or other documentation is provided.

Grading:
- Workbook and/or Emusictheory exercises 50%
- Proficiency Tests 20%
- Harmonic Analyses (4) 20% (5% each)
- Composition & Arranging Exercises (2) 10% (5% each)

Scale: 90 – 100% = A; 80 – 89% = B; 70 – 79% = C; 60 – 69% = D; less than 60% = F

Proficiency Tests: Proficiency tests will be based on the material covered in class and are based on workbook exercises. Regular attendance, attention, and outside study/listening will ensure your success on these tests. If you have any questions about the material presented, you may see me on an individual basis at a mutually convenient time. Makeup exams are only given in the case of emergency. In extreme circumstances, arrangements must be made in advance to take a test at a different time.

Harmonic Analyses: Harmonic analyses will be from various musical eras and styles. Students will perform roman numeral and pop/lead sheet analysis.

Composition & Arranging Exercises: Students will be asked to compose a piece of music from the “common practice” period as well as arrange a pop tune, hymn, or “standard” for instrumentation/voice preferred by the student.

Course Policies: Your participation may affect your grade. Please bring your text book, work book, any handouts, and note-taking material to each class.

What you put into this course will largely affect what you get out of it. You will be surprised what even five minutes of practice per day can produce in not only retaining information from one lesson to the next, but making progress.

The Student Survey of Instruction is administered in courses each semester. It is designed to improve the quality of instruction at ABAC. All student responses are confidential and anonymous and will be used solely for the purpose of performance improvement.
Important Dates:

No Classes
   October 19th   Fall Break (Monday)
   November 25   Thanksgiving Break (Wednesday)
   November 27   Thanksgiving Break (Friday)

Last Day of Class: Wednesday, December 2nd

The last day to drop, receive refund, and/or change to audit is Wednesday, August 19th.

The final day to withdraw with a grade of “W” is September 8th.

General College Policies:


Academic Dishonesty: ABAC has an Academic Dishonesty policy. Please consult the Student Handbook for details on what constitutes Academic Dishonesty and disciplinary procedures.

Special Accommodations: If you wish to request accommodations as a student with a documented disability, please make an appointment with Disability Services through the Student Development Center. For complete information on disability services, consult www.abac.edu/sd/Disability or visit the Student Development Center on the first floor of the Carlton Center, Suite 109.