

University of Utah * School of Music
MUSC 3550: 20th/21st-Century Techniques (3-credit)

Spring 2017 * Room: DGH 410

Section 001: MWF 8:35a-9:25a

Section 003: MWF 10:45a-11:35a

Instructor: Dr. Luke Dahn

Office: DGH 430

Office hours: Tuesdays 10:45-12:00 and Thursdays 1:00-2:00 (or by appt.)

Email: luke.dahn@utah.edu (preferred contact) Office phone: 801-585-3720

REQUIRED MATERIALS

1. Straus, Joseph N. *Introduction to Post-Tonal Theory, 4th edition*. (Norton, 2016). ISBN: 978-0-393-93883-8
2. Plenty of staff paper (a notebook, or download some here: <http://www.musicshleaf.com/>) and pencils (with erasers).
Assignments that require notation will not be accepted if written on notebook paper with drawn staff lines!
3. A notebook or binder for note-taking.

CATALOGUE COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course covers diverse topics in music theory relevant to the study of 20th and 21st Century concert music. Topics may include Modernism, Neo-Classicism, Post-Modernism, chromatic and atonal voice leading, harmonic function based on symmetrical divisions of the octave, music at the limits of tonality, pitch-class set theory with the emphasis on transpositional equivalence and inversional symmetry), pitch-centricity, and twelve-tone/serial procedures. The course may also cover musical practices prevalent since 1950 including minimalism, aleatoric procedures, and other techniques.

Prerequisites: "C" or better in MUSC 3540 and MUSC 2140.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

In this course, students will...

- develop a better understanding of music from the 20th and 21st centuries
- develop a better understanding of the historical and philosophical context out of which modern music arose
- be better equipped to thoroughly analyze modern music
- be better equipped to interpret modern music and to give accurate, thoughtful, and persuasive performances of modern music
- gain experience utilizing the techniques studied in compositional projects

COURSE WORK

Homework assignments (35% of overall grade)

You will be given weekly homework assignments, and all assignments must be turned in on time. Some assignments will come from the textbook chapter exercises while others will come from separate handouts. On occasion, we will work through a few homework problems in class, but we will only do this as long as I sense that everyone is coming to class well prepared. **Unfortunately, electronic submissions of written homework assignments will not be accepted. Hard copies must be submitted** (unless explicit exceptions are made by the instructor).

Late assignments: If late assignments are submitted before I grade the assignment for the class (within 24 hours is pretty safe), I will accept it with a 10 point deduction. If assignments are submitted after that but within one week, they will be given half credit and will most likely *not* be returned.

Two Exams (Midterm: 15%; Final: 20%)

There will be two scheduled exams, each of which will likely contain both a take-home portion and an in-class portion. Take-home portions typically involve more open-ended analysis questions while in-class portions will involve exercises similar to those done in homework assignments.

12-Tone Composition Project (10% of overall grade)

Each student will compose a 12-tone Invention for two instruments or for piano. For this composition, the composer must create a tone-row matrix first. Further instruction on this assignment will be given in class.

Concert Report (5% of overall grade)

Each student must attend one concert of new music and complete a concert report. Report forms will be provided and will require you to document details about the concert venue, short biographical details about the composers on the program (which may need to be researched later), details about what you heard referencing any topics discussed in class, and your personal response to the music. Programs must be submitted along with the report.

For a concert to qualify, at least half of the program must be comprised of post-tonal music. All NOVA, Canyonlands, New Music Ensemble, and Salty Cricket concerts, as well as concerts featuring works by student composers are approved for this assignment. Any other concerts require the instructor's approval.

Attendance & Class work (15% of overall grade)

In my attendance log, each student will receive one of 7 marks for each class:

- (blank) = Present and engaged (100% credit)
- S = Sick and was notified of sickness prior to class (excused absence: 100% credit)
- E = Excused absence for non-illness reason (i.e. University or School-sanctioned event) (100% credit)
- L = Late (50% credit or less)
- P = On phone in class (50% credit or less)
- Z = Sleeping in class (50% credit or less)
- X = Absent (0% credit)

For excused absences, late assignments will be accepted for full credit if submitted as early as possible. However, the student is still responsible for any material missed in class. If a student sleeps or uses their phone during class, partial attendance credit will be given. *I will not stop my lecture to address individual phone usage, but know that I do notice phone use, and grades will reflect such phone use.* Full engagement and preparedness is necessary for your success in this course, and the quality of this class depends on it. This class will be as good as you all make it!

5% TBD Grade

Understanding that students have different learning styles and that each student excels at different types of assignments, the final 5% of the overall grade will be assigned by the student at the beginning of Week 11 (after the graded midterm exams are returned) to any of the following:

- 1) Homework – becomes 35% of overall grade
- 2) Midterm Exam – becomes 20% of overall grade
- 3) Final Exam – becomes 25% of overall grade
- 4) 12-Tone Composition Project – becomes 15% of overall grade
- 5) Attendance & Participation – becomes 15% of overall grade

If no decision is made by the student, this final 5% will be assigned to homework by default. Once made, decisions are irreversible.

GRADE BREAKDOWN

30%	Homework Assignments
15%	Midterm Exam
20%	Final Exam
10%	12-Tone Composition Project
5%	Concert Report
15%	Attendance & Participation
5%	TBD Portion of Grade
100%	

Grade Scale: A 100-93; A- 92-90; B+ 89-87; B 86-83; B- 82-80; C+ 79-77; C 76-73; C- 72-70; D+ 69-67; D 66-63; D- 62-60; E 59-0

OTHER COURSE POLICIES

1. No laptops in class. Laptops are distracting for students using them, for students around them, and for the instructor. Plus, many studies have shown that humans do not multi-task well (just one: <http://www.facultyfocus.com/articles/teaching-professor-blog/multitasking-confronting-students-with-the-facts/>), including one study showing that laptops directly lead to lower grades (Sana, Faria, Tina Weston, and Nicholas Cepeda. "Laptop multitasking hinders classroom learning for both users and nearby peers." *Computers & Education*, Vol. 62, March 2013, pp.24-31).
2. Please communicate! If you have a disability, an illness, a question, a concern, a lack of understanding of a concept, a word of encouragement, please let me know. I have an "open door" policy at all times. The best ways to contact me are stopping by during my office hours and email.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

While I encourage students to have work-study partners and engage in discussions about homework assignments, ultimately all class work is to be completed entirely on one's own (unless explicit exceptions are granted) and must conform to the University of Utah's policies on academic honesty. These policies are explained at: <http://regulations.utah.edu/academics/6-400.php>

GENERAL COURSE OUTLINE—MUSC 3550

(Subject to change with advance notice)

Week 1

Jan 9	Course Introduction; Setting the Historical Context: Wagner, Liszt, & Debussy
Jan 11	
Jan 13	

Week 2

Jan 16
Jan 18
Jan 20

*MLK Day * No Class*

Read Chapter 5 (pp.228-232; 242-262 only) and complete **Chapter 5 Worksheet**

Week 3

Jan 23
Jan 25
Jan 27

Week 4

Jan 30
Feb 1
Feb 3

Read Chapter 1 (pp. 1-18) and complete **Chapter 1 Worksheet**

Week 5

Feb 6
Feb 8
Feb 10

Week 6

Feb 13
Feb 15
Feb 17

Read Chapter 2 (pp.43-61: Sets, Normal Order, T & I) and complete **Chapter 2A Worksheet**

Week 7

Feb 20
Feb 22
Feb 24

*Presidents Day * No Class*

Read Chapter 2 (pp.53-71: Prime Form & Segmentation) and complete **Chapter 2B Worksheet**

Week 8

Feb 27
Mar 1
Mar 3

Read Chapter 3 (Excerpts, TBA) and complete **Chapter 3 Worksheet**

Week 9

Mar 6
Mar 8
Mar 10

MIDTERM

SPRING BREAK – Week of March 13

Week 10

Mar 20
Mar 22
Mar 24

Read Chapter 4 (pp.159-163: “Composing Out”; and pp. 188-199: Triadic Post-Tonality) and complete **Chapter 4 Worksheet**

Week 11

Mar 27
Mar 29
Mar 31

Read Chapter 6 (pp. 294-317) and complete **Chapter 6 Worksheet**

Week 12

Apr 3
Apr 5

Apr 7

Week 13

Apr 10

Apr 12

Apr 14 Read Chapter 6 (pp. 318-338 excerpts TBA)

Week 14

Apr 17

Apr 19

Apr 21

Week 15

Apr 24

Apr 26 *Reading Day * No Class*

Section 001 FINAL EXAM: Monday, May 1 @ 8:00a-10:00a (DGH 410)

Section 003 FINAL EXAM: Thursday, April 27 @ 10:30a-12:30p (DGH 410)

UNIVERSITY POLICY STATEMENTS

ADA Statement

The University of Utah seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services and activities for people with disabilities. If you will need accommodations in the class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the Center for Disability Services, 162 Olpin Union Building, 581-5020 (V/TDD). CDS will work with you and the instructor to make arrangements for accommodations. All information in this course can be made available in alternative format with prior notification to the Center for Disability Services.

Faculty and Student Rights and Responsibilities

All students are expected to maintain professional behavior in the classroom setting, according to the Student Code, spelled out in the Student Handbook. Students have specific rights in the classroom as detailed in Article III of the Code. The Code also specifies proscribed conduct (Article XI) that involves cheating on tests, plagiarism, and/or collusion, as well as fraud, theft, etc. Students should read the Code carefully and know they are responsible for the content. According to Faculty Rules and Regulations, it is the faculty responsibility to enforce responsible classroom behaviors, beginning with verbal warnings and progressing to dismissal from class and a failing grade. Students have the right to appeal such action to the Student Behavior Committee. Faculty...must strive in the classroom to maintain a climate conducive to thinking and learning. PPM 6-316. Students have a right to support and assistance from the University in maintaining a climate conducive to thinking and learning. PPM 6-400.

Addressing Sexual Misconduct

Title IX makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender (which includes sexual orientation and gender identity/expression) is a civil rights offense subject to the same kinds of accountability and the same kinds of support applied to offenses against other protected categories such as race, national origin, color, religion, age, status as a person with a disability, veteran's status or genetic information. If you or someone you know has been harassed or assaulted, you are encouraged to report it to the Title IX Coordinator in the Office of Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action, 135 Park Building, 801-581-8365, or the Office of the Dean of Students, 270 Union Building, 801-581-7066. For support and confidential consultation, contact the Center for Student Wellness, 426 SSB, 801-581-7776. To report to the police, contact the Department of Public Safety, 801-585-2677(COPS).

Accommodations Policy

Some of the writings, lectures, films, or presentations in this course may include material that conflicts with the core beliefs of some students. Please review the syllabus carefully to see if the course is one that you are committed to taking. If you have a concern, please discuss it with me at your earliest convenience.

Wellness Statement

Personal concerns such as stress, anxiety, relationship difficulties, depression, cross-cultural differences, etc., can interfere with a student's ability to succeed and thrive at the University of Utah. For helpful resources contact the Center for Student Wellness; www.wellness.utah.edu; 801-581-7776.

Incompletes policy

(I) Incomplete grade. Given for work not completed due to circumstances beyond your control. You must be passing the course and have completed at least 80% of the required coursework. Arrangements must be made between you and the instructor concerning the completion of the work. You may not retake a course without paying tuition. If you attend class during a subsequent term, in an effort to complete the coursework, you must register for the course. Once the work has been completed, the instructor submits the grade to the Registrar's Office. The "I" will change to an "E" if a new grade is not reported within one

year. A written agreement between the student and the instructor may specify the grade to be given if the work is not completed within one year. Copies of the agreement are kept by the instructor and the academic department.

O. Attendance Requirements (<http://www.regulations.utah.edu/academics/6-100.html>)

1. The University expects regular attendance at all class meetings. Instructors must communicate any particular attendance requirements of the course to students in writing on or before the first class meeting. Students are responsible for acquainting themselves with and satisfying the entire range of academic objectives and requirements as defined by the instructor.
2. Students absent from class to participate in officially sanctioned University activities (e.g., band, debate, student government, intercollegiate athletics) or religious obligations, or with instructor's approval, shall be permitted to make up both assignments and examinations. The University expects its departments and programs that take students away from class meetings to schedule such events in a way that will minimize hindrance of the student's orderly completion of course requirements. Such units *must* provide a written statement to the students describing the activity and stating as precisely as possible the dates of the required absence. The involved students *must* deliver this documentation to their instructors before the absence.
3. Except in cases of sudden illness or emergency, students shall, in advance of the absence, arrange with the instructor to make up assignments (see policy on assignments in #4 of the course evaluation section above).
4. Unexpected University facility closures due to weather, emergency or disaster may occur from time to time. Students may be required to complete coursework missed due to these or other class cancellations; however, instructors requiring mandatory make-up sessions may not penalize students if they are unable to attend due to time conflicts, etc.

Non-Contract Note

"The syllabus is not a binding legal contract. It may be modified by the instructor when the student is given reasonable notice of the modification."