

**Creative Arts Department**

**Levelland, TX**

**Syllabus**

**Course Title: MUSC 1313, Commercial Music Theory I, (3:3:0)**

**Instructor: Emily Wheeler**

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**Office: Published on office CB144 door**

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**I. General Course Information:**

A. Description: This course is an introduction to chord progressions, song forms, and harmonic techniques used in commercial music. Topics include major scale construction, intervallic creation and identification, minor scale construction, triadic creation and identification, modern chord notation and chord voicings.

**Instructor's Note:** This course provides a view of modern musical style with attention to the techniques by which musicians arrange the basic elements of music. Topics include key, tonality, melody, harmony, and bass movement. Students are guided in the use of critical thinking skills to proceed from theoretical understanding to practical employment of techniques which enhance the performance process.

B. Course Learning Outcomes: Through this course the student will become knowledgeable in-

- Scales, interval classification, chord spellings; analyze and identify commercial music chord progressions using standard lead sheet and chord symbols and numbers; and harmonize selected melodies with appropriate chord voicings.

C. Course Competencies: MUSC 1313 is a college level music theory course. It is not an introductory course. Students with no previous theory training should contact their advisor or the instructor to determine whether they might need a music fundamentals course (which SPC offers each semester). Many music students at SPC begin by taking MUSI 1301.

D. Academic Integrity: It is the aim of the faculty of South Plains College to foster a spirit of complete honesty and a high standard of integrity. The attempt of any student to present as his or her own work which he or she has not honestly performed is regarded by the faculty and administration as a most serious offense and renders the offender liable to serious consequences, possibly suspension. Students should refer to the SPC General Catalog, pg.22-23, regarding consequences for cheating and plagiarism (see "Academic Integrity" as well as "Student Conduct" sections).

E. **SCANS COMPETENCIES:** C-1, C-3, C-5, C-6, C-7, C-8, C-18, C-19.

**FOUNDATION SKILLS:** F-1, F-2, F-5, F-6, F-7, F-8, F-9, F-10, F-11, F-12, F-13, F-16

F. Verification of Workplace Competencies: Successful completion of this course will equip the student with many of the skills necessary to complete the capstone experience presented at the end of the second semester of study for certificate candidates and at the end of the fourth semester of study for degree candidates.

**II. Specific Course/Instructor Requirements:**

There will be various assignment worksheets, charts, and illustration handouts distributed in class and/or placed on Blackboard. Students are encouraged to keep thorough notes of class lectures, diagrams, examples, and exercises. Students must have a manuscript paper notebook, conventional notebook paper, pen, and pencil for each class session.

#### Attendance Policy:

If you are no longer attending class, it is your responsibility to drop the course. The instructor may drop a student after four consecutive unexcused absences but is not required to do so.

#### Absence due to illness –

A student with an infectious disease (such as Strep or Flu) should not attend class. If a student is staying home due to illness, he/she should contact the teacher via phone or email. Every reasonable attempt will be made to help students who must miss class due to severe illness.

#### COVID-19

If you are experiencing any of the following symptoms, please do not attend class and either seek medical attention or get tested for COVID-19.

- Cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing
- Fever or chills
- Muscles or body aches
- Vomiting or diarrhea
- New loss of taste and smell

Please also notify DeEtte Edens, BSN, RN, Associate Director of Health & Wellness, at [dedens@southplainscollege.edu](mailto:dedens@southplainscollege.edu) or 806-716-2376

Consistent with the latest CDC recommendations, we have revised our guidance for students, faculty, and staff who have a known exposure or have tested positive. Anyone with a known exposure should wear a mask for 10 days and should seek a COVID-19 test on day five after exposure. If you test positive or develop symptoms, you should immediately self-isolate and seek a COVID-19 test. Please immediately notify your instructor, supervisor, and DeEtte Edens, Associate Director of Health and Wellness, any time you test positive for COVID-19. Anyone who tests positive is required to self-isolate for five days. Following the five-day isolation period, if you are asymptomatic or your symptoms are resolving, you may return to work or class but should wear a mask for five additional days. If you are still symptomatic, please contact DeEtte Edens at [dedens@southplainscollege.edu](mailto:dedens@southplainscollege.edu) or 806-716-2376 prior to your return date.

#### Classroom Behavior:

Disruptive, disrespectful behavior towards students or the instructor will not be tolerated and will result in disciplinary measures. It is important that all students always maintain professional attitudes and actions. Cell phones, iPads, and other electronic devices should be used only as they pertain to the course. Failure to comply with any classroom policy may result in the student's removal from class.

#### Assignment Policy:

All assignments are to be submitted for grading in the time specified. Assignments missed due to absence may be excused, but late assignments will not be accepted.

Improper use of electronic devices during class may result in a "Technical" absence: In this case, the student may be marked absent for the day and/or asked to leave for the day.

Grading Policy/Procedure:

11 Week Assignments	25%
6 Composition sketch checks	10%
Quiz: 12 major scales and key signatures	5%
Test 1	5%
Test 2	5%
Test 3	5%
Test 4	5%
Mid Term Exam	15%
Final Exam	25%

Grades are assigned as follows: A = 90-100; B = 80-89; C = 70-79; D = 60-69; F = 0-59 The weight and valuation of test questions lies at the discretion of the instructor.

Special Requirements: This course is intended to be taken concurrently with **MUSC 1311, Commercial Music Sight Singing & Ear Training I**. Due to this "companion" course, students are expected to be familiar with some material covered in that course.

***I. Course Outline:***

*Part One: basic music literacy and introduction to tonality*

*Part Two: rhythm and tonality continued*

*Part Three: introduction to chords*

*Part Four: introduction to chord progressions*

For information regarding SPC Intellectual Exchange, Disabilities, Non-Discrimination, Title IX Pregnancy Accommodations, CARE (Campus Assessment, Response, and Evaluation) Team, and Campus Concealed Carry statements, please refer to the following link:

<https://www.southplainscollege.edu/syllabusstatements/>