

**MINOR APPLIED COMPOSITION:  
SYSTEMS OF ANALYSIS AND CONTEMPORARY ART MUSIC**

Tuesdays and Thursdays  
Mesquite Campus

Dr. David Davies  
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- Prerequisite:** Permission of instructor
- Required Materials:** Manuscript paper and pencils  
Articles and Reading made available by instructor
- Course Description:** The primary goal of this course is to provide students with the necessary skills for understanding post-tonal music, both in the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> century. “Tonal” is used in this context to refer to the music of the Common-Practice Era (CPE), and it is assumed that all class participants have a sufficient grasp of tonal music. The course will include an introduction to the theoretical work of Heinrich Schenker and the neo-tonal music of Paul Hindemith. Though a variety of analytical systems will be discussed, set-theory will be used most extensively in the semester. Important musical styles that will be covered include (among others) Motivically-Constructed music, Serialism, Aleatoricism/Sound-Mass music, Minimalism, Neo-tonality, and Post-Minimalism.
- Miscellaneous:** As a class offered in a one-on-one format, consistent participation is essential for success. There will be occasional readings assigned during the semester, and student(s) will be expected to demonstrate knowledge of assigned readings and familiarity with analytical on exams.
- Homework Policy:** Homework is to be turned in during class on the day that it is due. **Late assignments will not be accepted unless by previous arrangement with the instructor.**
- Final Project:** The final project will consist of a complete analysis of a substantial 20<sup>th</sup> century work from a style of the student’s choosing. In addition to an analytical paper, you will prepare an oral presentation of your work with a follow-up period for questions and/or defense of the ideas presented.

Assessment:	Homework:	35%
	Final Project:	50% (40% paper, 10% presentation)
	Class Participation:	15%

Grade Scale:	90-100 – A
	80-89 – B
	70-79 – C
	60-69 – D
	0-59 -- F

Attendance Policy: As a responsible adult, you are expected to be in class every time we meet. Sporadic attendance is a waste of your intellectual and financial resources. There will be no point-specific reduction in the final grade as a result of unexcused absence, but (as in all things in life) there are several natural consequences. For obvious reasons, lack of presence in class will negatively impact your Class Participation grade. **Homework not turned in as a result of unexcused absence will not be accepted and no make-up exams will be scheduled for unexcused absences or tardiness.** If you are ill or need to miss class for a family emergency it is important that you contact the instructor as soon as possible to make arrangements for an excused absence.

Cell Phone/Laptop Policy: During class all cell phones should be turned off or silenced and put away. Accepting a call, reading a text message, or responding to a text message during class is rude to both your instructor and your classmates. Unless otherwise instructed, **laptops are not needed during class time and should not be used.**

*The following statements are required by either University policy, state, or federal law:*

University Mission Statement:

Texas A&M University-Commerce nurtures and educates for success through access to academic research, and service programs of high quality.

Music Department Mission Statement:

The Music Department of Texas A&M University-Commerce promotes excellence in music through the rigorous study of music history, literature, theory, composition, pedagogy, and the preparation of music performance in applied study and ensembles to meet the highest standards of aesthetic expression.

**Disability Resources Statement:**

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services  
 Texas A&M University-Commerce  
 Gee Library, Room 132  
 908.886.5150, or 903.886.5835, phone  
 903.468.8148, fax  
 StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu

**Non-Discrimination Statement:**

A&M-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained

**Behavioral Statement:** All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment (Student's Guide Handbook, Policies and

### **TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE**

6/8	Introduction to Schenkerian Analysis
6/11	Neo-Classicism and Hindemith, Introduction to Pitch-Class Set Theory
6/15	Pan-tonal Music
6/18	Pan-tonal Music
-----	(Final Project Assigned and started)
7/6	Simplifying Means: the new complexity
7/9	Emerging Trends of the 21 <sup>st</sup> Century, Final Project Presentation