THEORY SEMINAR:
SYSTEMS OF ANALYSIS AND CONTEMPORARY ART MUSIC

MUS 532 – Fall 2015

Tuesday – 5:00-6:45

Dr. David Davies, Assistant Professor
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Office Hours by Appointment

Prerequisite: Satisfactory completion of Theory portion of the Graduate Diagnostic

Required Materials: Understanding Post-Tonal Music, Miguel A. Roig-Francoli
Anthology of Post-Tonal Music, Miguel A. Roig-Francoli
Manuscript paper and pencils

Course Description: The primary goal of this course is to provide students with the necessary skills for understanding post-tonal music, both in the 20th and 21st 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. 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: Though essentially a lecture course, in-class discussion will be a crucial component of our time together, and your participation in these discussions is crucial to your success in the course. There will be occasional readings assigned during the semester, and students 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 20th or 21st 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:	30%
	Exams:	50% (25% Each)
	Final Project:	20% (15% Paper, 5% Presentation)
	Class Participation:	10%

Grade Scale:

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

Attendance Policy: The University Catalog states, "Students are expected to be present for all class meetings of any course for which they are enrolled." Sporadic attendance is a waste of your intellectual and financial resources. Regular attendance, while always important, is particularly so in a course which meets only once a week. Unless they are the result of a medical or family emergency, excused absences (as defined by the Catalog) need to be arranged beforehand with the instructor. **If an absence results in a missed examination there will be no make-up scheduled.**

Cell Phone/Laptop Policy: During class all cell phones should be turned off or silenced. Accepting a call, reading a text message, or responding to a text message during class **is rude** to both your instructor and your classmates. As a graduate class with small enrollment, laptops may be helpful for note-taking and listening. However, unless there is an obvious reason to be using one they should not be left open during class.

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

Week I:	Course Intro, Pitch Centricity (Ch. 1-2)
Week II:	Pitch Centricity (Ch. 1-2)
Week III:	Introduction to Pitch-Class Set Theory (Ch. 3)
Week IV:	Pan-tonal Music (Ch.4)
Week V:	Pan-tonal Music (Ch. 4)
Week VI:	Other Approaches: Neo-Classicism and Hindemith (Ch. 5-6)
Week VII:	**MID-TERM EXAM EXAM NO. 1**
Week VIII:	Introduction to Twelve-tone Music (Ch. 7)
Week IX:	Invariance, Symmetry, Combinatoriality (Ch. 8)
Week X:	Combinatoriality and Serialism (Ch. 8-9)
Week XI:	Serialsim and Review (Ch. 9)
Week XII:	Simplifying Means: the new complexity (Ch. 11-13)
Week XIII:	Simplifying Means: the new complexity (Ch. 11-13)
Week XIV:	Emerging Trends, music of the 21st Century
WEEK XV:	FINAL PROJECT PRESENTATIONS

FINAL EXAM DUE on Tuesday, December 15th by 8:00pm