

Course Outline for: MUSC 2231 Music Theory 3**A. Course Description:**

1. Number of credits: 3
2. Lecture hours per week: 3
3. Prerequisites: MUSC 1132 Music Theory 2
4. Corequisites: None
5. MnTC Goals: Goal #6 – Humanities and the Fine Arts

In this third part of a four-semester sequence, students will examine the development of harmony as applied to American popular song forms through composition, study of basic acoustical theory, chromatic harmonic theory including borrowed chords, Neapolitan chords, and augmented sixth chords, 16th century polyphony, 17th, and 18th century polyphony including two-part inventions and fugal forms is required for baccalaureate programs. These materials also present the theoretical perspectives and language for MUSC 2245: Music History 1. This course is intended for music majors and minors, or the prepared student who desires a rigorous music theory experience. Typically, these could be students who have studied music through high school or community programs.

B. Date last reviewed/updated: April 2025**C. Outline of Major Content Areas:**

1. American Popular Song includes composition of thirty-two bar song forms, tritone substitutions;
2. Basic acoustic theory;
3. Chromatic harmonic theory includes borrowed chords, Neapolitan chords, and augmented sixth chords;
4. 16th century polyphony, 17th, and 18th century polyphony including two-part inventions and fugal forms and techniques

D. Course Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of the course, the student will be able to:

1. Comprehend, identify and compose using non-dominant diatonic seventh chords, popular chords, borrowed chords, the Neapolitan sixth chord and augmented sixth chords. (Goal 2a, 6c)
2. Identify and analyze musical forms found in the sixteenth century motet, the eighteenth-century invention and fugue. (Goal 2a, 2b, 2c, 6e)
3. Recognize the organization of the study of counterpoint as seen in *Gradus ad Parnassum* by Johann Fux. (Goal 2d)
4. Write the overtone series and calculate combination tones from the resulting partial numbers. (Goal 2a)

5. Compose excerpts and small compositions employing the harmony and forms studied. (Goal 2d, 6d)

E. Methods for Assessing Student Learning:

Methods for assessment may include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Music composition
2. Calculation of fundamental acoustic concepts
3. Demonstration of advancing chromatic theories
4. Analysis of musical forms
5. Quizzes and exams
6. Observation of class preparation through in-class activities and discussions

F. Special Information:

None