

**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 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. 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 Policy: 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*

**II. Accommodations**

South Plains College strives to accommodate the individual needs of all students to enhance their opportunities for success in the context of a comprehensive community college setting. It is the policy of South Plains College to offer all educational and employment opportunities without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, gender, disability, or age (SPC Equal Opportunity Policy--General Catalog).

**III. Disabilities**

A student who enrolls in this class that may need classroom accommodations is strongly encouraged to schedule an intake interview with the special services department before enrolling in this class or prior to the add/drop date for this semester.

**Levelland Campus**

Students with disabilities, including but not limited to physical, psychiatric, or learning disabilities, who wish to request accommodations in this class should notify the Disability Services Office early in the semester so that the appropriate arrangements may be made. In accordance with federal law, a student requesting accommodations must provide acceptable documentation of his/her disability. For more information, call or visit the Disability Services Office in the Student Health & Wellness Office, 806-716-2577.

**IV. Diversity**

In this class, the teacher will establish and support an environment that values and nurtures individual and group differences and encourages engagement and interaction. Understanding and respecting multiple experiences and perspectives will serve to challenge and stimulate all of us to learn about others, about the larger world and about ourselves. By promoting diversity and intellectual exchange, we will not only mirror society as it is, but also model society as it should and can be.

**VII. Injury or Illness Addendum**

If you are injured or are ill, creating a situation where you cannot perform for an extended period, it is agreed that the student will drop this course if the instructor deems it appropriate.

It is the policy of South Plains College for the Spring 2021 semester that as a condition of on-campus enrollment, all students are required to engage in safe behaviors to avoid the spread of COVID-19 in the SPC community. Such behaviors specifically include the requirement that all students properly wear CDC-compliant face coverings while in SPC buildings including in classrooms, labs, hallways, and restrooms. Failure to comply with this policy may result in dismissal from the current class session. If the student refuses to leave the classroom or lab after being dismissed, the student may be referred to the Dean of Students on the Levelland campus or the Dean/Director of external centers for Student Code of Conduct Violation. Students who believe they have been exposed or may be COVID-19 positive, must contact Health Services, DeEtte Edens, BSN, RN at (806) 716-2376 or [dedens@southplainscollege.edu](mailto:dedens@southplainscollege.edu).

**VIII. Title IX Pregnancy Accommodations Statement**

If you are pregnant, or have given birth within six months, Under Title IX you have a right to reasonable accommodations to help continue your education. To activate accommodations you must submit a Title IX pregnancy accommodations request, along with specific medical documentation, to the Director of Health and Wellness. Once approved, notification will be sent to the student and instructors. It is the student's responsibility to work with the instructor to arrange accommodations. Contact Crystal Gilster, Director of Health and Wellness, Phone: 806.716.2362 Email: [cgilster@southplainscollege.edu](mailto:cgilster@southplainscollege.edu)

**IX. Campus Concealed Carry Statement**

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in South Plains College buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and South Plains College policy, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations. For a list of locations and Frequently Asked Questions, please refer to the Campus Carry page at:

<http://www.southplainscollege.edu/campuscarry.php>

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all South Plains College