

Appendix 2b. Third semester written theory at the University of Delaware (Philip Duker) – Syllabus excerpt (full list of course standards, 0-4 point grading scale, final grade determined by average)

Outcomes:

The set of “outcomes” that we will use in this class are what the theory area thinks you should learn by the time you finish this course.

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| <p><u>C. Composition/Writing</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Basic composition (key signature, meter, stems, slurs, etc.) 2. Voice leading 3. Realization 4. Cadences 5. Chromatic harmonies 6. Phrase/Form 7. Modulation 8. Style 9. Craft/Creativity with material | <p><u>A. Analysis</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Basic orientation (key, meter, clefs, etc.) 2. Jazz/Pop 3. Figured Bass 4. Consonance/dissonance 5. Roman Numerals 6. Cadences 7. Chromaticism 8. Modulation 9. Phrase/Formal structure 10. Metric reduction 11. Written analysis and terminology |
| <p><u>O: Other</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Directions 2. Group Work 3. Essay mechanics and writing 4. Self assessment (writing and reflection) | |

I will assess the above outcomes primarily through in-class quizzes, homework, and projects. **Additionally, you will have two categories: one for online multiple-choice quizzes and one for online free-response quizzes.** These will not only help you rehearse material and practice your analytical skills, but they also allow me to see how the class as a whole is doing with the material.

Grading Scale:

For each outcome, you will receive a score using a scale from 0-4; the following rubric gives the general meaning of these scores:

- 4 – your response exceeds expectations and displays mastery of the content (“very good,” “perfect,” or “wow”).
- 3 – your response meets expectations and displays a sufficient understanding of the content (“good”).
- 2 – your response shows strength, but it does not yet meet expectations (“you’re almost there”).
- 1 – your response shows some confusion on important aspects of content and does not yet meet expectations (“consider seeking help”).
- 0 – you did not submit a response (“please turn in your work”).

Final Grade:

Throughout the course of the semester, you will accumulate a series of scores for each outcome. At the end of the term, all of these scores will be averaged into a single grade for each outcome (or if there is only one grade for that outcome, that will be the grade).

If you have more than 7 categories below a 1.5, you cannot get above a C- (regardless of your total average).

If you have more than 5 categories below a 1, you cannot get above a D- (regardless of your total average).

Your category average for C2 (Voice leading) must be above a 2.00 in order to get above a C- (regardless of your total average)

Beyond these thresholds, your final grade will be determined using the following grade cutoffs:

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|-------------------|----------|----------|----------|-------------------|
| | B+: 2.92 | C+: 2.32 | D+: 1.72 | |
| A: 3.32 and above | B: 2.72 | C: 2.12 | D: 1.52 | E: 1.12 and below |
| A-: 3.12 | B-: 2.52 | C-: 1.92 | D-: 1.32 | |

Make-up Policy: In general, you can make up or redo most of the work that we do in this class, and I encourage you to repeat assignments and projects until you achieve a level that you are satisfied with. That said, there are certain assessments, such as online multiple-choice quizzes, and peer feedback on projects, that cannot be made up due to the time-sensitive nature of these assessments (e.g. if I post the answers shortly after returning an assessment, it loses some validity if you were to redo the work). In cases like this you may be able to substitute a different project that could demonstrate proficiency in those outcomes (please see me if you’d like to do this). In any case, all make-up work from a unit should be submitted no later than 1 week after the end of that unit, or 1 week after the project/assignment/quiz is returned from that unit (whichever date is later). Because of this it is very important that we agree (via e-mail) to any make-up project within a few days of the end of a unit.