

MUTH 5317: Rhythm and Meter

Instructor: Dr. Matthew Santa

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Required Texts

- 1) Matthew Santa. *Hearing Rhythm and Meter: Analyzing Metrical Consonance and Dissonance in Common-Practice Period Music*. New York: Routledge, 2020.
- 2) Matthew Santa. Anthology for *Hearing Rhythm and Meter*. New York: Routledge, 2020.

Recommended Texts

- 1) William Rothstein. *Phrase Rhythm in Tonal Music*. New York: Schirmer Books, 1989 (reprt. Ann Arbor: Musicalia Press, 2007).
- 2) Harald Krebs. *Fantasy Pieces: Metrical Dissonance in the Music of Robert Schumann*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1999.
- 3) Danuta Mirka, *Metric Manipulations in Haydn and Mozart: Chamber Music for Strings, 1787-1791*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2009.

Course Content: This course examines rhythm and meter in tonal music.

Course Purpose: The purpose of this course is to examine rhythm and meter in a wide range of tonal music. This course is an elective for all graduate music degrees.

Expected Learning Outcomes: Upon completion of MUTH 5317, students in the course should be able to 1) identify sounding meters whenever they differ from the notated meter; 2) identify all kinds of metrical dissonances by type; 2) be able to discuss the relationship between metrical consonance and dissonance in musical works from the common-practice period using the terminology that has been established by professional music theorists over the past thirty years.

Assessment of Learning Outcomes: The following methods will be used to assess your progress toward the learning outcomes given above:

- Homework assignments
- A variety of in-class activities
- Final project

Criteria for Grading: Students are responsible for all material covered in class and assigned for homework. Grading will be weighted as follows: Homework Assignments = 25%, Class Participation = 25%; Final Project Presentation = 10%, Final Project = 30%, Final Exam = 10%.

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Grading Scale: 90-100% = A, 80-89% = B, 70-79% = C, 60-69% = D, below 60% = F

Assignments: Assignments are due at the beginning of the class session indicated in the syllabus. Late assignments will not be accepted without an acceptable excuse supported by documentation.

Attendance and Participation: Because our time together in class is limited, it is essential that we make the most efficient and constructive use of that time. Therefore, attendance is mandatory and any unexcused absence will be penalized, with a direct adverse effect on final grades. Excused absences do not excuse students from responsibility for any work missed.

Final Project: Each student will turn in a final project on the last day of class. The project should take the form of a paper on some topic germane to the course, chosen by the student in consultation with the instructor, and should be a minimum of 10 pages in length. If the project is on the analysis of a work, a score with measure numbers should be provided, and pages of score will count in the overall paper length requirement (i.e. a five-page score accompanied by a five-page paper will count as a ten-page final project), as long as the body of the paper itself is at least five pages long (the body of the paper does not include the title page, any bibliography or works cited list, or any musical examples). Because the score will be included, students should not add any musical examples that are simply score excerpts, but should instead cite measure numbers to indicate specific locations in the score. Papers that focus on how the analysis of a work might lead to specific performance choices would be particularly welcome. Final projects should be submitted electronically via email by 10 am on the last day of class.

The policies that apply to all courses at Texas Tech University may be found here:

<https://www.depts.ttu.edu/tlpc/RequiredSyllabusStatements.php>

<https://www.depts.ttu.edu/tlpc/RecommendedSyllabusStatements.php>

Absences due to official university business: [Per Operating Policy 34.04](#), any university business related absences must be documented by a written notice from the sponsor (faculty or staff member, department, school, or college, as appropriate) **one week PRIOR to the event**. These notices are expected to be delivered to the instructor by the student. If a student does not provide timely documentation concerning absence due to official university business, the absence(s) might not be excused.

Absences due to religious holy days: [Per Operating Policy 34.19](#), a student who intends to miss class (or class-related activities) due to observance of a religious holy day must make that intent known in writing, via their instructor's stated form of electronic communication (email, blackboard, or hard copy), and submitted to the instructor prior to the absence.

Absences due to illness or injury: For medically related absences less than one week in duration: students requesting that those absences be excused should communicate

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directly with their instructors. Only in cases longer than a week should the student contact the dean's office, as below.

For medically-related absences greater than one week or other absences requiring the assistance of the dean's office: students must submit an absence request including a brief statement, course(s) affected, and documentation* provided by a medical professional to Aaron Chavarria at aaron.chavarria@ttu.edu within two weeks of the absence. Once verified, the dean's office notifies the instructor of the request and verification, to be used as consideration for excusing absences. In these circumstances, the student will have one week to make up missed work/assignments (after the student returns to class). **Acceptable documentation varies, depending upon the situation. Contact Aaron Chavarria with questions or for more details.*

Last Day to drop a course: Nov. 20th.

Incompletes

The grade of incomplete is granted only in cases of serious, documented emergencies, and then only when permission has been obtained from the instructor, no later than one week before the final class meeting.

Preparedness

Be sure to have a supply of manuscript paper and pencils (with erasers!) for use in class and for written assignments.

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Date	Class Topic	Assignment Due
Fri. 8/25	Introduction	
Mon. 8/28	Chapter 1	read: Hearing Rhythm & Meter, Chapter 1
Wed. 8/30	Chapter 1	Homework Assignment 1.1
Fri. 9/1	Chapter 1	Homework Assignment 1.3
Mon. 9/4	LABOR DAY	NO CLASS
Wed. 9/6	Chapter 2	read: Hearing Rhythm & Meter, Chapter 2
Fri. 9/8	Chapter 2	Homework Assignment 2.1
Mon. 9/11	Chapter 2	
Wed. 9/13	Chapter 2	
Fri. 9/15	Chapter 3	Homework Assignment 2.2
Mon. 9/18	Chapter 3	read: Hearing Rhythm & Meter, Chapter 3
Wed. 9/20	Chapter 3	
Fri. 9/22	Chapter 4	Homework Assignment 3.1
Mon. 9/25	Chapter 4	read: Hearing Rhythm & Meter, Chapter 4
Wed. 9/27	Chapter 4	
Fri. 9/29	Chapter 4	Homework Assignment 4.1
Mon. 10/2	Chapter 4	
Wed. 10/4	Chapter 4	
Fri. 10/6	Chapter 5	Homework Assignment 4.2
Mon. 10/9	Chapter 5	read: Hearing Rhythm & Meter, Chapter 5
Wed. 10/11	Chapter 5	
Fri. 10/13	Chapter 6	Homework Assignment 5.2

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Mon. 10/16	Chapter 6	read: Hearing Rhythm & Meter, Chapter 6
Wed. 10/18	Chapter 6	submit final project topic
Fri. 10/20	Chapter 6	Homework Assignment 6.1
Mon. 10/23	Chapter 6	submit annotated bibliography for final project (10 sources, not counting webpages)
Wed. 10/25	Chapter 6	
Fri. 10/27	Chapter 7	Homework Assignment 6.2
Mon. 10/30	Chapter 7	read: Hearing Rhythm & Meter, Chapter 7
Wed. 11/1	Chapter 7	
Fri. 11/3	Chapter 8	Homework Assignment 7.1
Mon. 11/6	Chapter 8	read: Hearing Rhythm & Meter, Chapter 8
Wed. 11/8	Chapter 8	
Fri. 11/10	Chapter 8	Homework Assignment 8.1
Mon. 11/13	Chapter 8	submit complete draft of final project
Wed. 11/15	Student Presentations	
Fri. 11/17	Student Presentations	
Mon. 11/20	Student Presentations	
Wed. 11/22- Sun. 11/26	THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY	NO CLASSES
Mon. 11/27	Student Presentations	Homework Assignment 8.2
Wed. 11/29	Student Presentations	
Fri. 12/1	Student Presentations	
Mon. 12/4	Review for Final Exam	Final Project Due

Final Exam: Monday, December 11th, 9-10 am, taken online