

San José State University
School of Music and Dance
MUSC 202, Graduate Seminar in Music Systems & Theory, Section 01,
Spring, 2020

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Dr. Brian Belet
Office Location:	Music 104
Telephone:	(408) 924-4632
Email:	Brian.Belet@sjsu.edu
Office Hours:	Monday: (TBA) (plus other times by appointment)
Class Days/Time:	Monday, 4:00 – 6:30 pm
Classroom:	Music #272
Prerequisites:	Classified Graduate status in the SJSU School of Music and Dance (including satisfactory completion of any/all assigned remedial undergraduate courses in Music Systems & Theory), plus successful completion of MUSC 200.
Course Format:	Graduate Seminar: Traditional in-class setting. Monday, May 18, 2020, 4:00 – 6:30 pm.
Final Exam:	

Faculty Web Page and MYSJSU Messaging

Course materials (syllabus, assignment instructions, course handouts, etc.) are posted on my professional music web page at <http://www.beletmusic.com/sjsu-courses.html>. Students are responsible for regularly checking this web site for updates throughout the semester. Students are also responsible for checking your email regularly, as course updates are sent to the course enrollment email list.

Course Fees:

Music Use Fee: Music majors and minors must pay a music equipment use fee of \$30 each semester. The fee must be paid directly to the Cashier's Office, and you must bring the receipt to the Music Office before completing registration. Applied music instruction will not be authorized until this fee is paid. The fees are included in the student's bill, with other registration fees.

Course Description

MUSC 202 is a graduate seminar designed to examine a variety of theoretical and applied compositional techniques in music. Specific topics rotate from semester to semester. A select number of compositions will be examined in detail from several analytical perspectives. Since the course is taught in seminar format, extensive preparation outside of class and active discussion expected from all students every week. The final few class sessions will include final project presentations by students.

“Seminar” — a small group of students, as in a university, engaged in advanced study and original research under a member of the faculty and meeting regularly to exchange information and hold discussions.

Course Goals

There are many systems of music composition, and therefore as many analytical approaches and techniques are required in order to fully understand music. This course will present several analytical approaches to a variety of music compositions. The purpose of this is to expose graduate students to a wide variety of analytical concepts and to also gain a depth of understanding within each concept in preparation for a professional music career.

GOALS & OBJECTIVES: 1) Analyze music, from large-scale formal design to small-scale aspects of sonic event (e.g., note, chord, motive), from the Medieval through 21st-century in the art music field (‘classical,’ not jazz, rock, folk, ethnic, or pop genres), using techniques that transcend traditional tonal undergraduate analysis. 2) Read assigned material (text, anthology, library reserve, and other sources). 3) Discuss assigned readings in class. 4) Complete writing and analysis assignments. 5) Complete final research paper (topic assigned by the Instructor) and present oral synopsis in class (details to be presented early in the semester).

Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)

There is a teaching proverb that states: *‘Teachers open the door. Students must enter by themselves.’*

Upon successful completion of this course, and provided students apply themselves adequately to the course (including attending each weekly class session, reading the assigned and recommended books and articles, studying the music examples, completing assignments on time, asking questions when the material is not yet understood, and studying outside of class time), students will be able to:

1. Students will understand the concepts and organizing procedures of music that exceed the limitations of undergraduate-level tonal theory and analysis.
2. Students will gain a deeper understanding of the music they hear and perform by understanding advanced theoretical concepts and procedures.
3. Students will be able to competently analyze complex music.
4. Students will learn how to produce a published-quality theoretical article, from initial research through final writing and presentation.

Required Texts/Readings

Textbook

REQUIRED: *Writing About Music: A Style Sheet*, 3rd ed. D. Kern Holoman (Perseus, 2014).
ISBN: 9780520281530

RECOMMENDED: *Anthology for Musical Analysis*, 7th ed. C. Burkhart (Schirmer/Cengage, 2012).
ISBN: 9780495916079

Other Readings

- 1) Outside readings, including library reserve materials, will be referenced and assigned as needed.
- 2) Additional music scores may be provided by the Instructor.
- 3) Students will be expected to purchase (or otherwise legally obtain) music scores and audio recordings of the compositions studied.
- 4) A Final Project Guideline document will be provided by the Instructor.

Course Requirements and Assignments

SJSU classes are designed such that in order to be successful, it is expected that students will spend a minimum of forty-five hours for each unit of credit (normally three hours per unit per week), including preparing for class, participating in course activities, completing assignments, studying scores and audio recordings, and preparing for exams.

All assigned homework, quizzes, exams, and class participation will be graded. Assignments not submitted on time, unless excused in advance by the Instructor, will receive a grade of "F". Assigned homework is due on time (not later than the beginning of class) even when you have an excused absence. Hand-written assignments can be scanned or photographed, and emailed as a PDF attachment. Computer generated work (e.g., Finale score) can also be emailed as a PDF attachment. Absence does not grant special dispensations regarding written assignments and material covered in class. Students are responsible for all material discussed in class, whether present or not.

Final Examination or Evaluation

In lieu of a traditional Final Exam, the Final Project for this course is an in-depth formal analytical paper on a composition (or group of related compositions) assigned by the Instructor. The paper is due at the end of the scheduled Final Exam period. In addition to the formal written paper, each student will present an in-class oral summary of their research in a traditional conference format (20-minute presentation with 10-minute Q&A). Details for this Final Project will be discussed in class.

Grading Information

All assigned homework, quizzes, exams, and weekly class participation will be graded. Assignments not submitted on time, unless excused in advance by the Instructor, will receive a grade of "F". Assigned homework is due on time (not later than the beginning of class) even when you have an excused absence.

Course work weightings:

Weekly assignments & discussions:	75%
Final Project (paper plus presentation):	25%
(paper: 20% // presentation: 5%)	

Letter grades are assigned on a 10-point scale, with “+” and “-” used as appropriate. All assignments, quizzes, and exams are graded on a normalized 100-point basis, so that letter grades correspond to the following GPA and percentage points:

Letter Grade	GPA	%
A+	4.0	99 - 100
A	4.0	93 - 98
A-	3.7	90 - 92
B+	3.3	88 - 89
B	3.0	84 - 87
B-	2.7	80 - 83
C+	2.3	78 - 79
C	2.0	74 - 77
C-	1.7	70 - 73
D+	1.3	69 - 69
D	1.0	64 - 67
D-	0.7	60 - 63
F	0.0	0 - 59

This course must be passed with a final grade of ‘B’ or better as a School of Music and Dance graduate studies requirement.

Classroom Protocol

Complete assigned readings and homework on time. NOTE: No late homework will be accepted, and no make-up exams will be permitted unless cleared with the instructor. Possible reasons for late work include verifiable emergency illness and hospitalization, and family emergencies. Late / missed work will receive a grade of ‘F’ unless otherwise determined by the instructor.

Course documents, including some assignments, will be posted to the course website. Students are responsible to regularly check the site for document updates, and all items posted on the site are considered regular course materials.

Active class discussion is expected on all topics presented in class.

Written homework and the final paper must be prepared and printed using standard music industry computer technology (e.g., MSWord with embedded Finale music examples).

All cell phones must be turned off while in class. Google Glass (and related cameras) are not permitted in class. Since most cell phones have photo, video, and text messaging capabilities, any student seen with a cell phone during class will be considered to be cheating and will automatically fail the course. Larger tablet and laptop computers may be used when specific music score and/or audio examples are being referenced.

University Policies

Per University Policy S16-9, university-wide policy information relevant to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, etc. will be available on Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs’ [Syllabus Information web page](http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/>”