

San José State University
School of Music and Dance
MUSC 4A, Music Systems 4A, Section 01, Spring 2020

Contact Information

Instructor:	Dr. Brian Belet
Office Location:	Music Building, Room 104
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Email:	Brian.Belet@sjsu.edu
Office Hours:	Office Hours occur during my posted advising times: (TBA) (use sign-up sheet posted next to my office door)
Class Days/Time:	Tuesday & Thursday / 10:30 – 11:20 am
Classroom:	Music Building, Room 210
Prerequisites:	Music Major, and successful completion of MUSC 3A with a grade of ‘C’ or better, placement by transfer articulation, or special permission from the Area Coordinator.
Final Exam:	Monday, May 18, 2020, 9:45 am – 12:00 noon
Course Website:	www.beletmusic.com/sjsu-courses.html
Course Fees:	\$30 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.

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 Description

Music Systems is a multi-semester course sequence containing two areas of study: written analytical skills and aural skills. **MUSC 4A** is the fourth course in this sequence, which focuses on advanced written analytical skills, with special focus on post-tonal music of the 20th and 21st centuries. Topics include rhythm, melody, harmony, timbre, structure, texture, style, and contexts for performance and composition; with an increased level of complexity over MUSC 3A. Examples for study are drawn primarily from the Renaissance through late Twentieth-Century compositions of the Western European and American traditions, with supplementary examples drawn from other musical practices when appropriate.

Course Goals and Learning Objectives

1) Analyze aurally and visually selected musical examples, and describe stylistic characteristics. 2) Complete writing and analysis assignments. 3) Complete comprehensive midterm and final examinations.

Course Content Learning Outcomes

There is a teaching proverb that states: *'Teachers open the door. You enter by yourself.'* Provided a student applies himself/herself to this course — including attending class, reading the text, studying the music examples, completing assignments on time, asking questions when the material is not yet understood, studying daily outside of class time, working with tutors as needed (tutors are provided by the music program at no charge to the student) — the following outcomes can be expected:

- 1) Students will understand the concepts and procedures of advanced chromatic tonal voice-leading and harmony, post-tonal modal music, 'free' and serial chromatic music, and other music systems developed during the 20th and 21st centuries.
- 2) Students will gain a deeper understanding of the music they hear and perform that utilizes these highly chromatic techniques.
- 3) Students will be able to competently analyze music that employs these techniques.
- 4) Students will be able to compose music examples of phrase length that similarly employ these techniques.

Required Texts/Readings

Required Textbook

(no required text)

Optional (Recommended) Resource

Anthology for Musical Analysis. 6th or 7th ed. C. Burkhart (Wadsworth/Cengage, 2008 / 2012).

Tonal Harmony, 7th ed, Stefan Kostka & Dorothy Payne, McGraw-Hill
(Reference chapters: 26 & 27)

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.

Primary course activities include analyzing music scores and written voice-leading exercises, as established in MUSC 1A, 2A, & 3A. There will also be comprehensive written Midterm and Final Exams. These activities directly relate to and support the course learning objectives listed above.

All assigned work will have clear due dates, and due dates mean the beginning of the class period. No late homework will be accepted (students arriving even a few minutes late are considered late and any homework due will not be accepted for grading), 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.

Co-registration in Music 013, Music Technology, or equivalent skills mastery, is expected. If Piano Proficiency has not yet been passed, co-registration in MUSC 25B (or 25C) is required.

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' (0%) unless otherwise determined by the instructor.

While attendance is not formally tracked, all students are expected to attend every class session. Students are responsible for material covered in class, whether present or absent. Class starts on time; students arriving late may find the door locked on occasion (e.g., quiz or exam in session).

Active discussion of course topics is expected of all students.

Written homework should be prepared and printed using standard music industry computer technology, unless otherwise indicated by the instructor. Completion or co-registration in Music 013, Music Technology, or equivalent skills mastery, is expected. If Piano Proficiency has not yet been passed, co-registration in MUSC 25B is required.

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.

Grading Policy

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”. 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.

Course work weightings:

Midterm Exam	25%
Final Exam	35%
Homework	40%

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

NOTE: Effective Fall 2017, all MUSC courses carry a final course grade requirement of C or better (not C-) to be considered a passing grade within the School of Music and Dance.

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 www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/