

**San José State University**  
**School of Music and Dance**  
**MUSC 1A, Music Systems 1A, Section 01, Fall 2014**

**Contact Information**

- Instructor:** Dr. Fred Cohen
- Office Location:** School of Music & Dance Administrative Offices
- Telephone:** 408-924-4673
- Email (preferred contact):** fred.cohen@sjsu.edu
- Office Hours:** TTh 1:30-2:30PM, and by appointment (preferred)
- Class Days/Time:** M/W 9:30-10:20 am
- Classroom:** Music 210
- Prerequisites:**
1. Passing the “MUSC 1A Entrance Examination” with a score of 80% or better (administered on the first scheduled class day). Students who have successfully passed MUSC 9, Music Fundamentals, with a grade of ‘C-’ (70%) or better within the past two years at SJSU are exempt from this Exam. Those students who do not pass the Entrance Examination must enroll in MUSC 9 (Music Fundamentals) before enrolling in MUSC 1A in a subsequent semester.
  2. Rudimentary piano skills (successful completion of the Piano Proficiency Examination or concurrent enrollment in MUSC 25A/B, Class Piano) are expected, as well as knowledge of basic music fundamentals: major and minor scales and key signatures, intervals, triads and basic rhythm patterns in simple and compound meters.
  3. This class is only open to music majors and music minors.
- Course Fees:** 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**

Copies of course materials such as the syllabus, major assignment handouts, listening exercises, etc. are available on my web page at <http://www.sjsu.edu/people/fred.cohen/>

## **Course Description**

Music Systems is a multi-semester course sequence containing two areas of study: written analytical skills and aural skills. MUSC 1A is the first course in this sequence, focusing on written analytical skills. Topics include acoustics, rhythm, melody, harmony, timbre, scales and modes, structure, texture, form, style, and contexts for performance and composition. Examples for study are drawn from the Renaissance through early twenty-first century compositions of the Western European and American traditions, with supplementary examples from other musical practices when appropriate.

## **Course Goals and Learning Objectives**

### **Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)**

CLO1 Demonstrate understanding and synthesis of the elementary / foundational principles of harmony and musical structure.

CLO2 Demonstrate understanding of the principles of diatonic harmony and basic part writing, and the ability to apply these concepts to music they encounter whether aurally or in written form.

CLO3 Demonstrate application of harmonic principles to their own musical compositions, in the form of Bach-style chorale harmonization and voice-leading.

CLO4 Relate the above concepts to their further study of advanced musical theory.

## **Required Texts/Readings**

### **Required Materials**

There is no required textbook for this class.

Please bring manuscript paper and a pencil to every class meeting.

### **Optional Resources**

1. For those students who wish to read a text outside of class, I have placed two optional texts on reserve in the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library:
  1. Tonal Harmony, Sixth Edition. Kostka and Payne (McGraw-Hill), 2008. ISBN 978-0073401355
  2. Theory for Today's Musician. Ralph Turek (McGraw-Hill), 2006. ISBN 9780072498653

2. 371 Harmonized Chorales and 69 Chorale Melodies with Figured Bass, ed. Riemenschneider (Schirmer). ISBN 9780793525744
3. Internet resources. There are many websites dealing with music theory and ear training. For an excellent review of music fundamentals, try [MusicTheory.net](http://www.musictheory.net) ([www.musictheory.net](http://www.musictheory.net)) and [Teoria](http://www.teoria.com) ([www.teoria.com](http://www.teoria.com)).

### **Classroom Protocol**

1. Class will start every day on time.
2. All electronic devices must be turned off while in class (for example: iEverything's, computers, etc.). There are no exceptions to this rule.
3. Attendance at all class sessions is absolutely essential. Active class discussion is expected as comprehension and critical thinking are vital aspects of being a professional musician.
4. Success in this course will not come from merely attending lectures and completing assignments. To master this material, you must spend sufficient time outside of class for preparation, listening and study.
  1. 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, and so on. More details about student workload can be found in [University Policy S12-3](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf>.

### **Course Requirements, Assignments and Grading Policy**

1. With better than 70% accuracy, students will be expected to:
  1. Analyze selected musical examples aurally and visually, and describe stylistic characteristics.
  2. Complete part-writing, analysis and composition homework assignments.
  3. Complete comprehensive midterm and final examinations.
2. Assigned homework, quizzes and exams will be graded. Homework and quizzes may be given at any time. A grade of 0 (zero) will be entered for any missed quizzes and exams, and for any assignments not turned in.
3. Assignments are due at the beginning of class on the due date. Assignments that are not stapled together will receive a 5% penalty, and any assignment submitted late (unless excused in advance by the instructor) will receive a 15% penalty. Late assignments will only be accepted up to the beginning of the next class period after the due date. However, please note that mid-

semester and/or final semester projects will not be accepted late for any reason.

4. Absence does not grant special privileges regarding written assignments and material covered in class. Students are responsible for all material discussed in class, whether present or not. The due dates for assignments do not change because of an absence. Missed quizzes and exams will not be made up except as follows:
  1. Documented absences due to illness (with a doctor's certificate), family emergency, or for an excused school function will be handled at the instructor's discretion.
5. Individual extra credit work is not available in this class.
6. Course work weightings:  
Midterm Exams: 30%  
Final Exam: 20%  
Written Work: 60%

7. Final semester grades will be assigned using the following table:

**Table 1. Grading breakdown.**

A+ = 100-97%	A = 96-93%	A- = 92-90%
B+ = 89-87%	B = 86-83%	B- = 82-80%
C+ = 79-77%	C = 76-73%	C- = 72-70%
D+ = 69-67%	D = 66-63%	D- = 62-60%
F = 59-0%		

## University Policies

### Dropping and Adding

Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drop, grade forgiveness, etc. Refer to the current semester's [Catalog Policies](http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html) section at <http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html>. Add/drop deadlines can be found on the current academic year calendars document on the [Academic Calendars webpage](http://www.sjsu.edu/provost/services/academic_calendars/) at [http://www.sjsu.edu/provost/services/academic\\_calendars/](http://www.sjsu.edu/provost/services/academic_calendars/). The [Late Drop Policy](http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/policy/) is available at <http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/policy/>. Students should be aware of the current deadlines and penalties for dropping classes.

Information about the latest changes and news is available at the [Advising Hub](http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/>.

### Consent for Recording of Class and Public Sharing of Instructor Material

[University Policy S12-7](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-7.pdf), <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-7.pdf>, requires students to obtain instructor's permission to record the course.

- "Common courtesy and professional behavior dictate that you notify someone when you are recording him/her. You must obtain the instructor's permission to make audio or video recordings in this class. Such permission allows the

recordings to be used for your private, study purposes only. The recordings are the intellectual property of the instructor; you have not been given any rights to reproduce or distribute the material.”

“Course material developed by the instructor is the intellectual property of the instructor and cannot be shared publicly without his/her approval. You may not publicly share or upload instructor generated material for this course such as exams.”

### **Academic integrity**

Your commitment as a student to learning is evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University. The policy [<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S07-2.pdf>] requires you to be honest in all your academic course work. Faculty members are required to report all infractions to the office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development. The [Student Conduct and Ethical Development website](#) is available at <http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/>.

Instances of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Cheating on exams or plagiarism (presenting the work of another as your own, or the use of another person’s ideas without giving proper credit) will result in a failing grade and sanctions by the University. For this class, all assignments are to be completed by the individual student unless otherwise specified. If you would like to include your assignment or any material you have submitted, or plan to submit for another class, please note that SJSU’s Academic Integrity Policy S07-2 requires approval of instructors.

### **Campus Policy in Compliance with the American Disabilities Act**

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you need to make special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible, or see me during office hours. [Presidential Directive 97-03](#) at [http://www.sjsu.edu/president/docs/directives/PD\\_1997-03.pdf](http://www.sjsu.edu/president/docs/directives/PD_1997-03.pdf) requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with the [Accessible Education Center](#) (AEC) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/aec> to establish a record of their disability.

In 2013, the Disability Resource Center changed its name to be known as the Accessible Education Center, to incorporate a philosophy of accessible education for students with disabilities. The new name change reflects the broad scope of attention and support to SJSU students with disabilities and the University's continued advocacy and commitment to increasing accessibility and inclusivity on campus.

## MUSC-1A / Music Systems 1A, Fall 2014

**Table 2. Tentative Course Schedule, subject to change with fair notice**

<b>Week</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Topics</b>
1	Aug. 25	Placement Exam
	Aug. 27	Introduction, Internalized Musicianship, Piano Keyboard, standard notation, ASA octave designations
2	Sept. 1	<b>NO CLASS (Labor Day)</b>
	Sept. 3	Review of Fundamentals (Simple meters, C-clefs, meter signatures, counting systems)
3	Sept. 8	Compound meters—notations, counting; Syncopation in compound meters, mixing beat divisions; <i>Timed quiz on reading pitches</i>
	Sept. 10	Diatonic, Chromatic Collections, Key Signatures, Scale Degree Patterns, Solfege syllables, Singing Majors Scales in 2nds
4	Sept. 15	Scale degree names, Major Pentatonic Scale, <i>Timed quiz on simple, compound meter signatures +basic rhythmic notation</i>
	Sept. 17	Parallel, Relative, Three “forms” of minor
5	Sept. 22	Minor pentatonic, diatonic modes, Interval Labeling
	Sept. 24	Triad and Seventh Chord labeling, quality, spelling, locations
6	Sept. 29	Triads—Roman numeral, figured bass, popular chord symbols
	Oct. 1	Seventh Chords—Roman numerals, figured bass, popular chord symbols
7	Oct. 6	Midterm Review
	Oct. 8	<b>Mid-Term Exam 1</b>
8	Oct. 13	Introduction to First Species Counterpoint
	Oct. 15	First Species Counterpoint
9	Oct. 20	Introduction to Second Species Counterpoint
	Oct. 22	Second Species Counterpoint
10	Oct. 27	Introduction to Fourth Species Counterpoint
	Oct. 29	Fourth Species Counterpoint
11	Nov. 3	Third and Fifth Species Counterpoint
	Nov. 5	Functional Harmony II
12	Nov. 10	<b>Mid-Term Exam 2</b>
	Nov. 12	Soprano & Bass lines in Eighteenth-century style
13	Nov. 17	Melodic Embellishments in Eighteenth-century style
	Nov. 19	Introduction to SATB writing, Spelling chords in four voices
14	Nov. 24	Figured Bass; the Basic Phrase, Analyzing cadence types
	Nov. 26	Introduction to V <sup>7</sup> and its inversions
15	Dec. 1	The Predominant Area
	Dec. 3	Expanding the Basic Phrase, Harmonizing Chorale Melodies
16	Dec. 8	Expanding the Basic Phrase, Harmonizing Chorale Melodies`
	Dec. 10	Review
<b>FINAL EXAM: Thursday, December 18, 7:15-9:30 a.m., Room 210</b>		