



# MUSI 10300 3 - Introduction to Music: Materials and Design - Instructor(s) - Anh Vu

Project Title: **College Course Feedback - Spring 2024**

Number Enrolled: **17**

Number of Responses: **11**

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## Report Comments

Opinions expressed in these evaluations are those of students enrolled in the specific course and do not represent the University.

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Creation Date: **Thursday, July 11, 2024**

## What are the most important things that you learned in this course? Please reflect on the knowledge and skills you gained.

Comments
Thoroughly enjoyed everything that happened in this course. It was a really cool opportunity to learn about music composition and theory while also gaining the skills through practice!
Music theory, how to think in music as well as obtaining a new perspective in terms of music.
General music theory, notation, chord progressions, circle of fifths, jazz theory, harmony, composition skills, digital music basics.
Basic music theory and composition
I learned how to write convincing melodies, harmonize music, incorporate multiple instruments into a piece, and experiment with non-classical music techniques (e.g. electronic music, Digital Audio Workstations). My favorite part was learning how to harmonize and write good supporting chord structures; as a violinist, this was something I had not really given much thought, but now, I have the ability to turn melody fragments into whole pieces.
Composition, music theory, orchestration.
I learned about music theory and how to apply it in composing music.
Fundamentals of Music and composition.
the basics of music theory

## Describe how aspects of this course (lectures, discussions, labs, assignments, etc.) contributed to your learning.

Comments
I appreciated how various aspects of the course were tailored to helping people who may struggle to fully grasp every aspect of the music theory concepts discussed
The lectures were helpful in going over music theory and musical concepts.
Lectures were always interesting and helpful, especially the listenings we did in class.
I think the course readings, lectures, and composition assignments were the most important parts of the course although other aspects (e.g. guest speakers, concert viewing) were also insightful. The readings helped lay the groundwork for most of the music theory, and I picked up new terminology despite having played music for several years. The lectures were excellent supplements to the reading and often went beyond the book; for example, Professor Ania taught us jazz scales, which were not covered in the chapters. Overall, I think the composition assignments were most useful because this was a composition-focused class; the assignments provided excellent scaffolding so that we could work our way into more challenging tasks.
Lecture and homework
Lecture was very helpful. Ania was great at providing example pieces or further clarifying an unclear topic.
Lectures and assignments
the lectures were great: i especially loved the second half of the course where it branched off of the usual material and it became more unique. I loved Dr. Vu's teaching and she was so helpful outside of class

## Please respond to the following:

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
This course challenged me intellectually.	4.64	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	9.09%	18.18%	72.73%
I understood the purpose of this course and what I was expected to gain from it.	4.91	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	9.09%	90.91%
I understood the standards for success on assignments.	5.00	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%
Class time enhanced my ability to succeed in graded assignments.	4.82	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	9.09%	0.00%	90.91%
I received feedback on my performance that helped me improve my subsequent work.	4.91	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	9.09%	90.91%
My work was evaluated fairly.	4.91	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	9.09%	90.91%
I felt respected in this class.	5.00	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%
Overall, this was an excellent course.	5.00	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%

## Additional comments about the course:

Comments
Dr. Vu is fantastic! However if you are looking for an easy A I would not recommend the course, this feels more like an intro to music theory course rather than a core course which was great for me but others not so much.
good teacher good grading you learn a lot highly recommend
I would highly recommend this course for musicians and non-musicians alike. Professor Ania did a really good job introducing music theory fundamentals while also providing challenge through the assignments and new terminology.
Very very good course.

## I would recommend this course to:

	No	Yes
Highly-motivated and well-prepared students	0.00%	100.00%
Anyone interested in the topic	0.00%	100.00%

## Thinking about your time in the class, what aspect of the instructor's teaching contributed most to your learning?

Comments
Fostered discussion
Professor Vu's lectures were very well organized as well as the homework assignments that enhanced our skills in creating music.
Lectures and general excitement about music! She never said something was bad and engaged with all of our different music backgrounds and desires authentically and enthusiastically!
I really love the feedback that Professor Ania provided, both on Canvas and also in-class; every week, she would ask a few students to present their work, and I learned a lot about writing from seeing other examples; I both picked up new musical ideas and also corrected mistakes that I made in my own parts. I especially loved the personal advice Professor Ania provided in office hours: she always had wonderful suggestions that pushed my creativity and idea of what "sounded good."
Class discussion is detailed and always willing to offer help.
Ania was very clear and engaging during lecture. She was always ready to answer questions.
The quizzes, assignments and classes all contributed a lot.
loved the lectures/composition assignments

## What could the instructor modify to help you learn more?

Comments
She could have weekly "lab" sessions in which a specific style of composition assignment is given, and a TA or herself is available to help students grasp the content.
I think that if we had gone over more thoroughly in music theory, it would have been more understandable.
I think the big thing was balancing class participation and lecturing, often times lectures would go on and people would switch from taking notes to doing other work or playing video games at a certain point, I think switching consistently from something more active vs lecture based would keep people more engaged.
I think that lengthening the composition assignments would actually help. The initial ones (regarding music theory) were usually somewhat short, and while that meant they didn't require too much time, we also didn't get practice with all the techniques that were covered in the reading material or lectures.
None
I think that chord inversions and figured bass could be covered a little bit better, as I was pretty confused on those topics. Other than that, nothing! Ania was amazing!
Nothing.
more practice problems

## The Instructor . . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Organized the course clearly.	4.91	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	9.09%	90.91%	0.00%
Presented lectures that enhanced your understanding.	4.82	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	9.09%	0.00%	90.91%	0.00%
Facilitated discussions that were engaging and useful.	4.91	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	9.09%	90.91%	0.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the course.	4.91	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	9.09%	90.91%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.82	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	9.09%	0.00%	90.91%	0.00%
Helped you gain significant learning from the course content.	4.82	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	9.09%	0.00%	90.91%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.82	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	9.09%	0.00%	90.91%	0.00%
Motivated you to think independently.	4.91	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	9.09%	90.91%	0.00%
Worked to create an inclusive and welcoming learning environment.	5.00	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%
Overall, this instructor made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.91	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	9.09%	90.91%	0.00%

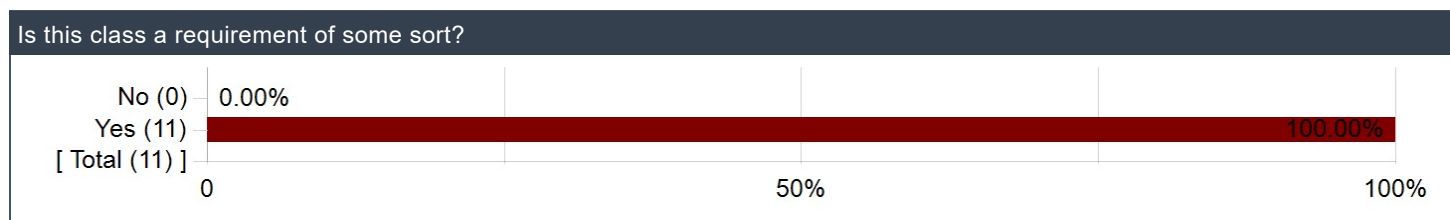
## How much did the following elements of the course contribute to your learning gains?

	Mean	Median	No Gain	A Little Gain	Moderate Gain	Good Gain	Great Gain	N/A
Laboratory Experience	N/A	N/A	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%
Field Trips	4.50	4.50	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	25.00%	25.00%	50.00%
Library Sessions	N/A	N/A	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%
Review Sessions	N/A	N/A	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%
Writing Seminars	N/A	N/A	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%

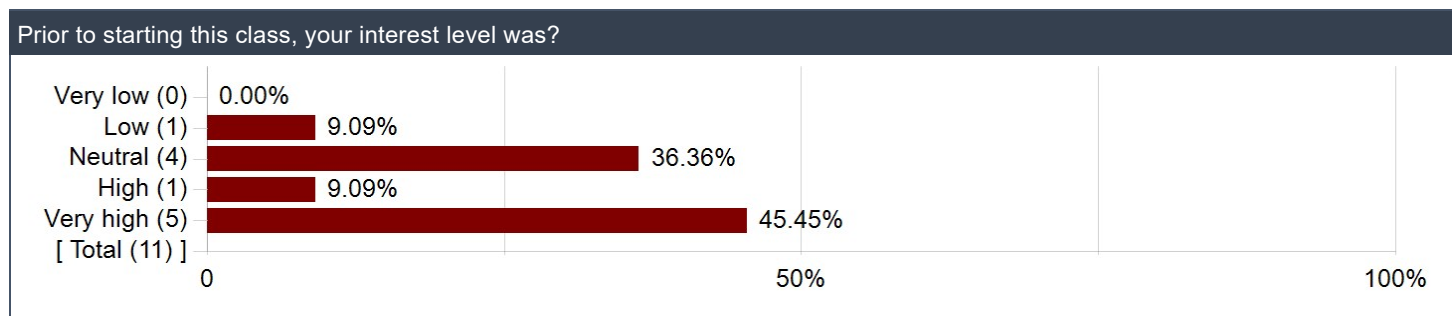
## Other course elements not mentioned above:

Comments
Mandatory concert you have to watch for a concert report.
Concert Viewing: We watched a live concert of 4 contemporary compositions; the pieces were played by the Grossman Ensemble. The viewing experience and reflection were excellent because they made me confront some biases I'd held against contemporary pieces. While I still think they are challenging to listen to, I recognize how much skill the composers need to create music that is often atonal and involves novel instrumental techniques.
Listening to the Grossman Ensemble

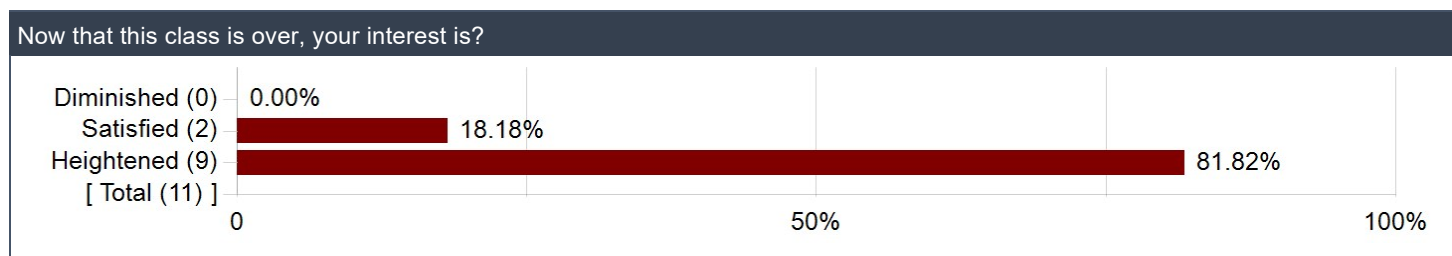
## Is this class a requirement of some sort?



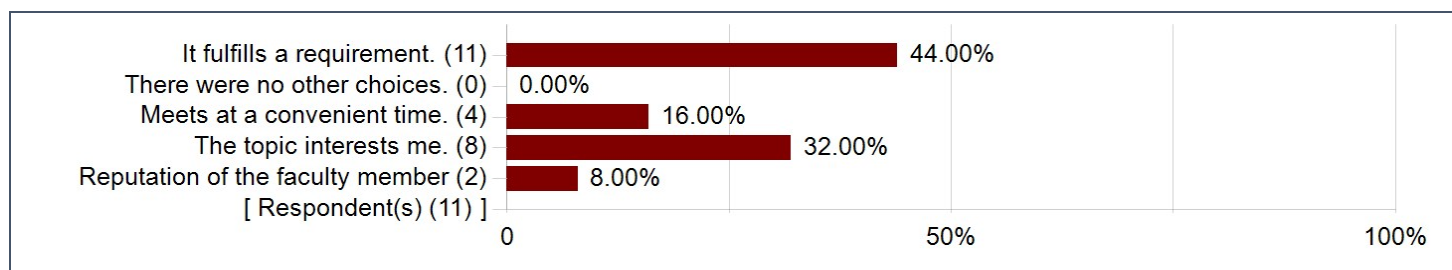
## Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?



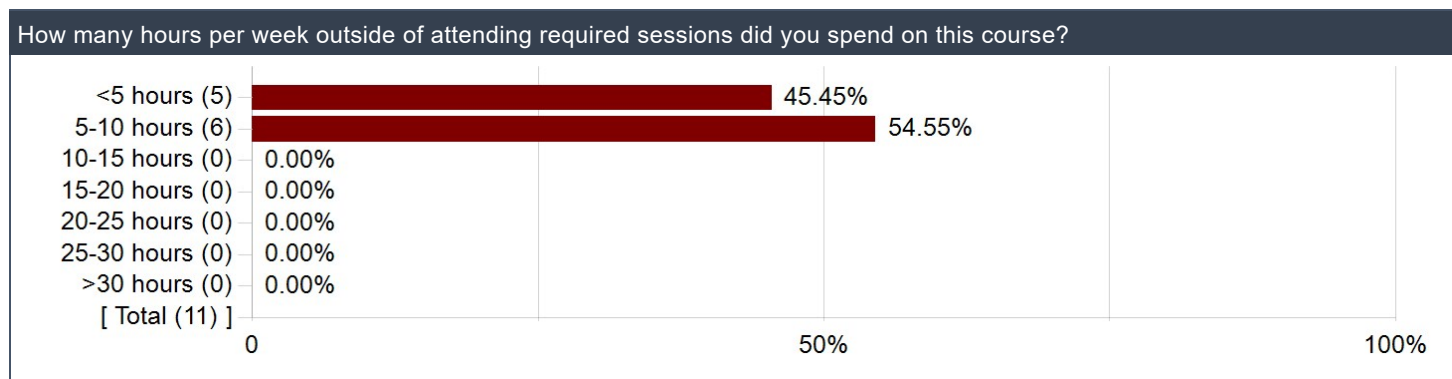
## Now that this class is over, your interest is?



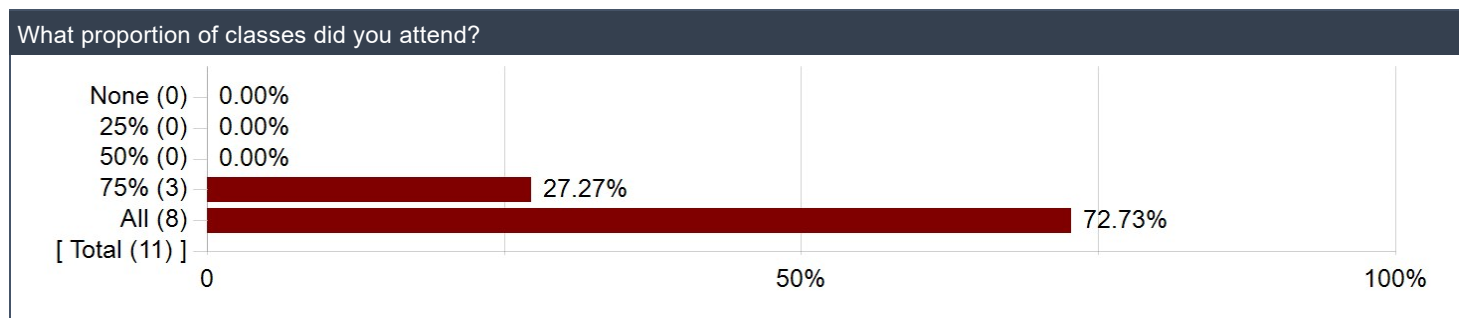
## Why did you choose to take this course? (Select all that apply)



## How many hours per week outside of attending required sessions did you spend on this course?



## What proportion of classes did you attend?



## Please comment on the level of difficulty of the course relative to your background and experience.

Comments
Not difficult.
Not too difficult, especially with prior music experience.
I have a lot of music background so am a quite biased but I never felt the difficulty was too difficult.
I had years of previous music experience in both the violin and piano. While I think this helped with the early weeks (music theory fundamentals), I felt that any student could have done well with the information Professor Ania provided. Honestly, I'm not sure how much of an edge playing music gives because writing music felt like a very different endeavor and perspective.
It is not very difficult to understand and is designed to not be challenging to beginners like me
I knew next to nothing about music/music theory going into this course, but I really ended up enjoying the course and doing pretty ok!
Very manageable with some music experience.
it was perfect: the material was great and Dr. Vu especially did a great job!

## How did the in-class activities contribute to your learning ? Which ones were your favorites?

Comments
In class workshops and listening analysis
They contributed well to internalizing the topics. My favorites were creating short scales or tunes that satisfy the rules within music theory.
I think the in-class activities were fun and a good alternative to lecturing straight through the class. While I'm not sure how much I got out of peer collaboration, I think listening to the pieces and then trying to explain them helped me clarify my own thinking. My favorite activity was the 32-bar song listening; it made me think both about ways the structure could be modified and the way that different thematic ideas could be captured in the A vs. B verses.
Professor is able to give examples that are very helpful to understand concepts.
The guest lectures.
my favorites were when we had practice problems in class and she corrected us

## Which of the weekly composition assignments helped you internalize the topics covered in lectures the most?

Comments
I liked the one that asked for a creation of an original song
The ones going over melody with harmony and song forms helped me the most.
5th
I think Assignment 4 (32 Bar Song) and Assignment 5 (Theme+Variations/Round/Canon) helped me internalize the topics the most. Assignment 4 really helped me understand harmonization because I had to consider not just one harmony line but two, and each needed to be different in ways that still supplemented the voice lead. Assignment 5 helped me understand how much variety composers could generate with just a few good ideas; by doing a theme and variations, I learned how to take a simple melodic progression, use its key chords, and then modify the parts in between in a multitude of ways to write an entire piece.
Themes and variations
The first few really helped me to learn the treble and bass staff and pick up on the basic music theory that was really holding me back from understanding things.
The identification ones.,
definitely the final project: it was when i really tested my knowledge

## What did you think of the guest lecturers?

Comments
they were insightful, but it was often way too much information to fully understand or retain. Lab or discussion sessions would have been super helpful
Having guest lecturers was very interesting as they gave me a new perspective on different musical forms, such as jazz and electronic music which were not too familiar to me.
jazz
Both Kari and Steve were excellent lecturers. I think Kari's lecture was somewhat fast, but that may be because I had no previous experience in DAWs and just had trouble understanding all the new terminology. I really appreciated their help though with navigating Reaper because I doubt I would've been able to get anything down for Assignment 6 without the overview they provided. I loved Steve's discussion of his musical routes and ideas in jazz (the reverse circle of 5ths was really cool). The greatest part of his lecture though was definitely the improvisation; it was truly inspiring.
He was very helpful and gave me many insights on Jazz composing
They were great.
I liked the jazz one but personally i would have liked to see a person of color give one of those lectures