HONORS SUPPLEMENT TO SYLLABUS: Music Theory IV

Instructor: Dr. Benjamin Sabey

In addition to the regularly assigned coursework on the syllabus, the student will complete the following.

Meet with instructor during week 4

DUE WEDNESDAY WEEK 5 (5%): Write a short paper (of approximately 5 pages) explaining the musical innovations of Debussy in the light of his artistic and cultural environment. You must do research to learn about this composer, his goals, influences and stylistic and technical innovations. Use the library as a primary resource rather than the internet.

Meet with instructor during week 7

DUE WEDNESDAY WEEK 8 (5%): Complete analysis of Debussy Prelude I or VIII
   A. Analyze the harmony
      1. use lead sheet symbols and roman numerals (where applicable).
      2. note any use of non-diatonic scales
      3. note harmonic techniques peculiar to Debussy’s style (i.e. planing)
   B. Label the formal structure
      1. thematic development, phrase structure, dramatic trajectory, cadences
   C. Label melodic and rhythmic features

Meet with instructor during week 10

DUE WEDNESDAY WEEK 11 (5%): Write a short paper on Schoenberg.

Meet with instructor during week 13

DUE WEDNESDAY WEEK 14 (5%): Complete analysis or an early Schoenberg piano piece
   A. Analyze the harmony
      1. use set-theory analysis to explain pitch choices
   B. Label the formal structure as with the Debussy piece
   C. Label melodic and rhythmic features

On Monday of week 15 Present your findings to the class in a 10-15 minute oral presentation. (5%)