

WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MUSIC
Undergraduate Theory Review Topics

Key Signatures

- major and minor

Scales

- major and minor (natural, harmonic, melodic)
- relative, parallel
- scale-degree names (including leading-tone/subtonic)

Intervals

- perfect, major/minor, augmented/diminished
- inversion

Triads

- major, minor, augmented, diminished
- conventional notation of triads (C⁺, C, c, c^o)
- inversion and notation of inversion

Seventh Chords

- major, major-minor (dominant), minor, half-diminished, diminished
- inversion and notation of inversion

Roman Numeral Analysis

- key indication (capital = major; lower-case = minor)
- roman numeral analysis (three elements: scale-degree, quality, inversion)

Cadences

- authentic (PAC, RP IAC, INV IAC, LT IAC), half (HC, PHC), deceptive (DC), plagal (PC)
- hierarchy of cadences

Six-Four Chords

- cadential, passing, pedal

Small-Scale Form

- motive, phrase, period, double period
- phrase/period diagramming (parallel/contrasting, repeated, extended)

Non-Chord Tones

- passing tone, neighbor tone, suspension, retardation
- appoggiatura, escape tone, neighbor group, anticipation, pedal point

Part-Writing In Three and Four Voices, Using Triads and Seventh Chords

- harmonic rhythm, melodic-line characteristics, voicing, spacing, doubling
- independence of voices (avoidance of objectionable parallels, etc.)
- conventional resolution of seventh chords, deceptive cadences, etc.

Standard Harmonic Progression (Circle of Fifths: 3–6–2–5–1)

- major and minor keys

Chromatic Harmony

- secondary functions (dominant and leading-tone chords)
- neapolitan chords
- augmented sixth chords (Italian, French, German)
- borrowed chords
- altered dominants
- extended dominants
- common-tone diminished sevenths

Modulation

- closely-related keys and foreign keys
- common-chord modulation
- direct/phrase modulation
- sequential modulation
- common-tone modulation
- enharmonic modulation

Large-Scale Form

- open (continuous) and closed (sectional)
- binary and rounded-binary form
- ternary form
- sonata form

Miscellaneous Terms and Concepts

- homophony, polyphony, monophony
- sequence
- circle-of-fifths progression
- dominant chord/key relationships
- mediant and chromatic mediant chord/key relationships

Suggested Review Texts:

- Kostka/Payne: *Tonal Harmony* (any edition)
- Laitz: *Graduate Review of Tonal Theory* (any edition)
- Laitz: *The Complete Musician* (any edition)