Below is a list of graduate theory course offerings for the upcoming academic year. Basic information regarding each is also given. The Theory Area’s Tiered Course Structure, with its attendant prerequisites, is detailed on the chart provided at the end of this document.

A few important points to keep in mind:

1. All graduate students must take and pass the basic theory and aural skills parts of the Graduate Orientation Examination in Music Theory before you may take any regular theory course. (This includes students who have completed a Bachelor's program at MSU but excludes master’s students in jazz, doctoral students in music education and students with a master’s degree from MSU.) If you fail either of these parts of the exam, you must enroll in MUS200 (for basic theory) and/or MUS201 (for aural skills) to remediate deficiencies. **Neither of these courses count as part of your required credits for graduation.**

2. The vast majority of you should be taking tier-1 courses. These assume the theory knowledge gained in an undergraduate sequence of theory courses. Tier-2 and -3 courses assume further knowledge and mastery of skills. This tiered structure has been designed to help graduate students and their faculty advisers plan a sequence of courses appropriate to a student’s background, interests, and professional aspirations. It also allows theory faculty to design courses with a more accurate sense of the level of experience and technical skill that can be assumed of students enrolled in those classes.

3. Passing scores on any of the four optional parts of the Graduate Orientation Examination (counterpoint, orchestration, form, and 20th-C music) remove the prerequisite that attaches to the corresponding tier-1 course. For example, a student who passed the “counterpoint” portion of the test would not have to take 480 before enrolling in 870, 871, or 874.

**FALL ’15**

**TIER 1**
- MUS 480 – Counterpoint (Sly)
- MUS 484 – Instrumental/Basic Orchestration (Newman)
- **MUS 872 * 2 sections * – Tonal Forms (Taggart) + (Johnson) – sec 002 added Aug. 2015**
- MUS 873 – 20th Century Techniques (Ruggiero)
- MUS 875 – Analysis of Musical Scores (Sly)
- MUS 877 – Scoring for Orchestra and Band (Hutcheson)

**TIER 2**
- MUS 870 – Contrapuntal Techniques I (Callahan)
- MUS 970 – Pedagogy of Theory (VanHandel)

**SPRING ’16**

**TIER 1**
- MUS 480 – Counterpoint (Sly)
- **MUS 872 * 2 sections * – Tonal Forms (Taggart) + (Johnson) – sec 002 added Aug. 2015**
- MUS 873 – 20th Century Techniques (Ruggiero)
- MUS 879 – Tonal Literature and Analysis (VanHandel)
- MUS 891 sec 002 – Advanced Formal Techniques (Taggart) – added Aug. 2015
- MUS 891 sec 004 – Music of Benjamin Britten (Sly) – added Aug. 2015

**TIER 2**
- MUS 871 – Contrapuntal Tech II (Callahan)
- MUS 878 – Advanced Scoring for Orch/Band (Hutcheson)
- MUS 971 – Pedagogy of Theory II (Callahan)
The chart below organizes course offerings in music theory into “tiers,” and shows the flow of prerequisites involved.

Students must pass the basic theory and aural skills parts of the Graduate Orientation Examination in Music Theory before they may take any regular theory course. If they fail either of these parts of the exam, they must enroll in MUS200 (for basic theory) and/or MUS201 (for aural skills) to remediate. 200 and 201 can be taken concurrently with tier-1 courses. Also, passing scores on any of the four optional parts of the Graduate Orientation Examination (counterpoint, orchestration, form, and 20th-C music) removes the prerequisite that attaches to the corresponding tier-1 course. For example, a student who passed the “counterpoint” portion of the test would not have to take 480 before enrolling in 870, 871, or 874. Students would be required to pass all prerequisites with a grade of 3.0 or higher to qualify for enrollment in a higher-tier course.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Remedial</th>
<th>Tier 1</th>
<th>Tier 2</th>
<th>Tier 3</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>200 &amp; 201</td>
<td>484 (Instr/Bsc Orch) - MM’s Only</td>
<td>870 (Cont Tech I - Modal)</td>
<td>977 (Adv Schenkerian Analysis)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>480 (Counterpoint) (or pass exam)</td>
<td>871 (Cont Tech II - Tonal)</td>
<td>874 (Schenker)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>872 (Tonal Forms)</td>
<td>970 (Ped of Th I)</td>
<td>971 (Ped of Th II)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>879 (Lit &amp; Analysis) (or pass exam)</td>
<td>[972, 973] (Anal St. I/II)</td>
<td>Any tier-2 course (except 878)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>876 (Perf &amp; Analysis)</td>
<td></td>
<td>[876] [975]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>873 (Early 20th-C Tech) (or pass exam)</td>
<td>978 (Sem in 20th-Cent Music)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>877 (Orchestration)</td>
<td>878 (Adv Orchestration)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

972, 973, 876, and 975, bracketed in the chart, are offered occasionally, but are not part of the regular rotation of courses.

200 and 201 are 1-credit courses and do not count towards your degree;

480, 484 (MM only), 872, 873, 874, 876, 877, 878, and 975 are 2-credit courses;

870, 871, 875, 876, 879, 970, 971, 972, 973, 976, 977 and 978 are 3-credit courses.