

TH101 Model Composition and Tonal Analysis I

"Seth's lectures were always super well-organized and entertaining in nature. He was my best professor this semester and he was the most organized and put-together. It is clear that Seth knows theory inside and out. Although I believe that it would have been a bit more difficult for me to understand the subject matter without a solid theory background, I still found that when we passed the subject matter that I already knew, Seth still did a great job of explaining and engaging me to learn. I found his learning environment friendly and inclusive, and I appreciated that he knew everyone's names so early and was so good about bringing everyone into the lecture and involving as many people as he could."

"He has a dynamic personality that can keep every student's attention. He presents the material in a fun, yet at the same time intellectual manner. He makes it clear how important theory is to actually playing music by showing many examples of what he is teaching from the concert repertoire instead of just part-writing exercises from a book."

"Extremely well organized lesson plans. Powerpoint presentations are AMAZING! They really drill into your head what you need to know. It is a great class that is taught excellently by an encouraging and enthusiastic teacher."

"Instructor had a lot of enthusiasm for the subject and a great sense of humor; this made learning a lot of fun (I wish it could always be as fun!). Instructor also did a great job with providing online resources to assist in learning. This course certainly made good use of BlackBoard. Course material was pretty much always laid out in a clear and organized way. I feel like I came away with a good understanding of the material. I liked that the instructor spent a lot of time on musical examples to help ground concepts."

"Professor Monahan has an unique combination of passion & energy as well as organisation and attention to detail that make him, in my opinion, one of the best instructors I've ever had. His meticulousness was noticed from day one and did not waver throughout the course. I got many ideas to incorporate into my own teaching someday."

"Professor Monahan is such an amazing teacher. He makes the class fun while using every second of the class period to instruct. He explains things in a way in which I immediately understand, which has never been the case with me in any music theory course in the past."

"I could not have asked for a better theory class. Easily my favorite class this semester."

"[I] thought the lectures were very good and well organized The handouts were awesome!"

"Basically, Professor Monahan is the greatest thing that could ever happen to any school's theory department. Eastman is very lucky to have an instructor like him."

"FANTASTIC TEACHER! I've never understood theory with so much ease. Powerpoints were extremely well made and helped tremendously. Love his enthusiasm and sense of humor."

"Excellent Professor. Love the way he runs class. His slides make the class entertaining and educational at the same time which amazing and highly efficient in teaching such a difficult course."

"Professor Monahan's handouts and study guides are awesome! They are very clear and very interesting. Professor Monahan's lectures are always interesting and funny. The objectives of the course are very clear. I felt that I knew what was expected of me, and that my grade depended on the amount of time I was willing to work at it, and not on my general understanding of what was being presented in classes."

"Professor Monahan's lectures are awesome! His power points are amazing. He is funny and interesting. He never makes anyone feel stupid for asking questions or making suggestions. He was always available to look over homework or answer questions. Its quite a feat to make an early morning theory class enjoyable, but

he does it."

"Monahan pretty much embodies what I think a college theory professor should be. Mastery of course material, enthusiasm, willingness to answer the many emails I sent him thoroughly, and an ability to communicate to us in a way we could understand. Also, the course was challenging but not overly challenging, which is a very easy thing to mess up, and I felt he balanced it quite nicely."

"Professor Monahan was very enthusiastic, articulate and knowledgeable, which made the material easy to grasp. He also maintained a relaxed and enjoyable learning environment, which enhanced the learning experience."

"All of his lessons are organized and thorough. He teaches the course material effectively, using various methods to convey new concepts such as scores and recordings. He offers advice to student to help them better understand the course material and prepare for tests."

"The supervisor was extremely knowledgeable about his subject and his lectures were likewise very educational and engaging."

"I liked your lectures! They were fun and educational! Thank you!"

"Once I got into the swing of things, I enjoyed myself. I think the biggest strengths were that questions were welcomed by our professor and our TA's. They were always willing to help us understand the material."

"Very good course. Good balance between covering the basics at the beginning and learning new material."

"The course overall does a good job of building knowledge gradually. I never felt that we really made any big conceptual "jumps". The transitions between new skill sets were smooth."

"Professor Monahan has a great way of explaining things and making them interesting for the students."

"He is incredibly intelligent and funny. I really appreciated the painstaking effort he took in making his presentations, handouts, and homework. It showed an incredibly professional yet caring teaching philosophy which I really appreciated. At times, his jokes might have potentially gotten in the way of his teaching, but if so only marginally, and these jokes made my Tuesday morning lecture incredibly enjoyable."

"He talks very quickly and has a lot of information that he tries to squeeze in, but it makes sense and he is very organized. He is also very good with communicating so if there is ever a question, he makes sure it becomes clear to everyone."

"I think Prof. Monahan is wonderful. He makes theory enjoyable because his lectures always poke fun of dead composers or other spontaneous topics. The comic relief keeps the class from becoming dull. His excitement for what he teaches kept me motivated and responsive to what he had to say."

"Prof Monahan made it easy and fun to go to lecture class; you could always count on him to be funny and congenial. I wish that we could have covered more material in the lectures, however."

"Professor Monahan is the reason I can get up at 8:00 on Tuesdays. He is enthusiastic, knowledgeable, competent, helpful, and very funny. A great theory teacher."

"I can't think of a way for him to improve, really. He's extremely well organized, an entertaining (and informative) teacher, and I look forward to classes on Tuesday mornings."

"I have for the most part enjoyed the course. I have learned much even though most of it was review. The strengths were the lectures. They were exciting and light bulbs turning on all the time."

"The rigid structure of the course is highly conducive to a thorough understanding of music theory. Moreover, the instructor's highly captivating in-class slideshow presentations coupled with his ability to make students interested in the subject matter makes for an effective learning environment."

"The biggest strength of this class was Professor Monahan. He made the class fun and interesting, an easy place to learn. He was also extremely organized and I felt like I could always find worksheets and things to help me continue learning outside of the classroom."

"The course was very well thought out, with lectures consisting of innovative interactive slide shows created by the professor. He made theory fun."

"I found Professor Monahan to be incredibly engaging (even at 8:30 AM). He is enthusiastic and clearly loves what he does, which comes across in his teaching. Lectures were thorough and interesting, and he generally found ways to reach the whole room."

"I looked forward to going to Theory on Tuesdays. Not a lot of people in any other music school in the country can say that. Plus, you knew everyone's name, so it felt very personal."

"Dr. Monahan made theory so much fun. He was very entertaining and very upbeat, and at the same time he got through the material really effectively. He was more than happy to answer any questions, no matter how many times we asked the same questions. He was more than fair, giving us warnings before quizzes, extra study/practice material, and giving us second chances where we really needed them."

"I thoroughly enjoyed TH101. Seth Monahan created not only a very conducive learning environment but also a very fun one. I always looked forward to coming to theory. I feel as though my knowledge has increased substantially from what it was with previous theory experience. I enjoyed that class very much and took much away from it."