

Looking at Music Theory through the Overton Window

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The Overton Window

Joseph Overton
(1960-2003)

The Overton Window

THE
**OVERTON
WINDOW®**

Politically Acceptable
Policy Positions

MACKINAC CENTER
FOR PUBLIC POLICY

An Example from Education Policy

No government policy on school attendance

No government-run schools or public funding of education

No homeschooling regulation

No private schooling regulation

Private schooling publicly funded with vouchers, tax credits, etc.

Homeschooling allowed, regulated, no public funding

Private schools allowed, regulated, no public funding

Online public schools allowed

Independent/charter public schools allowed

Students may choose any public school in any district

Students may choose any public school in their district

Students must attend nearest local public school in their district

Homeschooling prohibited

Private schools prohibited

All students must attend state-run schools

Pedagogy

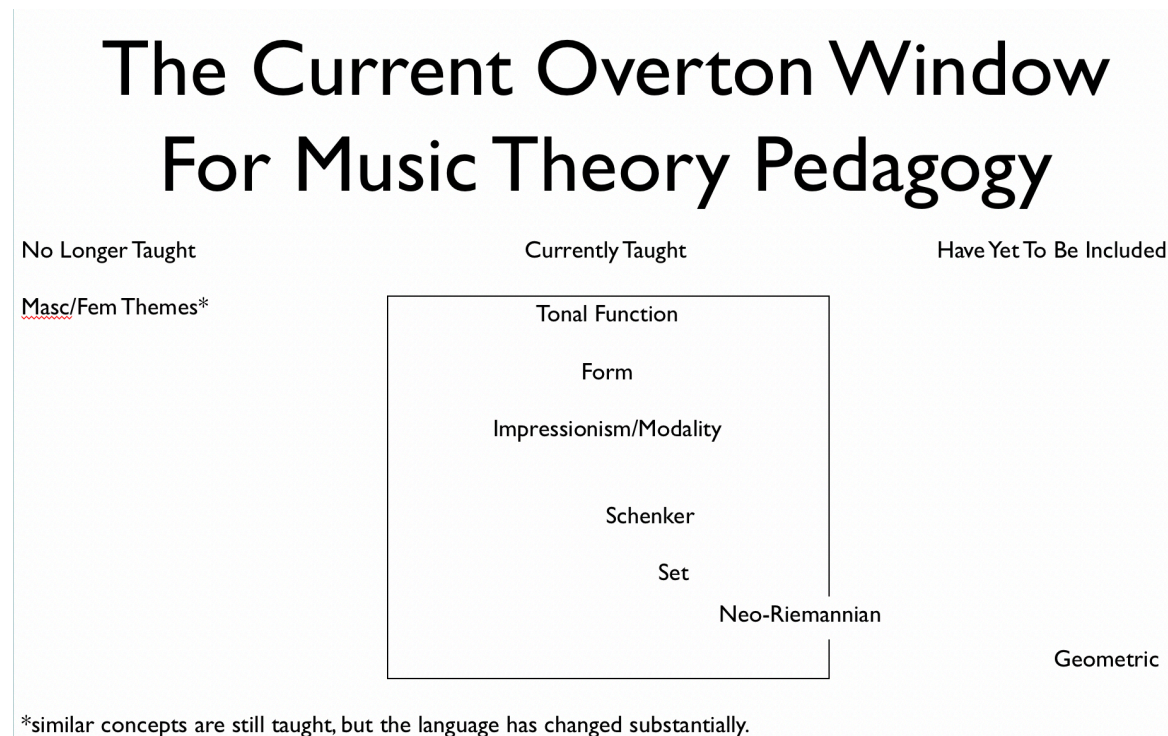
(Looking at Textbooks)

Textbooks by topic

Comparison of Books

Topic/Book	Brenand	Burtzke	Cl	Forte	Goldini	Goldman	Harder	K-P1	K-P7	Lairz	Mervin	Mitchell	Plam	R-F	Turck	TOTALS
Notation	X	X	X				X	X	X		X			X	X	11
Pitch	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	14
Rhythm	X	X	X		X	X		X	X	X	X			X	X	13
Simple Meter	X	X	X			X		X							X	13
Compound Meter	X	X	X			X		X	X	X	X			X	X	13
Pitch class (apart from ar)											X					2
Intervals	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	15
Triads	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X		X	X	X	15
7th chords	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	14
Lead Sheet Symbols															X	1
Transposition	X	X	X				X	X	X	X	X			X	X	9
Scales	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	15
Mod/s	X	X	X		X	X		X	X	X	X		X	X	X	13
Roman Numerals	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X		X	X	X	15
Figured Bass	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	15
Species Counterpoint	X	X	X				X	X	X	X	X			X	X	8
Quasi-size Counterpoint	X		X						X					X	X	3
Four-part Writing	X	X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	16
Keyboard-style Writing		X												X		1
Non-chord tones	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	15
I	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X		X	X	X	15
V	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X		X	X	X	15
vii	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X		X	X	X	15
1st Intention	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X		X	X	X	15
2nd Intention	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X		X	X	X	15
ii	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X		X	X	X	15
IV	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X		X	X	X	15
vi	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X		X	X	X	15
iii	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X		X	X	X	15
Harmonic Progression	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	15
Prolongation	X		X											X	X	8
Functional Harmony	X	X	X	X	X			X	X	X	X			X	X	12
Tenors	X													X	X	3
Cadences	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	12
Phrase	X	X	X	X										X	X	11
Period	X	X	X	X				X	X	X	X			X	X	10
Sentence		X							X	X	X				X	5
Sequence	X	X	X	X	X	X							X	X	X	13
v/x/s	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X		X	X	X	14
viii/x/s	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X		X	X	X	14
Modulation CRK	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	15
Modul Moture	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X		X	X	X	13
N6	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X		X	X	X	14
A6	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X		X	X	X	14
Altered V	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X		X	X	X	14
9th/11th/13th	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X		X	X	X	13
Common Tones	X	X	X	X				X	X	X	X			X	X	11
ct dim 7								X						X		4
Overall Quintal														X		3
Modulation DRK	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	14
Binary	X	X	X	X				X	X	X	X		X	X	X	9
Ternary	X	X	X	X				X	X	X	X			X	X	8
Variation	X	X								X	X			X	X	5
Invention		X	X								X			X	X	3
Page	X	X									X			X	X	5
Sonata	X	X	X				X	X	X	X	X			X	X	9
Rondo	X	X								X	X			X	X	6
Chromatic Mediants				X			X				X			X	X	6
Lit/s					X									X	X	3
PLR transformations														X		1
Reduction		X		X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	9
Lit/s				X				X	X	X	X			X		1
Impassioned	X		X					X	X	X	X			X		6
Pendanticism			X					X	X						X	4
Polynomiality									X						X	2
Analogy	X	X								X	X				X	7
Set	X	X					X	X	X	X			X	X	X	8
12-tone	X	X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X			X	X	8
Trial variations									X					X	X	3
Alacrotic	X		X				X	X	X		X			X		5
Minimalism	X								X	X	X			X		2
Implication/Realization																1
Symmetrical five Dvs					X					X	X			X		4
Total = number of books that discuss the topic in question																

The Current Overton Window for Pedagogy



Three Topics

Schenker

Year	Event
1906	First appearance – Schenker, <i>Neue musikalische Theorien und Phantasien</i> , vol. 1
1917	First article authored by someone else – Halm, “Heinrich Schenker” in <i>Die freie Schulgemeinde</i> , vol. 8, no. 1
1926	First appearance in textbook – Roth, <i>Elemente der Stimmführung: Der strenge Satz</i> , I. Heft, Ein- und Zweistimmigkeit
1933	First English-language article – <u>Citkowitz</u> , “The Role of Henrich Schenker,” <i>Modern Music</i> , vol. 11, no. 1
1938	First English-language article in opposition – Sessions, “Escape by Theory,” <i>Modern Music</i> , vol. 15, no. 3
1962	First English-language textbook to use Schenker as underpinning for undergraduate curriculum – Forte, <i>Tonal Harmony in Concept and Practice</i>

Three Topics

Atonal/Twelve-Tone

Year	Event
1923	First appearance in a composition
1930s	First lectures on the technique – Schoenberg, Webern
1949	First English-language book – Leibowitz, Schoenberg and his School (trans. Newlin)
1961	First appearance in an English-language textbook – Persichetti, Twentieth-Century Harmony
1980	First English-language textbook to use 12-tone as part of undergraduate curriculum – <u>Rahn</u> , The Structure of Atonal Music
1991	First serious book in opposition – Thomson, Schoenberg's Error

Three Topics

Neo-Riemannian

Year	Event
1914	First appearance of Riemann's own transformational theories– Riemann, “Ideen zu einer ‘Lehre von den Tonvorstellungen’”
1982	First appearance of transformational (Neo-Riemannian) theory – Lewin, “A Formal Theory of General Tonal Functions”
1995	First appearance of Neo-Riemannian parsimonious voice leading – Hyer, “Reimag(in)ing Riemann”
2003	First English-language textbook to use transformational theory (parsimonious voice leading) as part of undergraduate curriculum – Roig-Francolí, Harmony in Context
2007	First article in opposition to “promiscuous” use of transformational theories – <u>Buchler</u> , “Reconsidering <u>Klumpenhouwer</u> Networks”

Composers

(Looking at SMT)



One-Hit Wonders

Abrahamsen	Danielpour	Harbison	Milhaud	Rundgren	Villa-Lobos
Andriessen	Davis, K.	Harrison	Mitchell	Satie	Vincentio
Aperghis	Davis, M.	Harvey	Monk	Sawyer	Vitry
Asplmayr	Denisov	Hausmann	Murail	Schein	Walker
Baird	Dhomont	Herrmann	Mussorgsky	Schnebel	Webb
Banchieri	Dukas	Honegger	Nakada	Schuller	Weelkes
Bauer	Dun	Hosokawa	Nebra	Sciarrino	Westerkamp
Beecroft	Dunstable	Hyams	Newman	Seeger	Williams
Berg, J.	Duparc	Ikeda	Nielsen	Shaw	Wilson
Berlin	Ellington	Ishii	Obrecht	Shifrin	Young
Beyer	Eno	Jolivet	Oliveros	Singleton	Zimmermann
Biber	Escot	Joplin	Ordenez	Smith	Zwilich
Bologna	Finnissy	Klein	Paganini	Sondheim	
Bononcini	Foster	Korngold	Papineau-Couture	Steiner	
Borodin	Franck	Kurth	Penderecki	Stevens	
Brant	Gastoldi	Lachenmann	Petrassi	Sullivan	
Bronsart	Gellman	Landini	Pousseur	Taborn	
Brown	Gibbons	Lang	Powell	Taki	
Burwell	Ginastera	Langer	Purcell	Tan	
Busoni	Glasper	Larsen	Quantz	Tippett	
Buxtehude	Glinka	Loesser	Rameau	Togni	
Byrd	Gossec	Mandelbaum	Rehnqvist	Torelli	
Cabezón	Gowers	Marianelli	Reznor	Trabaci	
Carrillo	Grieg	Martino	Rimsky-Korsakov	Truax	
Costeley	Griffes	Martinú	Rore	Ullmann	
Couperin	Groven	Mascagni	Rossini	Vanhal	
Cowell	Hailstork	Maw	Rouse	Vaughan Williams	
d'Indy	Hancock	Mayuzumi	Rudhyar	Vecchi	

The All-Time
SMT
Champion



NEWS IN BRIEF

Guitar-Instruction Manual Has Eddie Van Halen On Cover, 'Go Tell Aunt Rhody' Inside

11/24/99 3:00PM



ELIZABETH, NJ—*Rock The House In 30 Days*, a beginner-level guitar-instruction manual published by Elizabeth-based Learn-2-Play Books, features superstar rocker Eddie Van Halen in the midst of a raging guitar solo on the cover, and such traditional, public-domain songs as "Go Tell Aunt Rhody," "Greensleeves" and "Little Brown Jug" inside. "Get started on your way to playing awesome, brain-frying guitar solos like the master shredders," the cover proclaims. According to music-book collectors, the contents of *Rock The House* are identical to those of the classic 1943 guitar-instruction manual *Strum Gaily The Mel Bay Way*.

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