

Introduction to Music Theory – Summer 2006

Music 1460-090

Syllabus

Instructor:	Dr. Vicki Curry
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Welcome to Introduction to Music Theory (MUSC 1460-090). It is an exciting prospect to offer Introduction to Music Theory as an interactive online course for learning music fundamentals. Basic literacy in music (or any other language) requires a large dose of repetition and drill. The nature of the course content (pitch, scales, key signatures, intervals and chords) is very conducive to distance learning. Music 1460 (online) consists of twelve (12) lessons (self-graded), four (4) creative projects (e-mailed to instructor), one midterm and a final examination (taken in person with pencil and paper). The course carries three (3) semester hours of university credit and is designated a Fine Arts course in General Education at the University of Utah.

Required Materials: Curry, *Introduction to Music Theory*
(an interactive textbook/workbook on CD-ROM located in the University Bookstore)

Software: Music notation program (Finale, Sibelius, etc.). You may download a free copy of Finale Notepad:
(<http://www.finalemusic.com/>).

Introduction

Music is a form of communication--the communication of feelings and emotions through organized sound. Musicians (composers and/or performers) use creativity, performance skills AND an understanding of the language of music ("music theory") to communicate the "meaning" of the music to their listeners. The basic materials in music theory consist of a body of knowledge concerning both pitch and rhythm. Topics covered will include:

- A brief overview of musical elements
- Musical notation (including pitch, dynamics, rhythm and tempo)
- Melody (including scales and key signatures)
- Harmony (including intervals and chords)

An extended study of these fundamentals is essential to anyone who desires competence in any style of music.

Because creativity is the essence of the art, students taking this course will use their theoretical knowledge of the topics listed above and apply them to creative endeavors (e.g., composing a melody). One Preliminary and three (3) Creative Projects (A, B, C) will be assigned. Although there is a Creative Project D on the CD-ROM, it will not be part of this course.

Study Hints

- Read each lesson carefully, being sure to study the musical examples and interactive activities thoroughly.
- Complete the exercises/drills provided online before attempting the written assignment. Music theory is a difficult subject for many students and requires a considerable amount of memorization and drill.
- Although answers to the written assignments are provided online, it is important that you thoroughly think through and write out your answers before checking them. Looking ahead at the correct answers without writing is a gross error. It leads to vague answers, guessing, and consequently, poor learning. I even recommend that you score each assignment in order to get a clear picture as to how well you understand the material.
- Be sure each lesson is thoroughly mastered. If a lesson is especially difficult, review it before going on to the next lesson.
- Carefully study mistakes made on self-graded assignments. Review the online material, as necessary, to understand why the mistakes were made.
- For each creative project, move beyond making the composition "technically" correct. Sound is the essence of the art; therefore, listen to your creative project before submitting it.

Course Outline

A detailed, day-to-day calendar is available online at my web site (<http://u.cc.utah.edu/~vc8014/>). I highly recommend you print a hard copy of it for immediate and continual use.

Prelude:	The Art of Music
Lesson 1:	Pitch notation
Lesson 2:	Rhythm notation
Preliminary Project:	Using Finale NotePad Due Friday, May 26
Lesson 3:	Scales/Major scales (including diatonic modes, chromatic, whole-tone, pentatonic, octatonic, and tone row; also major scales and key signatures)
Creative Project A:	Compose several melodies according to given parameters Due Friday, June 2
Lesson 4:	Minor scales and key signatures
Creative Project B:	Compose several melodies according to given parameters Due Friday, June 16
Lesson 5:	Intervals I (intervals without accidentals)
Lesson 6:	Intervals II (all intervals)
MIDTERM:	(Lessons 1-6) Use Sample Midterm A as model. Thursday, June 29 or Saturday, July 1
Lesson 7:	Triads (root position only)
Lesson 8:	Triads (inversions)
Lesson 9:	Harmony I (chord progressions, analysis, nonharmonic tones, harmonization, compound meter, transposition)
Creative Project C:	Harmonize (write an accompaniment for) a given melody Due Thursday, July 13
Lesson 10:	7th chords (root position only)
Lesson 11:	7th chords (inversions)
Lesson 12:	Harmony II (more nonharmonic tones, harmonic rhythm, analysis, harmonization, accompanimental patterns)
FINAL EXAM:	(Lessons 1-12) Use Sample Final Exam B as model. Friday, August 4

Directions for submitting Creative Projects:

When you have completed each Creative Project, save each musical example as a Finale NotePad file and send them to me as e-mail attachments. Name each file by the project name and **your** name. Include both your first and last names with your last name first. Please follow the example for uppercase/lowercase letters:

File name example: Prelim Rhythm LastFirst
E-mail address: Vicki.Curry@music.utah.edu

On the CD-ROM, there is a Creative Project D. Project D is **not** part of this course.

Directions for Exam Registration:

Go to the home page for U-Online for directions on how to register for the midterm and final exams: (There is a link to the page on my web site.) <https://uonline.utah.edu/main/index.jsp>

Grades:

To view your grade report, follow the link found on my web site. Then select your Class, type in your last name, and then type in your password. I have created a password for each of you. **Your password is the last 6 digits of your student ID number.**

Final Score: To calculate your final score I will take the average of your coursework weighted according to the following scheme:

- **Creative Projects** 30%
- **Midterm Exam** 30%
- **Final Exam** 40%

Grading Scale: (Note that grades are weighted according to the above percentages and not merely added.)

A 93-100	B+ 87-89	C+ 77-79	D+ 67-69	E <60
A- 90-92	B 83-86	C 73-76	D 63-66	
	B- 80-82	C- 70-72	D- 60-62	

Incompletes (grade "I") are given under exceptional circumstances only.

IMPORTANT:

Occasionally throughout the semester, I will send messages to the entire class. These messages will be sent to the e-mail address you provided to the University Registrar's Office--NOT to the e-mail address you provided for WebCT if it is different. I will send a "bulk" e-mail the first day of class. If you do not receive it, please make sure the Registrar has your current e-mail address so you will not miss out on later announcements.

Information from the University Academic Advising Committee (UAAC):

The University of Utah seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services and activities for people with disabilities. If you will need accommodations in the class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the Center for Disability Services, 162 Olpin Union Building, 581-5020 (V/TDD). CDS will work with you and the instructor to make arrangements for accommodations.

All written information in this course can be made available in alternative format with prior notification to the Center for Disability Services.

- With the drop date being pushed back to ten calendar days into the semester, there is no longer a period when students can withdraw from a class without incurring full tuition penalties.
- Last to DROP (delete) classes: **Wednesday, May 24**
(Students can drop class by phone or web and the classes will not appear on their transcripts.)
- Last day to ADD classes: **Tuesday, May 30**
- **Tuition Due: Tuesday, May 30**
- Last day to WITHDRAW: **Friday, June 23**
(Students can withdraw from classes by phone or web, but will be held responsible for full tuition. A "W" will appear on their transcript for these courses.)