

MUS 105—Introduction to Music Theory—Course Syllabus

Dr. Jelena Simonović Schiff

jes@pdx.edu **!During the course email me within D2L!**

Dear students,

Welcome to Introduction to Music Theory. This course is designed to introduce the most basic elements of music to students without previous knowledge-based musical experience. There are no prerequisites or co-requisites for this course. We will start with the note identification and end with combinations of notes in the most frequently used types of chords.

Required e-Textbook (with total access)

Clendinning Jane, Marvin Elizabeth, and Phillips Joel. *The Musician's Guide to Fundamentals*. 2nd ed. W. W. Norton & Company, Inc.

Course description

The course is organized around four types of activities: (1) e-Textbook **readings** followed by **video highlights** as explanations of the main concepts; (2) **practice** with keyboard, listening examples, flashcards, and Noteflight exercises; (3) writing **assignments**, and (4) **quizzes**.

Course objectives

To explain elemental terms: pitch, duration, clef, meter, tonality, consonant/dissonant, diatonic; and basic concepts of music literacy in reading and writing pitch and duration destinations; pitch distances; chord organization; and scale structures.

Student learning outcome—upon successful completion students will be able to:

Recognize and write music symbols: notes, accidentals, rests, time signatures, etc.; assemble major scales and three types of minor; understand scale degrees, associated chords, and primary harmonic functions; build simple intervals and construct triads.

Course requirements

- Weekly writing assignment, due Sundays by 11:59PM; instructions in dropbox
- Weekly Quiz, due Sundays by 11:59 PM. Instructions in the corresponding quiz box
- Two Cumulative Quizzes in weeks 5 and 8; they cover previous weeks/modules: for example, CQ1 covers material from weeks 1 to 5; instructions in quiz box;

Grading components

Activity	Due	Pts. each	%	Total pts.
Weekly Quiz	Sunday 11:59 PM	10x10	25%	100
Cumulative Quiz	Sunday 11:59 PM	2x50	25%	100
Writing Assignments	Sunday 11:59 PM	10X20	50%	200
	22 activities/assignments			400

Grading scale

Points	Grade	Points	Grade	Points	Grade
		372-400=93-100%=A		356-371= A-	
343-355=B+		327-342=B		314-326=B-	
301-313=C+		285-300=C		272-284=C-	
259-271=D+		243-258=D		230-242=D-	
Below 229=below 57%= F					

Weekly Schedule

Week	Topic	Reading/Listening	Activity/Assignment	
1	Staff, Pitch Notation; Keyboard, Clefs, Octaves, Ledger Lines;	Chapter 1	Assignment 1	WQ1
2	Accidentals: Sharps, Flats, Naturals, Half/Whole Steps;	Chapter 2	Assignment 2	WQ 2
3	Simple Meters: 2, 3, and 4; Note durations—Rhythm; Beat Subdivision; Syncopation;	Chapter 3 Chapter 4	Assignment 3 Assignment 4	WQ 3 WQ 4
4	Scales: Types, Scale Degrees, Structure, Writing Major Scales;	Chapter 6	Assignment 5	WQ 5
5	Scales: Major Key Signatures, Circle of Fifths;	Chapter 6	Assignment 6	WQ 6 CQ1
6	Minor Scales: Natural, Harmonic, Melodic, Structure; Minor Key Signatures	Chapter 7	Assignment 7 Assignment 8	WQ 7 WQ8 8
7	Intervals: Quality: M (major), m (minor), P (perfect); Spelling;	Chapter 8	Assignment 9	WQ 9
8	Triads: Major, Minor, o, +; Spelling, Structure;	Chapter 9	Assignment 10	WQ 10 CQ 2
<p>There is no final exam—your assignments in week 10 are the last work you need to submit.</p> <p>The course ends August 14th at 11:59 PM—no work can be submitted after this time</p>				

Disability Accommodation

PSU values diversity and inclusion; we are committed to fostering mutual respect and full participation for all students. My goal is to create a learning environment that is equitable, useable, inclusive, and welcoming. If any aspects of instruction or course design result in barriers to your inclusion or learning, please notify me. The Disability Resource Center (DRC) provides reasonable accommodations for students who encounter barriers in the learning environment.

Academic Misconduct

Academic Misconduct is defined as, actual or attempted, fraud, deceit, or unauthorized use of materials prohibited or inappropriate in the context of the academic assignment. Unless otherwise specified by the faculty member, all submissions, whether in draft or final form, must either be the Student's own work, or must clearly acknowledge the source(s). Academic Misconduct includes, but is not limited to: (a) cheating, (b) fraud, (c) plagiarism, such as word for word copying, using borrowed words or phrases from original text into new patterns without attribution, or paraphrasing another writer's ideas; (d) the buying or selling of all or any portion of course assignments and research papers; (e) performing academic assignments (including tests and examinations) in another person's stead; (f) unauthorized disclosure or receipt of academic information; (g) falsification of research data (h) unauthorized collaboration; (i) using the same paper or data for several assignments or courses without proper documentation; (j) unauthorized alteration of student records; and (k) academic sabotage, including destroying or obstructing another student's work.

I wish you a productive and successful term!