

Introduction to Music Theory for Beginners

Duke University Fall 2014

Instructor – Scott Lee - scott.lee@duke.edu

WF 11:45-1 PM

Office Hours by appointment

Course Description:

Rudiments of music theory, including meter, major-minor tonality, chordal vocabulary. Introduction to harmony, four-part chorale writing. Prerequisite: ability to read music in one clef. (Students with playing or singing experience, see Music 161.) Students who have previously taken Music 161 may not register for 161-1.

Course Materials:

Music in Theory and Practice, Bruce Benward & Marilyn Saker, Volume 1, 9th ed.,
ISBN: 978-0-07-802515-0

Course Goals:

1. Develop Students' knowledge of music theory fundamentals through assignments, readings, discussion, group work, and tests.
2. Apply music theory skills to composition projects.

Evaluation:

Students will be evaluated by in-class participation, projects, quizzes and tests.

In-class participation:	25%
Projects:	20%
Quizzes:	15%
Tests:	40%

Extra Credit

Students may receive extra credit by attending a concert of classical music and writing a review of the concert. The review should be one page (double spaced), and should outline who you saw, what they played, and what your reactions were to the music. You must turn in your program from the concert with the review. You may turn in up to three reviews.

Attendance

Students are expected to attend all regularly scheduled classes. If for any reason a student must miss a class for an emergency, he/she is responsible for determining what material was covered, and what assignments were given. If a student knows in advance that they will miss a class, they must contact me beforehand either in class or via email. Each unexcused absence over four will result in a final grade penalty of one letter grade per absence. Any student with eight or more unexcused absences will fail the course.

Schedule:

August

27, 29 – Introduction, Sound and Time, begin Chap. 1 Notation

September

3, 5 – Chap. 1 Notation, Chap. 2 Scales, Tonality, Key, Modes

10, 12 – Chap. 2 Scales, Tonality, Key, Modes

17, 19 – Chap. 3 Intervals and Transposition

24 – Chap. 1-3 Test

26 – Chap. 4 Chords

October

1, 3 – Chap. 4 continued, Begin Composition Projects

8, 10 – Chap. 4 Chords

15, 17 – Begin Composition Projects Continue Chap. 4 (Quiz), Begin Chap. 5

22, 24 – Chap. 5 Cadences and Nonharmonic Tones

29, 31 – Go over Composition Projects, Introduce non-chord tones/Cadences

November

5, 7 – Cadences and non-chord tones (Quiz?), begin chap. 9

12, 14 – Chap. 9 Voice Leading in Four-Part Chorale Writing,

19, 21 – Begin Composition Projects, Chap. 9 continued

December

3 – Chapt. 4, 5, 9 Test Final Composition Project Presentations