Music 105: Intro to Elements of Music

Course Syllabus

Fall 2012
MWF 8:00-8:50am – M207

Instructor: Jude Thomas
Email: composerjude@gmail.com
Office: M25 (in the basement)
Office hours: By appointment
Phone Number: 619-849-9160 (call or text)

Course Description
Music 105 is an introductory music course focusing on fundamental concepts of music and music notation. This course is designed to assist the music major by developing a thorough understanding of these concepts and their notation. In Music 105, you will learn the tools to think about music and to communicate about music with greater specificity and detail, which will assist you in any field of music that you choose. In particular, Music 105 will focus on:

1. Elements of rhythm
   - Note shapes and durations
   - Time signatures and meter

2. Elements of pitch
   - Musical staff notation
   - Major and minor scales
   - Triads and seventh chords
   - Diatonic chords in major and minor keys

Required Textbook and Materials
1. Manuscript music staff paper
2. Pencil

Please bring all your required materials with you to every class session. In addition to these materials, there are several articles posted as PDFs on the Blackboard website.

Evaluation
Weekly Assignments (12 assignments @ 50 points each): 600 points
Every Friday after class I will post the Weekly Assignment on this course’s Blackboard website. The Weekly Assignment is due on the following Monday at 8:00am. If you are unable to turn in the assignment by the deadline, due to schedule conflicts, please contact me immediately. Late Assignments are penalized 10 points per day.

Midterm Exam: 100 points
The midterm exam will be in the same format as the Weekly Assignments but will be taken during the class period. This exam will cover the material covered during the first half of the semester.

Final Exam: 200 points
The final exam is in the same format as the midterm exam. It is administered during the scheduled final exam date: Monday, December 10, from 8:00-10:00am. It will include all the material covered during the semester.
**Attendance & Participation:** 100 points
Success in music, like the other arts, is achieved by doing. Attendance and participation in class discussions will greatly strengthen your musicianship.

**Writing Assignment:** 50 points extra credit
The extra-credit writing assignment is a short (two-page maximum) paper about any one piece of music that you enjoy. A detailed description of this assignment is on this course’s Blackboard site.

**Grading Scale:**

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<th>Grade</th>
<th>Score Range</th>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>930-1000</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>900-929</td>
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<td>B+</td>
<td>870-899</td>
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<td>B</td>
<td>830-869</td>
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<td>C</td>
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**General Class Policies**

- If you are unable to attend any class session due to a prior conflict, inform me by email within the first two weeks of class so that accommodations can be made.
- If you are unable to take an assignment or exam because of illness or family emergency, inform me immediately. Be prepared to provide documentation of the emergency.
- Class discussions may involve a diversity of abilities and backgrounds; it is assumed that class discussions will be undertaken in a respectful manner.
- Instances of academic dishonesty (cheating, plagiarism on written work, using another student’s identification for attendance, and other forms of academic dishonesty) are taken very seriously and will be referred to the University for disciplinary action.
- If you are a student with a learning disability that requires special accommodations, please bring this to my attention within the first two weeks of class. Students must be registered with the Student Disabilities Services (Calpulli Center, Suite 3101) in order for any accommodations to be arranged. If you suspect you have a learning disability or want more information, stop by Disabled Student Services office or visit their website.
- Please turn off or mute all personal communications devices when in class.

**Student Objectives**

By the conclusion of the semester, students will be able to:

1. Identify rhythmic value of note shapes
2. Correctly interpret time signatures
3. Correctly notate and understand clefs and the musical staff
4. Identify pitches on the musical staff by note name and solfege
5. Correctly notate the major, natural minor, melodic minor, and harmonic minor scales
6. Notate all 12 major key signatures and their 12 relative minor key signatures.
7. Translate scale degree numbers into their traditional scale degree names
8. Identify and invert Intervals
9. Identify and notate triads and seventh chords
10. Identify chord inversions
11. Label passages of diatonic music (major or minor) using Roman Numerals, correctly labeling the chords’ root, quality, and inversion.
TENTATIVE SEMESTER CALENDAR
(subject to change)

WEEK 1: Introduction 8/27-8/31
This week we will review the syllabus, talk about the course, and get to know one another

WEEK 2: Rhythm, Time & Tempo, part 1 9/3-9/7
Basic note shapes and rhythmic values, time signatures and simple meters, tempo
**NO CLASS ON LABOR DAY, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 3**

WEEK 3: Rhythm, Time & Tempo, part 2 9/10-9/14
Compound meter, irregular meter, notation and interpretation of rhythms

WEEK 4: The Musical Staff, Clefs 9/17-9/21
The five-line staff, treble clef, bass clef, C clef, basic notation of pitch

WEEK 5: Accidentals and Solfege 9/24-9/28
Notation of accidentals, solfege names for notes, half steps and whole steps

WEEK 6: Pitches and the Piano Keyboard 10/1-10/5
The piano keyboard, enharmonic notes

WEEK 7: Midterm Review 10/8-10/12
Review of all material covered so far in the semester
**MIDTERM EXAM – FRIDAY, 10/12**

WEEK 8: Major and Minor Scales 10/15-10/19
Notating the major, natural minor, harmonic minor, and melodic minor scales

WEEK 9: Key Signatures 10/22-10/26
Notating key signatures, major and minor

WEEK 10: Intervals, part 1 10/29-11/2
Perfect, major, and minor intervals

WEEK 11: Intervals, part 2 11/5-11/9
Augmented and diminished intervals, compound intervals

WEEK 12: Triads 11/12-11/16
Major, minor, augmented, diminished triads, inversions

WEEK 13: Thanksgiving Week 11/19-11/23
Material to be determined (no assignment this week)
**NO CLASS FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 23**

WEEK 14: Seventh Chords and Roman Numeral Descriptions 11/26-11/30
Notating seventh chords, Roman numeral labels for chords

WEEK 15: Review 12/3-12/7
Review of all material covered this semester
**FINAL EXAM: MONDAY, DECEMBER 10 – 8:00-10:00AM**
**FINAL NOTE:** Please be aware that this course requires serious work. Music is not about knowing, it is about doing, and therefore there are no shortcuts; learning music theory requires consistent work. You must keep up with all the assignments, particularly the workbook exercises. Music theory, like playing an instrument, must be practiced **everyday** in order to be mastered. Music 105 is designed for that consistent work to help you learn what you need to know to move on and succeed in the program. The skills that you will learn in this class will be extremely useful to you as musicians. Work hard and work consistently for this class, and you will find that it is worth the effort.

If you have any questions, comments or concerns feel free to contact me by phone, text, or email.

The syllabus is subject to change. Any changes will be announced in class or on our SDSU Blackboard webpage.