



University of International Business and Economics International Summer School

MUS 110 Elementary Music Theory

Term: May 27 – June 27, 2019

Instructor: Dr. Rika Asai

Home Institution: University of Pittsburgh

Email: rasai@pitt.edu

Class Hours: Monday through Thursday, 120 minutes each day (2,400 minutes in total)

Office Hours: TBD

Discussion Session: 2 hours each week

Total Contact Hours: 64 contact hours (45 minutes each, 48 hours in total)

Credit: 4 units

Course Description:

Elementary Music Theory is an introductory course that covers basic music notation, terminology, and structure. Previous musical experience is not necessary for a successful semester! Topics covered include: rhythm and its notation, pitch, intervals, melody, major and minor keys, scales, triads, harmony, the keyboard, and composition of a song.

Prerequisite:

None required

Course Goals:

Our goals for the semester are to be able to think critically about music we hear, and to attain the following skills:

- Gain familiarity and fluency with the language and notation of music
- Notate given rhythms by dictation and identify by ear intervals and triads
- Understand of the basic components of musical language and use the correct terminology to describe it
- Compose musical ideas in using music notation software

Required Textbook:

- Jane Piper Clendinning, Elizabeth West Marvin, Joel Phillips, *The Musician's Guide to Fundamentals*, 3rd ed., W. W. Norton & Company, 2018. e-book ISBN: 978-0-393-66440-9
Course packet, distributed in class--*please bring your course packet to class each day.*
- MuseScore notation software for assignments: <http://musescore.org/>

Supplemental Materials:

In addition to the textbook and handouts given in class, there are several online resources that will help you review and practice material we've covered in class. The first two websites are especially helpful resources for practicing the listening aspect of this course:

- <http://www.good-ear.com/>
- <http://www.musictheory.net/>
- Virtual piano: http://www.bgfl.org/bgfl/custom/resources_ftp/client_ftp/ks2/music/piano/index.htm
- Free staff paper is available at www.blanksheetmusic.net

Grading Policy:

In this course, grading will be based on the following grade breakdown:

Exams	36%
Short Quizzes	20%
Composition Assignments	20%
Final Project	14%
Attendance, Preparation, Participation	10%

Grading Scale:

Assignments and examinations will be graded according to the following grade scale:

A	90-100	C+	72-74
A-	85-89	C	68-71
B+	82-84	C-	64-67
B	78-81	D	60-63
B-	75-77	F	below 60

Class Rules:

Students are expected to:

- Attend all classes and be responsible for all material covered in class and otherwise assigned.
- Complete the day's required reading and assignments before class.
- Review the previous day's notes before class; make notes about questions you have about the previous class or the day's reading.
- Participate in class discussions and complete required written work on time.
- Refrain from texting, phoning, or engaging in computer activities unrelated to class during class. Students who consistently use their electronic devices in unrelated ways will be asked to leave the class.
- While class participation is welcome, even required, you are expected to refrain from private conversations during the class period.

Academic Honesty:

Students are expected to maintain high standards of academic honesty. Except for some in-class activities, all homework, assignments, quizzes, and exams are individual projects and working on these with others is not allowed. On quizzes and exams, students may not consult other students, books, notes, electronic devices or any other source. Failure to abide by this will result in a zero on the quiz or exam and may even failure in the course.

Attendance Policy:

Summer school is very intense and to be successful, students need to attend every class. Any absence may impact on the student's grade. Arriving late or leaving early will count as a partial absence.

Any day you are late or absent, please get class notes from one or more classmates. You are responsible for knowing the content of every class, including announcements and assignments—I cannot take responsibility for what you missed.

Aside from exam days, each class period will have points attached to it. To receive full points for a day, you must arrive on time with your homework completed and participate. Disruptive behavior could result in the loss of all points for the day. Using electronic devices without permission during class WILL result in the loss of all points for the day. *All electronic devices (phones, tablets, laptops, etc.) must be silenced and put away during class.*

Communication:

Let me know if something is not clear. Let me know if there is a reason you are missing class. Let me know if you need more help—we can schedule some office hours and/or have the TA work with you. I want you to succeed in learning the material. If something is not working for you, I am not able to do anything about it if I don't know about it.

Detailed Discussion of the Course Requirements:

Homework:

Music theory is a skills class and your success will be based on your cumulative knowledge of the material. You can help yourself succeed by practicing daily...cramming has proven to be an ineffective way to learn the material! To help you stay on track, there will be homework exercises assigned after each class session. Homework assignments will be checked each day. Grades for homework assignments will be based on completeness and effort. Late homework will not be accepted.

Learning Quizzes and Exams:

There will be four exams and eight learning quizzes during the semester. Each will consist of both the written material we have covered in class as well as questions requiring you to listen to aural examples. Please take note of all dates on your personal calendar.

IMPORTANT NOTE: No electronic devices may be used during quizzes and exams. Anyone found using a cell phone, translator, or other electronic device during an exam or quiz will receive an "F" for that quiz or exam.

Missed Quizzes or Exams:

In the event that you must miss a quiz or exam, please let me know as much in advance as possible. In the case of illness or emergency, you may be eligible to make-up one quiz or exam. Please see me upon your return to class and be prepared to provide written documentation. All make-ups will be given during the last week of class.

Composition Assignments:

The composition assignments allow you to apply your musical knowledge to actual music! These assignments will be completed on music notation software and will be submitted electronically. The composition assignments also help you develop the skills you will need to complete the course project.

Course Project:

In addition to exams, quizzes, and assignments, you will also complete a course project. For this project, you will create and present to the class an original work for voice, instrument, or some combination of these. There are three parts to the final project: a draft, the composition, and the class performance.

For all of these course requirements, we will use a lot of class time to prepare and complete things. This makes class attendance an important component to your success in this course.

Course Schedule:

Topics

Unit I—Basics of Music, Rhythm, Pitch

Basic elements of music
Rhythm, meter, and pulse
Simple meter and time signatures
Compound meter and time signatures
Treble and bass clefs
Staff notation
The keyboard
Whole and half steps
Enharmonic pitches
Ledger lines
Dots and ties, syncopation

Unit II—Major Scales, Key Signatures, Intervals

Interval pattern for major scales
Scale degrees
Circle of fifths
Key signatures
Order of sharps and flats
Intervals of the major scale

Unit III—Minor Scales, Key Signatures, Intervals

Minor key signatures
Relationships to major keys: Relative and parallel
Forms of the minor scale: Natural, harmonic, melodic
Intervals of the chromatic scale
SHMRG

Unit IV—Triads, Tonality and Harmonization

Triad construction: Major and minor
Primary triads
Triad inversions
Use of triads: Close and open position, textures
Roman numerals
Simple chord progressions
Augmented and diminished triads
Dominant seventh chord
Cadences
Harmonizing a melody
Musical form
Project presentations
Course evaluations

Important Dates

Quiz 1 May 28
Exam 1 May 30
Composition 1 May 31

Quiz 2 June 4
Quiz 3 June 5
Exam 2 June 6
Composition 2 June 7

Quiz 4 June 11
Quiz 5 June 12
Exam 3 June 13
Composition 3 June 14

Quiz 6 June 18
Composition 4 June 18
Quiz 7 June 20
Final Project Draft June 20
Quiz 8 June 24
Final Project June 25
Exam 4 June 26
Presentations June 27