

MHIS 110 - Elements of Music

Syllabus - Summer, 2006

Instructor: Dr. Bruce Hammel
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Office: TBA

Time: MTWRF 9:00am - 11:50am
Room: TBA
Office Hours: TBA

Text/Materials:

There is no required textbook for this course, but I will be glad to recommend a text should you wish to purchase one. All printed material necessary for class will be provided. *MacGamut* ear-training software is recommended, but not required. Additional resources for instruction and drill can be found at www.vcutheory.org. Students are required to provide staff paper (lots of staff paper) and PENCILS, to complete the assigned work for this class.

Course Objectives:

To master fundamentals of music theory and aural skills! The class is divided into three basic areas: written theory, aural skills, and keyboard skills. The specific competencies to be addressed are as follows:

Theory (1400 points)

1. Terms, Symbols, Notation
 - 1.1. Accurately identify or define terms, symbols, and musical concepts. A list of required terms will be distributed in class. (100)
 - 1.2. Correctly notate the following: Grand Staff, time signatures, key signatures, flats, sharps, all rhythmic values (including notes, rests, and beams), and ties. (100)
2. Clef reading:
 - 2.1. Identify 50 pitches (25 in treble clef, 25 in bass clef - up to 2 leger lines above and below) within 2 minutes with 90% accuracy. Key signatures up to 3 sharps and 3 flats. (100)
3. Scales/key signatures
 - 3.1. Correctly notate 10 major and minor scales (all three forms) with 90% accuracy. (100)
 - 3.2. Correctly identify 20 key signatures (major and relative minor) within three minutes with 90% accuracy. (100)
4. Intervals: Identify the quantity and quality of 20 intervals up to an octave within three minutes with 90% accuracy.
 - 4.1. Major 2 (M2) and (m2) only (100)
 - 4.2. Thirds only (100)
 - 4.3. 4ths and 5ths only (100)
 - 4.4. All intervals (100)
5. Triads:
 - 5.1. Correctly identify the quality of 20 major and minor triads within three minutes with 90% accuracy. (100)
 - 5.2. Identify the quality of 20 major, minor, and diminished triads within three minutes with 90% accuracy. (100)
 - 5.3. Build 20 major, minor, and diminished triads in root position within three minutes with 90% accuracy. (100)
6. Rhythm/meter
 - 6.1. Correctly indicate equivalent rhythmic durations, add bar lines to unmeasured examples, and provide correct note values to fulfill incomplete measures. (100)
 - 6.2. Identify simple and compound time signatures. Correctly beam duple and triple divisions in simple and compound time. Correctly provide most appropriate time signatures for a given rhythmic example. (100)

Aural Skills (1300 points)

1. Rhythm: Perform and conduct rhythms in 2/4, 3/4, 4/4, and 6/8 time. Duple divisions in simple time and triple divisions in compound time. Chapters 1-4 of "Time Management". (400)
2. Sight singing: Accurately sing melodic fragments using "moveable do" solfege. Mostly stepwise motion with some leaps within tonic triad. Chapters 1-4 "Sightsinging Workbook". (400)
3. Dictation: Identify major and minor scales, ascending major and perfect intervals, and major/minor/diminished/augmented triads. Notate short rhythmic and melodic patterns. 3 dictation assessments total. (300)
4. Rhythm compositions (100)
5. Melody compositions (100)

Keyboard (300 pts.)

1. Play major and minor pentachords and triads on all white keys. (100)
2. Play 1 octave major scales on C, D, E, G, and A. (100)
3. Play I-V7-I chord progressions in C, D, E, G, and A. (100)

Evaluation and Grading:

There is a total of 3000 points for the above competencies and assessments. Theory competencies are pass/fail, but you may take these up to four times until you are able to pass. Your final grade will be determined as follows:

- A: 2800 points or above
- B: 2500 - 2799 points
- C: 2100 - 2499 points
- D: 1900 - 2099 points
- F: Less than 1900 points

Absence:

You will be permitted three absences to use as you wish for this class. There are no "excused" absences - you have the three to use as needed. Each absence after three will result in 100 points being deducted from your point total (kind of like in Harry Potter).

Additional Information:

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 require Virginia Commonwealth University to provide an 'academic adjustment' and/or a 'reasonable accommodation' to any individual who advises us of a physical or mental disability. If you have a physical or mental limitation that requires an academic adjustment or an accommodation, please arrange a meeting with me at your earliest convenience. Additionally, if your course work requires you to work in a lab environment, you should advise the instructor or department chairperson of any concerns you may have regarding safety issues related to your limitation(s).

Please inform the instructor if there are any needs that you have prior to the first assignment's due date.