Virginia Commonwealth University  
Department of Music

Syllabus, Spring, 2007  
MHIS 146 - Music Theory and Aural Skills I

Instructor: Dr. Bruce Hammel  Email: bhammel@vcu.edu  
Room:   Ed Annex Room  Office Hours:  TBA and by appointment

Prerequisite: There are no prerequisites for this class.

Required Text:
- The Musician’s Guide Series:
  - Textbook
  - Aural Skills Book
  - Anthology + 3CDs
  - MacGamut Software

There are additional resources and information available on the www.vcutheory.org web site and other provided links to music theory sites.

Required material:
- The students are required to provide staff paper (lots of staff paper), pencils, erasers, and paper for notes.

Course Description and Objectives:
- This course is intended to create a foundation of knowledge and skill in musicianship as demonstrated in three areas of mastery: written theory (analysis and composition), aural skills, and keyboard skills. Growth and development in all three areas is essential in this class and in all remaining MHIS Music Theory and Aural Skills courses.

Course Expectations:
- We begin with the assumption that you have chosen to take this course because you are pursuing a career in music or have a deep interest in this subject. Music degree programs are among the most demanding you will find in higher education. You will be encouraged, therefore, to make good choices about how you spend your time in and out of the classroom. Assigned material, both written and otherwise, should be prepared outside of class thoroughly and ready for presentation in class at the specified time. The responsibility for your development as musicians is mostly in your own hands – we will provide you with plenty of information and opportunities to learn, but the more effort you put forth, the better you will become (and vice versa). It’s a competitive marketplace out there, and the hardest workers usually get the best gigs. We want our VCU students to be the ones getting those!

Absence:
- Attendance will be taken for each scheduled meeting time. You will be allowed four (4) absences during the semester. There will be no excused absences of any type so please be very prudent about your attendance. You may want to save up your days off for unexpected illness, post-party recovery, etc. If a student suffers a serious medical situation which results in an extended absence from school, an alternative plan will be reached on a case by case basis. Each absence over four will result in the lowering of your final grade by half a letter.
Evaluation and Grading:

Each assignment, exam, and evaluations will be assigned a percentage grade. The final grade for MHIS 146 will be determined by the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Performance &amp; ear-training</th>
<th>Written theory</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rhythm reading</td>
<td>15% Assigned Homework 10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sightsinging</td>
<td>15% Compositions 10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dictation exams</td>
<td>15% Theory exams 15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MacGamut levels</td>
<td>5% Final Exam 5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keyboard Skill Evaluations</td>
<td>10%</td>
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The determination of the letter grade will follow the University system of a 10% grade range reflected in the following:

100 – 90 = A
89 – 80 = B
79 – 70 = C
69 – 60 = D
59 and below = F

Additional Information:

Note:

Taken from the Student Conduct Handbook, that "Based on the assumption that the course grade should be a reflection of the student's mastery of the subject matter in the course, the faculty member may not penalize disruptive behavior by lowering the course grade, unless class conduct has been identified on the syllabus as a course requirement."

See above under “Absence” for how your grade is affected.

Student Professional Conduct Policy

The university has adopted rules and procedures to be followed whenever a member of the university community is charged with willful violation of certain standards. The School of the Arts, as an integral part of the university, is bound by these university rules. Action in relation to misconduct (by student or faculty member), which is covered by university policy is spelled out in the Resource Guide (http://www.students.vcu.edu/rg/policies/conductguide.html).

The School of the Arts demands a standard of behavior consistent with the expectations of professional practice. An incident may occur that appears to be a serious breach of professional ethics, although it is not covered within university standards. These behaviors include unethical, unprofessional or other behavior not consonant with the standards of the profession.

Disabilities Act of 1990

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.