MUSI 105.02: Music Theory I

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U 70153 MUSI 105 THEORY I SECTION 02 MWF 10:10-11:00 RM 105 2 CREDITS
Prof. Patrick C. Williams, MU106, ext. 4471, office hours by appointment.

Coreq., MUSI 140: Theory I is an introduction to the materials and structures of music as defined by and expressed in the Western European historical traditions from the Renaissance through the common practice period and the contemporary musical world in which we live.

The course is designed to guide students toward an understanding of the common elements and organizational patterns of music and their interaction, an ability to employ this understanding in verbal and visual analyses, and to aid in the development of aural skills.

Central to theoretical understanding is application of writing principles in two-, three-, and four-part composition, along with introductory experiences in piano. Chapter readings and text assignments (TAs) are due at the beginning of each week, or the date assigned for class. Make an effort to stay ahead in chapter assignments even if some topics require more class discussion than initially planned.

TEXT: MUSIC IN THEORY AND PRACTICE, vol. 1, Ed. 9, Benward and Saker

GRADING SYSTEM: All tests are graded with numbers, not letter grades. If a test is worth 50 points and one scores 45 points, the grade is 45/50 (90%), etc.; final grade is figured on a straight 10% system; if the total possible point count for the semester is 500: 500-450=A, 449-399=B, and so on (+ and – final grades may be entered).

➢ Keep a record of your scores AND use each returned test as a study guide.
➢ Participation in class is expected and noted for final grade consideration.
➢ Attendance will be taken regularly and will have an impact on the final grade.
➢ Don’t wait for the class; stay ahead in your reading and TA assignments.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE FOR FALL 2014

August  25: Hello, and who are we anyway?
         27: Introduction/discussion of course content and goals.
         29: Chapter 1  NOTATION - TAs: All

September 1: Labor Day (no classes, UM offices closed)
            3, 5: Chapter 1  continued
            8-12: Chapter 2  SCALES,TONALITY, KEY, MODES - TAs: All
            15-19: Chapter 2  continued
            22-29: Chapter 3  INTERVALS AND TRANSPOSITION - TAs: All

October  1, 3: Chapter 3  continued
          6-24: Introduction to SPECIES COUNTERPOINT (2- and 3-part)
                  “Field Guide” and TAs will be handed out in class. (see Chptr. 8)
27-31: 3-Part Species Counterpoint introduced (transition to tonality)

November

3-10: Chapter 4  CHORDS – TAs: All
11: Veterans’ Day (no classes, UM offices closed)
12-24: Chapters 4 & 5  CADENCES AND NONHARMONIC TONES – TAs: All (Chords continued)
27-30: Thanksgiving Break (no classes, UM offices closed)

December

1-5: Chapters 6 & 7  Melodic Organization; Texture and Textural Reduction – TAs: 6.1, 6.3, 7.1, 7.2
??: FINAL (semester comprehensive), 8:00-10:00 p.m., in room 105
(AP final is scheduled immediately following theory final.)

*IT IS NOT IN YOUR BEST INTEREST TO SCHEDULE EARLY DEPARTURE DURING FINALS WEEK.

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