Course Prefix and Number: MU 1003

Course Title: Fundamentals of Music Theory

Credit Hours: Three (3) semester hours

Type of Course: Lecture

Catalogue Description: Development of skills for music reading, writing, listening and analyzing. Topics will include pitch, rhythm, meter, scales, intervals, and basic harmony.

College of Education Conceptual Framework:

The faculty in the College of Education at Mississippi State University are committed to assuring the success of students and graduates by providing superior learning opportunities that are continually improved as society, schools, and technology change. The organizing theme for the conceptual framework for the College of Education at Mississippi State University is educational professionals - dedicated to continual improvement of all students’ educational experiences. The beliefs that guide program development are as follows:

1. **KNOWLEDGE** - Educational professionals must have a deep understanding of the organizing concepts, processes, and attitudes that comprise their chosen disciplinary knowledge base, the pedagogical knowledge base, and the pedagogical content knowledge base. They must also know how to complement these knowledge bases with the appropriate use of technology.

2. **COLLABORATION** - Educational professionals must continually seek opportunities to work together, learn from one another, forge partnerships, and assume positions of responsibility.

3. **REFLECTION** - Educational professionals must be willing to assess their own strengths and weaknesses through reflection. They must also possess the skills, behaviors, and attitudes necessary to learn, change, and grow as life-long learners.

4. **PRACTICE** - Educational professionals must have a rich repertoire of research-based strategies for instruction, assessment, and the use of technologies. They must be able to focus that array of skills on promoting authentic learning by all students or clients, while exhibiting an appreciation and commitment to the value and role of diversity.

Course Description:

The theory fundamentals class is given to help music majors to understand the principals of music theory. The class meets twice a week - an introduction to diatonic harmony and ear
training (sight singing and dictation).

Each class will be divided in half, using one half for theory and the other half for ear training, according to the instructor’s discretion and students’ need. 

CFPO #1, 3, 4, 6; InTASC #1, 6, 7; MENC #5, 6, 7, 8, 9; NASM #2b, 2c, 2d, 3b, 4d

Course Objectives:

1. The main purpose of a music theory class is to give the students a thorough understanding of the basic materials of music, such as:
   a. pitch and rhythmic notation;
   b. harmonic analysis using functional harmony and popular symbol;
   c. idea of phrase structure, sections and cadence;
   d. non-harmonic tones;
   e. three and four-voice part writing.

2. The purpose is on the exposition of theoretical procedures rather than on individual composers’ interpretations of these procedures. 
   CFPO #3; InTASC #4; MENC #5, 6; NASM #2a, 2b, 3c, 4d

Relationship to Other Courses:

Theory fundamentals class is not a prerequisite for other courses, and students who did not pass the audition exam are encouraged to take this class as a preparation for re-enrolling in Music Theory I. Other courses in the music curriculum, such as music history, piano classes, and studio lessons, are closely related to the subject. Students should not be simultaneously enrolled in this class and Music Theory I and Ear Training I. CFPO #3, 5; InTASC #4, 6, 7; MENC #7

Topics to be Covered:

Weeks 1 & 2: Unit One: THE BASICS (6 hours)
1a: The Staff-Stave(s), 1b: Clefs,
1c: Extending the Staff, 1d: The Great Staff, 1e: Notes, 1f: Rests, 1g: Meter Signatures 1h: Double Bars, 1i: The Anacrusis, 1j: Accidentals.
1k: Half Steps and Whole Steps - Chromatic or Diatonic, 1l: Enharmonic Equivalents 1m: Repeat Signs, 1n: Keyboard Octave Registers.

Weeks 3 & 4: Unit Two: RHYTHMIC AND MELODIC EXERCISES-EASY (3 hours)
2a: Rhythmic Exercises: Group 1, 2b: Rhythmic Exercises: Group 2, 2c: Rhythmic Exercises: Group 3, 2d: Melodic Exercises: Group 1, 2e: Melodic Exercises: Group 2, 2f: Melodic Exercises: Group 3.

Weeks 5 & 6: Unit Three: SCALES, KEYS, AND MODES (6 hours)
3a: Scales, 3b: Circle of Fifths-Major Keys, 3c: Overtones, 3d: Key Signatures,
3e: Tetrachords, 3f: Major Scales with Sharps, 3g: Major Scales with Flats,
3h: Circle of Fifths-Minor Keys, 3i: Minor Scales with Sharps, 3j: Minor Scales with Flats, 3k: Natural, Harmonic, and Melodic Minor, 3l: Relative Major and Minor, 3m: Parallel Major and Minor, 3n: The Chromatic Scale,
3o: The Church Modes, 3p: Other Scale Forms, 3q: Twelve-Tone Rows.

**Week 7:**
Unit Four: INTERVALS (3 hours)
- 4a: Constructing Intervals
- 4b: Perfect and Major Intervals
- 4c: Minor Intervals
- 4d: Diminished and Augmented Intervals
- 4e: Constructing Intervals—By Half Steps and Whole Steps
- 4f: Constructing Intervals Downward
- 4g: The Tritone
- 4h: Simple and Compound Intervals
- 4i: Hearing and Singing Intervals

Worksheets, Review.

**Week 8:**
Unit Five: RHYTHMIC AND MELODIC EXERCISES-INTERMEDIATE (3 hours)
- 5a: Rhythmic Exercises
- 5b: Solfeggio with Major Keys
- 5c: Melodic Exercises
- 5d: Solfeggio with Minor Keys

**Weeks 10 & 11:** REVIEW (3 hours)

**Weeks 12 & 13:** Unit Six: CHORDS (6 hours)
- 6a: Triads
- 6b: Chord Names and Symbols
- 6c: Primary Triads
- 6d: Root-Position Triad Table
- 6e: Root-Position and Inversion
- 6f: Seventh Chords
- 6g: Commercial Chord Symbols

Worksheets,

**Weeks 14 & 15:** REVIEW (6 hours)
Final Exam

*Schedule and dates are subject to change according to the pace of the class and the students’ need. All dates and material will be given at least a week prior to exams.*

**Texts:**
ISBN: 0495095745
Staff paper, notebook, pencil, and eraser.

**Methods of Instruction:**
The instructor will include lectures, inquiries, research and creative projects, assigned homework and class work.

**Suggested Student Activities:**
The class emphasis is learning by doing, with each topic presented at least within a week prior to the exam. Students will be asked to participate in different activities in class, take-home assignments and projects, with a series of exercises from the texts and/or handouts, such as:

1. Pitch and rhythmic notation by using music scores or excerpts, in class enquiries and activities and homework assignments. Students will be asked to perform pitch, melodies and/or rhythms individually by also applying multi-tasking skills: singing in rhythm and conducting with correct patterns (Course objective #1)
2. Harmonic analysis using functional harmony and popular symbol through aural and/or written analysis; (Course objective #2)
3. Idea of phrase structure, sections and cadence by using entire music scores or excerpts from different periods, composers and countries; (Course objective #3)
4. Non-harmonic tones recognition by harmonic and melodic analysis; (Course objective #4)
5. Three and four-voice part writing by application of theoretical rules. (Course objective #5)

“As a Mississippi State University student I will conduct myself with honor and integrity at all times. I will not lie, cheat, or steal, nor will I accept the actions of those who do.”

The Mississippi State Honor Code can be found at [http://www.honorcode.msstate.edu/](http://www.honorcode.msstate.edu/)

Students who are caught cheating will receive a grade of zero for the assignment, homework, and/or exam. (Students who give OR receive answers will be given a grade of zero.)

Technology:

According to [ISTE National Educational Technology Standards (NETS):](http://www.netsteachers.org/)

“**Standard I.** Teachers demonstrate a sound understanding of technology operations and concepts

**Standard II.** Teachers plan and design effective learning environments and experiences supported by technology.

**Standard III.** Teachers implement curriculum plans that include methods and strategies for applying technology to maximize student learning.

**Standard IV.** Teachers apply technology to facilitate a variety of effective assessment and evaluation strategies.

**Standard V.** Teachers use technology to enhance their productivity and professional practice.

**Standard VI.** Teachers understand the social, ethical, legal, and human issues surrounding the use of technology in PK-12 schools and apply those principles in Practice.”

*With the six standards in mind this course will use Finale applied on assignments such as: harmonization, three and four-voice part writing, and general music writing.*

**CFPO # 3, 5, 6, 10; InTASC #1, 4, 6; MENC #4; NASM # 1, 3a, 5a, 5c**

Diversity:

This class is designed with an opportunity for the instructor to acquire and apply the knowledge, skills, and dispositions necessary to help all students learn. To achieve the final goal the instructor will offer a variety of extra materials as well as different approaches to the subject by using music scores from different periods, countries and genre.

**CFPO # 7; InTASC #1, 3, 6, 8; MENC #5, 8, 9; NASM # 2c**

Disability:

In compliance with the Americans with Disability Act section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, any student, who, because of a disabling condition, may require some special arrangements in order to meet course requirements, should contact Accessibility Services (Phone: 325-3335) as
soon as possible. It is the student’s responsibility to voluntarily and confidentially provide appropriate documentation regarding the nature and extent of a disability.

Field Component:

This course will not have a field component.

Evaluation of Student Progress:

80% - There will be four exams during the semester, each one representing 20% of your final grade. It is imperative that each student is present for each exam, and no make-up exams are allowed, even with a doctor’s excuse.

- Failure to take a scheduled exam due to an unexcused absence will result in a score of 0 for that exam.
- In the event of unexcused absence at the administration of an exam, the equivalent grade earned on the final exam will replace the missing exam grade (0) after the final exam has been graded at the end of the semester.
- Unexcused absence at the final exam will earn a 0 for that exam, and an “Incomplete” will not be awarded.

20% - Homework, small assignments, and pop quizzes: they will be averaged and will count as 20% of the final grade. It is very important to turn in homework and assignments on time; late ones will not be accepted being considered as zero. The student will have until 5:00 PM to return their homework or assignments to be graded and they can be placed in the instructor’s mailbox, or on/under her office door.

A grade of “C” is required by the MSU Music Department for Music Theory Area courses to count toward a music degree, and a grade of “C” is required for progress to the next course in each sequence. Students who earn grades lower than “C” are welcome to re-attempt the corresponding course at its next regularly scheduled offering.

The Music Theory Area observes the MSU policy regarding academic achievement for potential student teachers. According to the Bulletin of Mississippi State University:

“To be eligible for student teaching, the student must have completed a minimum of 18 semester credit hours in the major subject with a minimum of a 2.50 G.P.A. or higher at the time of application. Final eligibility (2.50 G.P.A.) is determined through screening at the end of the semester prior to student teaching. The student must also have completed all professional education and methods courses with a minimum grade of “C” prior to student teaching.”

Students are encouraged to request an appointment with their professor to discuss their current achievement in their classes. Grades are recorded in a timely manner and available for review within MSU’s myCourses system. CFPO #1, 3, 6, 7, 10; InTASC #1, 4, 7; MENC #1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7; NASM #1, 2a, 2b, 2c, 2d, 3a, 3b, 3c, 3f, 3g, 4a, 4b, 4d, 5a, 5d, 5e

Final Grade Percentage: Exam 1 and 2 = 80%
Assignments, homework, pop quizzes, etc. = 20%

Grades: A = 100.00 - 90.00
Exams’ Material:

Exams will cover the material from classes, books, handouts, homework, and assignments. There will be no make-up exams (see under Grading). All exams are comprehensive and will cover any material given in class including the ones in the handouts.

The class prior to the exam will be a review session with extra material and discussion groups as necessary. The students will receive their exam corrected and graded on the class following the exam at which time the instructor will go through the exam, answering any questions regarding specific exam items, students’ grades, or the method of evaluation.

Class participation/attendance:

Presence is imperative and absences are not allowed. In order to acquire the discipline, knowledge, and skills necessary for success in the music profession, students are expected to attend all scheduled Music Theory class sessions. Here are the essential components of the MSU Music Theory Area Attendance Policy:

1. Attendance will be taken during the first five minutes of class. Any class member not present during that time will be considered absent. The classroom door will be closed after attendance is taken, and students will not be allowed to enter or interrupt the class after it has started. Tardiness is understood to be disruptive and disrespectful.
2. Cell phones are not allowed at any time inside a classroom. In order to limit classroom disruptions, as well as to protect against academic misconduct, the use by students of cell phones, messaging devices and other electronic devices is prohibited in the classroom unless authorized by the instructor. See the following web page: http://www.msstate.edu/dept/audit/PDF/1008.pdf
3. Absence due to illness, extreme circumstances, or official university academic or musical activities may be excused upon the presentation and acceptance of appropriate documentation, which may include letters of explanation from professional medical personnel (i.e., a doctor or a nurse), law enforcement officials, and university professors.
4. Student or parent phone calls or e-mails are not acceptable for absence documentation.
5. Absences for other reasons, such as duties of a part-time job, fraternity/sorority activities, studying for a test in another class, oversleeping, a family vacation, possession of a plane ticket, etc., will be considered unexcused.
6. Students who accumulate more than three (3) unexcused absences should expect that their final course grade will be lowered by one grade level.
7. Each student should participate in class and purchase his/her own books, pencils, erasers, and other required materials. If the student forgets his/her books, he/she will be excused once and counted “absent” for the second offence.
8. Music majors and non-music will be treated equally. Students are encouraged to ask questions in class when subject clarification is needed.
9. Students who attempt to consistently disrupt the pace of the class with questions will be encouraged to seek personal assistance during office hours.
All students will be treated equally, even the non-major students who are aware of the class difficulty and pace.

**Bibliography:**


