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**Master Syllabus**

**Course: MUS 107, Fundamentals of Theory**

**Cluster Requirement: Cluster 3 B, Visual and Performing Arts**

This University Studies Master Syllabus serves as a guide and standard for all instructors teaching an approved in the University Studies program. Individual instructors have full academic freedom in teaching their courses, but as a condition of course approval, agree to focus on the outcomes listed below, to cover the identified material, to use these or comparable assignments as part of the course work, and to make available the agreed-upon artifacts for assessment of learning outcomes.

**Course Overview:**

Fundamentals of Theory is a music course for beginners with no theory background. The study of the elements of music, systems of sounds, pitch, meter, rhythm, note values, dynamics, manuscript, etc. Identification, nomenclature, and performance will be carried out through a programmed text, lecture and practical application through singing and playing. This is a foundation course in theory and composition.

**Learning Outcomes:**

Students will develop a working knowledge of the basic elements and components of music including: **Rhythm, Melody, Harmony, Timbre, Texture, and Form**. The ability to identify, apply, and discuss each of these concepts is the goal. Our objective is to comprehend music at a deeper level, which contributes to your ability to make music, discuss and apply musical concepts in other aspects of your life and work, and appreciate it more when you listen to it.

**University Studies Learning Outcomes:**

After completing this course, students will be able to:

1. Articulate the cultural context, history and formal and conceptual aspects of the art form studied.

2. Interpret and create informed responses (via writing, presentation, performance or artifact) to the art form studied through the analysis of the form, content, context and methods of production using appropriate disciplinary terminology.

3. Explain the ways in which the art form expresses the values that humans attach to their experiences.

**Examples of Texts and/or Assigned Readings:**

Duckworth, W. A Creative Approach to Music Fundamentals. Schirmer Cengage Learning

Assigned readings listed in the Sample Course Outline

**Example Assignments:**

* Text reading and listening assignments presenting various music theory concepts and their application in various contexts
* Homework assignments
* Chapter quizzes

The students are assessed on the level of completion of the above assignments and their adherence to the learning outcomes.

Students utilize workbook assignments in "A Creative Approach to Music Fundamentals" by William Duckworth, (Schirmer Cengage Learning 2009 1st Edition) to drill basic music theory skills. A chapter quiz is given after each unit to evaluate student progress and understanding. Students also have access to an online website which supports each lesson presented in the book with practice drills and audio examples. Classroom exercises, lectures and assignments give students an understanding of basic music theory and how it connects to traditional Western European Classical music, jazz, world music and the contemporary music of today.

**Sample Assignments and Test Questions:**

1. Determine whether the following songs are in duple, triple or quadruple meter. How do these meters help convey the musical expression of the piece?

 *Don't Back Down* - Eminem *Could I Have This Dance?* - Anne Murray

 *Fly Me To The Moon* - Frank Sinatra *The Stars And Stripes Forever*- John Philip Sousa

 *Limao* - Djavan  *Evening Prayer* - Englebert Humperdinck

2. Find specific songs that begin with following intervals: an octave, a perfect fourth, a perfect fifth.

3. The diatonic scale is comprised of a specific intervallic pattern which gives Western European Music its unique, recognizable sound. What is this pattern? What is the name of the scale discussed in class which gives R&B its unique musical characteristics? Do the contrasting intervallic patterns of each scale elicit a different emotional response from you as a listener?

4. Define the difference between simple and compound meter. Give song examples from our American musical history which utilize each of these. Use several adjectives to describe the difference in how you subjectively experience each time feel.

**Assessment**

Each answer is worth 5 points.

**0 credit -** Student is unable to answer the question.

**1 point -** Student has a minimal understanding of the theory being addressed and is unable to apply this information to any musical context.

**2 points -** Student's response is partially correct but there is an inability to apply the theoretical concepts to any musical context.

**3 points -** Student demonstrates a clear understanding of the theory involved but cannot apply it to a musical composition.

**4 points -** Student demonstrates a clear understanding of the theory involved and can partially apply it to a musical context.

**5 points -** Student understands the fundamental theory behind the questions, answers all facets of the question correctly and is able to apply this theory in a musical context.

**The above sample assignment aligns with University Learning Outcomes 1, 2 and 3.**

**Sample Assignments for Fundamentals of Theory MUS 107, continued:**

Experiential in-class exercises: Students will clap basic rhythms in both simple and compound meters (Duple, Triple, and Quadruple meters); Ear Training: Identify meters by ear. Assessment: A-F, based on standard 100 point scale.



**Sample Assignments for Fundamentals of Theory MUS 107, continued:**

Ear Training: Spatial Relationships (Pitches: Higher/Lower): Assessment: Grades (A - F), standard 100 point scale.



**Sample Assignments for Fundamentals of Theory MUS 107, continued:**

Ear Training: Tonal Relationships (Listen to basic melodies from a variety of different sources, and identify by ear and singing the tonic pitch of the scale or mode.): Assessment: Grades (A - F), standard 100 point scale.



**Sample Assignments for Fundamentals of Theory MUS 107, continued:**

Sample score analysis: Analyze Score passages to identify pitch, intervals, and harmony. Leading to evaluation of harmonic function. Assessment: Grades A-F, standard 100 point scale.



**Alignment with University Studies Outcomes:**

**The above sample assignments align with University Learning Outcomes 1 and 2.**

Music Theory Quiz (Assessment: Standard 100 point scale)







**Chapter Quizzes: Alignment with University Studies Outcomes:**

The chapter quizzes require the students to demonstrate their understanding of musical rhythm, melody, harmony, timbre, texture and form, while applying musical terminology appropriate to the various approaches to music theory and musical composition. Quiz assignments of this nature align with University Studies Learning Outcome number 2.

**Sample Course Outline:**

Wed. 9/07 Orientation

Fri. 9/09 Elements of Music

Mon. 9/12 **Chapter 1** - Rhythm: Pulse, Meter, Basic Notation Skills

*Homework: P.6 & P.9 Practicing notation*

Wed. 9/14 Note Values & The Rhythm Tree

*Homework: P.8, P.13 & P.21 Counting Rhythms*

Fri. 9/16 Pitch: The Staff, Clefs, Pitch Location

*Homework: P.10, P.12, P.13 Practicing Notation*

*Practice Materials 1-1, 1-2, 1-3, 1-4, 1-5*

Mon. 9/19 The Keyboard, Intervals & Accidentals

*Homework: Practice Materials 1-6, 1-7, 1-8, 1-9, 1-10*

Wed. 9/21 **Chapter 2 -** Simple Meter: Dotted Notes, Time Signatures

*Study for Quiz on Chap. 1- Review Drills on p.47, P.48, #8 on P.49, P. 50*

Fri. 9/23 **Quiz - Chap. 1** 9/26 **Chapter 2 (con't.) -** Simple Meter: Division of Pulse & Counting

*Homework: Practice Materials 2-1, 2-2, 2-3, 2-4*

Wed. 9/28 Conducting Simple Meters & Beams

*Homework: Appendix P. 301*

*Practice Materials 2-5*

Fri. 9/30 **Chapter 3 -** Compound Meter: Division of Pulse

*Homework: Practice Materials 3-1*

*Study for Quiz on Chapter 2 - Review Drills on p.49 #6 & 7*

Mon. 10/03 **Quiz - Chap. 2**

Wed. 10/05 **Chapter 3 (con't.)** - Compound Meter: Counting & Beaming

*Homework: Practice Materials 3-2, 3-3, 3-4, 3-5*

Fri. 10/07 Ties, Syncopation, Repeat Signs, Duplets & Triplets

*Homework: P.302 & 303*

***Mon. 10/10 Columbus Day No Class***

Tues. 10/11 Chapter 3 review

*Study for Quiz on Chapter 3 - Review Drills p.91& p.92#3*

**Sample Course Outline, continued:**

Wed. 10/12 **Quiz -Chap. 3**

Fri. 10/14 **Chapter 4 -** Pitch: Enharmonics, Ledger Lines

*Homework: Practice Materials 4-1, 4-2, 4-3*

Mon. 10/17 Octave Sign, Octave Identification

**Sample Course Outline, continued:**

*Homework: Practice Materials 4-4, 4-5, 4-6, 4-7*

Wed. 10/19 Stems, Dynamics, Form

*Study for Quiz on Chapter 4- Review Drills P. 92 & 93*

Fri. 10/21 **Quiz - Chap. 4**

Mon. 10/24 **Chapter 5 -** Major Scales: Chromatic scale, Major scale

*Homework: Practice Materials 5-1, 5-2*

Wed. 10/26 Tetrachords, Scale Degrees

*Homework: Practice Materials 5-3, 5-4, 5-5, 5-6, 5-7*

Fri. 10/28 Review Chapter 5 - **Chapter 6** Major Key Signatures

*Study for Quiz on Chapter 5 - Review Drills P.155& 156 through #4*

Mon. 10/31 **Quiz - Chap. 5**

Wed. 11/02 **Chapter 6 (con't.)** Sharp keys, Flat Keys, Circle of 5ths

*Homework: Practice Materials 6-1, 6-2, 6-3, 6-4, 6-5*

Fri. 11/04 Review Chapter 6

*Study for Quiz on Chapter 6 -Review Drill p.156 #5*

Mon. 11/07 **Quiz - Chap. 6**

Wed. 11/09 **Chapter 7** Intervals: Size & Quality

*Homework: Practice Materials 7-1, 7-2, 7-3, 7-4*

***Fri. 11/11 Veterans Day No Class***

Mon. 11/14 Perfect Intervals

*Homework: Practice Materials 7-5, 7-6, 7-7*

Wed. 11/16 Major/Minor Intervals

*Homework: Practice Materials 7-8, 7-9, 7-10, 7-11*

Fri. 11/18 Compound Intervals, Harmonic Inversions

*Homework: Practice Materials 7-12, 7-13, 7-14*

Mon. 11/21 Review Chapter 7

*Study for Quiz on Chapter 7- Review Drill P.157*

**Sample Course Outline, continued:**

Mon. 11/28 **Chapter 8 -** Minor Key Signatures: Related keys

*Homework: Practice Materials 8-1, 8-2, 8-3, 8-4, 8-5*

Wed. 11/30 Parallel minor keys, Circle of 5ths

*Homework: Practice Material 8-6*

*Study for Quiz on Chapter 8- Review Drills P. 217 # 5 & 6*

Fri. 12/02 **Quiz - Chap. 8**

Mon. 12/05 **Chapter 9** Minor Scales: Natural Minor

*Homework: Practice Materials 9-1, 9-2, 9-3, 9-4, 9-5*

Wed. 12/07 Harmonic Minor, Melodic Minor

*Homework: Practice Materials 9-6 through 9-15*

Fri. 12/09 **Quiz - Chap. 9**

Mon. 12/12 **Chapter 11** Triads: Major & Minor, Open & Close

*Homework: Practice Materials 11-1, 11-2, 11-3, 11-4*

Wed. 12/14 **Quiz - Chap. 11**