Course Syllabus
University of Utah School of Music

Elements of Music Theory
MUSC 1100-90 (3 credit hours)

There are no pre- or co-requisites for this course.

Instructor: Cathryn Clayton, D.M.A.
Email: Through Canvas Inbox (preferred) or c.clayton@utah.edu
Office: DGH 158
Office Hours: via email or by phone
Phone: 801-699-3446

Note: This course is designed to clarify basic elements of music theory for undergraduate students who are seeking a degree or potentially seeking a degree in music.

Course Meeting Times: This is an online course. Students will be expected to spend approximately 9-12 hours each week working on the interactive CD ROM and emailing the professor with any additional questions. Class discussion postings where students can interact and get help from one another on difficult topics are encouraged. The two exams will be given at a testing center. Students will need to register with UOnline to set up an exam appointment at a testing center nearest them.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Designed for undergraduate non-music majors, Introduction to Music Theory will examine the language of Western music (music theory). Students will explore and gain an understanding of musical elements including pitch, dynamics, rhythm, mode, texture, and
tempo. In addition, students gain an understanding of melodies, phrases, and harmonies by learning to write scales, key signatures, and chords. Further, students will use their creativity to write melodies in specific modes and harmonize melodies with their knowledge of chords.

CONTENT OVERVIEW: Introduction to Music Theory is a course designed to create an increased understanding and knowledge of the basic components that are used to compose music in the Western world. This course allows students the opportunity to not only increase their understanding of music theory, but apply it in creative projects that allow them to compose melodies and harmonies of their own. Finally, this course provides the students with an understanding of the language of music and the complexities that are found within the music they hear.

TEACHING AND LEARNING METHODS: Active learning is employed through the vehicles of the interactive CD ROM, Interactive Practice Drills, Quizzes, Discussion Postings, and Exams. In addition, students are encouraged to frequently email the professor throughout the semester with questions and observations about the course material. Discussion postings to the class regarding topics throughout the semester are encouraged.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: Highlighted below are the course objectives and the assignments that have been devised to help you achieve these objectives. Each assignment will also enhance your ability to think critically.

1A) Objective 1: You will be able to identify and understand the language and the key components that make up the music that you hear every day, including pitch, dynamics, rhythm, and tempo.

1B) Assignment designed to achieve Objective 1: .You will study the first two chapters of the CD ROM associated with this course, complete interactive practice drills, and quizzes that test your knowledge of this
material. The interactive practice drills and the quizzes in this course will ground you in the critical thinking utilized in music theory and composition. These chapters include discussions of staff notation (pitch), note and rest values (rhythm), meter signatures (rhythm), tempo, and dynamics. As the world-renowned pianist, Murray Perahia, said in a Master class on the campus of the University of Utah in October, 2007, “J.S. Bach making a discovery in music theory and composition was no different that Albert Einstein making a discovery in the realm of Physics.”

2A) Objective 2: You will be able to identify and write the key signatures and scales most often employed in Western music: major, minor, modal, pentatonic, octatonic, whole-tone, 12-tone, and chromatic.

2B) Assignment designed to achieve 2: You will study the third and fourth chapters of the CD ROM associated with this course and complete interactive practice drills and quizzes that test your knowledge of this material. These chapters discuss major, minor, modal, pentatonic, octatonic, and chromatic scales and how to create melodies in these scales.

3A) Objective 3: You will understand the intervals that make up the harmonies of Western Music.

3B) Assignment designed to achieve Objective 3: You will study the fifth and sixth chapters of the CD ROM associated with this course and complete interactive practice drills and quizzes that test your knowledge of this material. These chapters discuss intervals of the unison, second, third, fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh, and octave.

4A. Objective 4: You will be able to identify and compose chords (triads and seventh chords) that are used in Western music. Furthermore, you
will learn the practice of harmonic analysis using Roman Numerals.

4B. Assignment designed to achieve Objective 4: You will study chapters seven through twelve of the CD ROM associated with this course and complete interactive practice drills and quizzes that test your knowledge of this material. These chapters discuss triads and their inversions, seventh chords and their inversions, how to harmonize a melody with chords, and harmonic analysis using Roman numerals.

**Required Course Materials:**

**Introduction to Music Theory** by Vicki Curry. (This is an interactive CD ROM.)

This can be purchased at www.campusstore.utah.edu. Go to *textbooks*, then *students*, and then choose the *Music department*. This can also be purchased in person at the *textbooks desk* in the Main Campus Bookstore. (It is not kept on the shelf.)

**Finale Notepad Download** (There is a free 2012 or 2013 version) Needed to complete assignments. Download at

http://www.finalemusic.com/notepad/default.aspx

*You do not need an expensive version of this software. If you have trouble finding the free version, please email the professor.

**If you have the most updated version of Mac, you may need to use MuseScore instead of Finale Notepad.**

**Grading:**

Requirements will be weighted as follows:

Course participation/discussion postings 9 points

Creative Projects 80 points
Written Assignments 33 points
Pre-test quizzes 50 points
Midterm Exam 100 points
Final Exam 100 points

Total % out of 392

Grading Scale:
A 93-100 %  A- 90-92 %  B+ 87-89 %  B 83-86 %
B- 80-82 %  C+ 77-79 %  C 73-76 %  C- 70-72 %
D+ 67-69 %  D 63-66 %  D- 60-62 %  E< 60 %

CALENDAR:

(FOR QUIZ and ASSIGNMENT DUE DATES – PLEASE SEE CANVAS)
Scroll to the bottom of this page in Canvas for precise due dates.

Below is a rough outline of the weeks in which you will want to complete the lessons on the CD ROM so that you do not get behind in the course. The due dates are often on the Monday following these weeks. If you find that you are getting behind or not understanding the material, please email the professor or TA and let us work with you to better understand as you are going along. It is very difficult for us to teach you the entire semester’s material in the few days before an exam.

NOTE* As you are reading the sections, please email or call me with questions. You may always work ahead. For exact due dates, please scroll to the bottom of this page in Canvas.

Week 1: Classes Begin: Pick up CD Rom from Bookstore. Post a discussion message and tell me about yourself…what is your major, why do you want to take this class, etc. (Please use the Canvas Inbox email
link). Please read the syllabus and go over the tools on the CD ROM and Canvas. Begin reading lesson 1 and do practice drills. Please post an introduction of yourself to the class. (3 pts.)

Week 2: Complete Written Assignment 1.1. Grade Written Assignment 1.1 (The assignment and key are on the CD ROM) You will need to print the written assignment and fill it out, then self-grade it using the key provided on the CD ROM. You will not turn this in, but will post a message in Canvas letting me know that you completed the assignment and asking any questions that you might have about the material in this lesson. Take the Lesson 1 Quiz on Canvas.

Week 3: Read through lesson 2. Do practice drills for lesson 2. Complete written assignment 2.1 and grade it. Make sure you understand this information. Take the Lesson 2 Quiz on Canvas.


Week 5: Read through lesson 4. Do practice drills for lesson 4. Complete written assignment 4.1 and grade it. Submit Preliminary Project. Take the Lesson 4 Quiz on Canvas

Week 6: Read through lesson 5. Do practice drills for lesson 5. Complete written assignment 5.1 and grade it. Take Lesson 5 Quiz on Canvas. Submit project A.

Week 7: Read through lesson 6. Do practice drills for lesson 6. Complete written assignment 6.1 and grade it. Submit project B. Take Lesson 6 Quiz in Canvas.

Week 8: Review Material in Lessons 1-6. Make sure you have practiced all practice drills. Take Sample Midterm Exam on the CD ROM. This will most closely resemble the midterm exam. The exam is a paper exam (not multiple choice). You will need to bring a pencil and ID to the testing center. There will be a copy of a keyboard provided for you during the exam for scratch paper. Post a response to discussion 1.
By March 6 Take Midterm Exam in Testing Center near you. (Be sure that you have registered for the midterm exam by clicking “Schedule Exams” on the Canvas Homepage.

Week 9: Read lesson 7 and do practice drills. Take lesson 7.1 written assignment and grade it. Take Lesson 7 Quiz in Canvas.

Spring Break

Week 10: Read lesson 8 and do practice drills. Take lesson 8.1 written assignment and grade it. Take Lesson 8 Quiz in Canvas.

Week 11: Read lesson 9 and do practice drills. Take lesson 9.1 written assignment and grade it. Submit project C. Take Lesson 9 Quiz on Canvas.

Week 12: Read lesson 10 and do practice drills. Take lesson 10.1 written assignment and grade it. Take Lesson 10 Quiz on Canvas.

Week 13: Read lesson 11 and do practice drills: Complete written assignment 11.1 written assignment and grade it. Take pre-final exam quiz on the CD ROM.

Week 14: Read lesson 12 Dominant 7th chords and their use in Roman Numeral Analysis and Harmonization and do practice drills: 7th Chords Complete written assignment 12.1 written assignment and grade it. Take Lesson 12 Quiz on Canvas.

Week 15: Review material for Final Exam. Make sure you have done all practice drills. Take Sample Final Exam on the CD ROM. This exam will be in the same format as the midterm exam. Help your classmates and post a response to "Discussion 2".

Week 16: May 3 Last date to take Final Exam.

Be sure that you have registered for the exam through by clicking
“Schedule Exams” on the homepage in Canvas.

Email: Please check your Canvas Inbox email frequently as I will often send you reminders of when assignments are due. I will communicate with students in the class via email. I will check my email at least once every day, except on weekends. Please don’t hesitate to email me with any questions that you might have. I have listed my phone number as well. If you have a question, and you need an immediate response, don’t hesitate to call me.

ADA Statement

“The University of Utah seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services and activities for people with disabilities. If you will need accommodations in the class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the Center for Disability Services, 162 Union Building, 581-5020 (V/TDD). CDS will work with you and the instructor to make arrangements for accommodations.”
(www.hr.utah.edu/oeo/ada/guide/faculty/).

Faculty and Student Rights and Responsibilities

All students are expected to maintain professional behavior in the classroom setting, according to the Student Code, spelled out in the Student Handbook. Students have specific rights in the classroom as detailed in Article III of the Code. The Code also specifies proscribed conduct (Article XI) that involves cheating on tests, plagiarism, and/or collusion, as well as fraud, theft, etc. Students should read the Code carefully and know they are responsible for the content. According to Faculty Rules and Regulations, it is the faculty responsibility to enforce responsible classroom behaviors, and I will do so, beginning with verbal warnings and progressing to dismissal from class and a failing grade. Students have the right to appeal such action to the Student Behavior Committee.

Accommodations Policy
Some of the writings, lectures, films, or presentations in this course may include material that conflicts with the core beliefs of some students. Please review the syllabus carefully to see if the course is one that you are committed to taking. If you have a concern, please discuss it with me at your earliest convenience.

Non-Contract Note

“Note: The syllabus is not a binding legal contract. It may be modified by the instructor when the student is given reasonable notice of the modification.”