

COLLEGE OF ARTS

SCHOOL OF FINE ART AND MUSIC

 Fall 2021

MUSC\*1160

Theory and Musicianship I

INSTRUCTOR: Marta McCarthy

HOURS: Mondays 1:00 – 2:20 p.m. + Lab (see below)

LOCATION: Alexander Hall 218

OFFICE: Johnston Hall 224

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OFFICE HOURS: TBA

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION:

This course offers an integrated study of music theory and musicianship skills, delivered in lecture-lab format, with the goal of building a practical skill set and knowledge base that is relevant across genres and traditions (such as jazz, pop, rock, Western art music, and world music). Students are introduced to the critical and performative study of music theory, analysis, and ear training with a focus on melody, harmony, linear counterpoint and rhythmic organization. A solid grounding in rudiments is required for this course and will be assessed upon registration.

Restriction(s): This is a Priority Access Course. Some restrictions may apply during some time periods.

Department(s): School of Fine Art and Music

SCHEDULING of LAB:

In addition to the lecture held Mondays 1:00-2:20pm in Alexander Hall 218, students are required to register for ONE of the three MUSC\*1160 in-person labs offered at the following times:

*Wednesday 3:00-4:20pm MacKinnon 020*

*Thursday 2:00-3:20pm MacKinnon 020*

*Friday 10:00-11.20am MacKinnon 020*

LEARNING OUTCOMES

The successful completion of this course will enable the student to:

1. Demonstrate a well-rounded understanding of music rudiments and their application in a variety of musical contexts through performance, composition, and analysis.
2. Apply critical thinking skills to music theory and demonstrate the ability to problematize key concepts across a wide range of genres and contexts.
3. Write and perform melodic and contrapuntal lines consistent with the idioms of various musical traditions (including pop, jazz, and the Western European art music tradition).
4. Exhibit an understanding of rhythmic structures and patterns through performance and notation.
5. Demonstrate foundational musicianship skills, including sight-singing, dictation, conducting, keyboard, and improvisation skills in practical application.

REQUIRED TEXTS/RESOURCES:

1. Holm-Hudson, Kevin. Music Theory Remixed: *A Blended Approach for the Practicing Musician*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2017.
2. Ear Master (Ear Training App)
3. Handouts and Assignments on CourseLink

METHODS OF ASSESSMENT:

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| Class Engagement | 10% |
| Assignments (4) | 20% |
| Quizzes (Best 3 of 4) | 15% |
| Midterm Skills Test | 15% |
| Final Materials Exam (Written) | 15% |
| Final Musicianship Skills Test (Individual) | 25% |

ASSIGNMENT DETAILS:

**Class Engagement (10%)**

Students participate in music analytic discussions and skills-based activities. Musicianship skills are built through regular practice. Students will reinforce skills and concepts learned in class – and reviewed in the lecture/lab through the completion of regular practical and written homework.

**Ear Training Quizzes (15%)**

Students will complete four – of which the best 3 will count - short ear training quizzes (in weeks 4, 6, 8, 11) that will test their ability to hear and notate intervals, melodies, cadences, and rhythmic patterns. Each quiz is worth 5% of the final grade.

**Assignments (20%)**

There will be four assignments given throughout the semester to give the student the opportunity to demonstrate their integration of “theory” and “musicianship skills”, through composition of melodies and bass lines, writing of counterpoint, score/recording analysis, and listening exercises. Creative applications of class materials will also be emphasized. Each assignment is worth 5% of your final grade. Assignments will employ Western music notation, but also offer means to represent your understanding in other forms of representation.

**Midterm Skills Test (15%)**

Students will demonstrate their ability to sing and play intervals, major and minor scales, and short melodies as rehearsed and by sight. Students will perform basic conducting patterns and recite rhythms, as rehearsed and by sight.

**Final Exam: There are two forms of summative testing:**

1. **Final Materials (notated) Exam – (15%)**
2. **Final Musicianship (Individual Skills) test (25%)**

The final exam will be divided into two parts: an Individual Skills test (25%) and a written final exam (15%). In the final skills test, students will demonstrate their ability to sing and play intervals, scales, and melodies by sight, along with conducting and reciting rhythmic passages. In the written exam, students will demonstrate their knowledge by writing contrapuntal lines, analyzing short musical passages, and notating melodies and rhythms (dictation).