



Course Title: Basic Music Theory  
Fall 2020

Instructor: Mr. Kameron Kavanaugh, M.M.  
Room: Choir  
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Office Hours: 7:30-7:50am, A1, B1, 2:30-3pm, or by appointment

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### **Course Description**

The primary goal of this course is to teach fundamental principles regarding music theory and ear training. During this course students can expect to work on hearing, singing, writing, analyzing scores, and understanding aspects of melody, harmony, and rhythm, as well as common musical vocabulary. The course requires personal as well as group participation with weekly assignments and exams.

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### **Prerequisites**

None

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### **Course Objectives**

- Recognize and comprehend musical terms and concepts
  - Audiate and sing scales, intervals, rhythms, and melodic or harmonic passages
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### **Required Materials**

Alfred's Essentials of Music Theory

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### **Grades**

25% Participation and Assignments  
35% Quizzes  
40% Midterms/Final

### **Grade Breakdown:**

A = 100-94%  
A- = 93-90%  
B+ = 89-87%  
B = 86-83%  
B- = 82-80%  
C+ = 79-77%

C = 76-73%  
C- = 72-70%  
D+ = 69-67%  
D = 66-63%  
D- = 62-60%  
F = 59-0%

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## **Grading, Makeup & Late Work**

### *Assignments (20%)*

Daily assignments will be assigned from worksheets and Essentials of Music Theory.

### *Quizzes (30%)*

Mastery quizzes will be given on a regular basis. These are to assess learning in “small chunks” and make sure that students are mastering concepts being covered. Students are allowed to retake quizzes up to the day of the chapter test. The hope is that by learning from their mistakes on homework and mastery quizzes, their test scores will improve.

### *Tests (40%)*

Tests will be given to assess larger quantities of material than a short quiz will allow. Because students are retaking quizzes and mastering the concepts taught in small units before taking tests, retakes are handled differently. Test scores can be raised to a grade no more than 10% of the original score, and may not exceed 80%. Extreme medical circumstances may warrant individual needs.

### *Final Project (10%)*

The Final Project will be explained on a handout later in the semester.

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## **Academic Integrity**

Students of this class are expected to support an environment of academic integrity, have the right to such an environment, and should avoid all aspects of academic dishonesty. Examples of academic dishonesty include plagiarizing, faking of data, sharing information during an exam, discussing an exam with another student who has not taken the exam, consulting reference material during an exam, submitting a written assignment which was authored by someone other than you, and/or cheating in any form. Violators of this policy will receive a failing grade for this course.

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## **Assignments**

### #1 – Syllabus Day

Unit 1: The Staff, Notes and Pitches, Treble Clef, Bass Clef, The Grand Staff, Ledger Lines, and Ear Training

Unit 2: Note Values, Measure, Bar Line, Double Bar, Time Signatures, Whole, Half and Quarter Rests and Ear Training

Unit 3: Time Signatures, Dotted Half Notes, Ties and Slurs and Ear Training

Quiz 1: Review and Quiz on Units 1-3

Unit 4: Repeat Sign, Endings, Eighth Notes, Eighth Rests, Dotted Quarter Note and Ear Training

Unit 5: Dynamic Signs, Tempo Marks, Articulation, D.C., D.S., Coda and Fine and Ear Training

Unit 6: Flats, Sharps, Naturals, Whole Steps, Half Steps and Enharmonic Notes and Ear Training

Quiz 2: Review and Quiz on Units 4-6

Prep: Review for Midterm

**Midterm Units 1-6**

Unit 7: Tetrachords, Major Scales, Sharp Scales, Flat Scales, Key Signatures and Ear Training

Unit 8: The Remaining Major Scales, Chromatic Scale, Intervals, Circle of Fifths and Ear Training

Unit 9: Perfect and Major Intervals, Minor Intervals, Augmented and Diminished Intervals, Solfege and Ear Training

Quiz 3: Review and Quiz on Units 7-9

Unit 10: Sixteenth Notes and Rests, Dotted Eighth Notes, Common Time and Cut Time and Ear Training

Unit 11: More Time Signatures, Eighth Note Triplets, Incomplete Measures, Syncopation and Ear Training

Unit 12: Triads, Primary and Major Triads, Scale Degree Names, The Dominant 7<sup>th</sup> Chord and Ear Training

Review for Final Exam

**Final Exam**

Work on Final Projects