

Northern Wyoming Community College District
– Sheridan College –

MUSC 1010 Foundations of Music (3 credits)

Fall 2021 • MWF • 11:30 AM - 12:20 PM

Whitney 139 • Music Department • Visual and Performing Arts Division

course site: proferickson.com

gmail address for sharing selected class assignments: scmusictech@gmail.com

Instructor and Contact Information

Dr. Christian Erickson

Office: Whitney 140-J

Office hours: MTWTh 1:00 PM (additional hours by appointment)

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cerickson@sheridan.edu

Course Description

This course explores the terminology and theoretical concepts of music and music notation. Topics include the basic principles of the physics of sound, rhythm, melody, harmony, timbre, and form. An introduction to ear training is also presented. Rudimentary piano keyboard skills are developed.

Prerequisites

None

Co-requisites

None

Purpose

MUSC 1010 Foundations of Music is a required course for the Certificate of Completion in Music Technology and fulfills the a Visual and Performing Arts elective for the A.A., A.S., and A.A.S. degrees.

Course Format

Lecture

Grading

Letter

Texts/Materials

- Hewitt, Michael. *Music Theory for Computer Musicians*. Boston: Course Technology, 2008. ISBN-13: 978-1-59863-503-4
- Over-the-ear headphones with a 3.5 mm mini-stereo plug and 1/4" adapter
- Pens, pencils, erasers, notebook, etc.
- Access to a computer with an internet connection and a browser
- USB flash drive, 2 GB or larger

Minimum Student Outcomes

Upon completion of MUSC 1010 Foundations of Music, the student will:

- demonstrate understanding of the basic elements of music, including rhythm, meter, pitch, scales, intervals, keys, chords, harmonic progress, and simple forms.
- read and write music notation.
- aurally identify intervals and chord qualities.
- transcribe short rhythmic patterns, melodic lines, and harmonic progressions.
- perform simple one- and two-handed pieces on the piano keyboard.

Approximate Final Grade Evaluation

20% — In-Class Activities & Participation

20% — Homework

15% — Quizzes

15% — Exams

10% — Practicums in Keyboard Skills and Ear Training

10% — Creative Project

10% — Recital/Presentation

Descriptions of Graded Course Components

In-Class Activities & Participation: [31 activities; each worth around 1% of your final grade] Vital to your learning in the class is consistent attendance and participation. Learning music theory is a lot like learning a foreign language. You're more likely to absorb key concepts and develop fluency with regular practice and interaction with your instructor and your peers. It is therefore essential that you attend every class meeting and be engaged at all times. Note that, unlike other college

classes, the bulk of the grade in this course is *not* dependent on exams, but rather on practice and application.

Homework [one assignment per chapter covered (25 chapters); each assignment worth around 0.8% of your final grade] Selected exercises from the book will be assigned as homework to reinforce concepts for students outside of the classroom.

Quick Quizzes: [16 total; each worth about 1% of your final grade] Timed quick quizzes based on the prior meeting's reading assignment will be administered periodically throughout the semester. Quizzes are given at the top of the hour at the beginning of class. These quizzes cannot be made up or completed in advance, and they will be collected at five minutes after the hour. Missing a quiz here and there will not significantly affect your final grade, but consistent performance on them is important. Therefore, please be punctual for our meetings.

Exams: [2 total; each worth about 8% of your final grade] A traditional formal mid-term and final will be administered during our regular class meetings. Content will be drawn from the Quick Quizzes. Be sure to retain your graded quizzes for use as a study aid.

Practicums: [10 total; each worth about 1% of your final grade] Applied labs providing basic keyboard and ear training are scheduled throughout the semester. No quizzes, lectures, or other activities will be during these meetings so students may maximize their time developing these very important musicianship skills.

Creative Project and Keyboard Recital/Final Project Presentation: [each item worth 10% of your final grade] As a culmination of basic keyboard study in this course, students will participate in an informal keyboard recital during our final exam time. Each student will either perform an original composition for keyboard, or a pre-existing composition for keyboard. The performance will be accompanied with an original MIDI backing track created by the student.

Course Websites

Our class companion website for this course is available at proferickson.com. Here you'll find printable documents (such as the syllabus and other handouts), assignments, resources, links to useful sites, and audio files. Any copyright-protected material will be posted in a password-protected directory (login: `musc`, password: 1010). The author of your text also maintains a helpful website that contains a number of links to videos, articles, and other resources. You can find a link to his site from our course page (or type mcaf.ee/40bef into your browser.)

Late and Incomplete Assignments

Just as regular practice for lessons and ensembles is vital for the growth of musicianship, so too is consistent reinforcement of concepts and skills explored and developed in academic music classes. Therefore it is the policy of the Sheridan College Department of Music to expect our students to complete assignments by prescribed due dates. Assignments submitted after the due date will NOT be accepted. In the event of a documented emergency, late work may be accepted at the discretion of the instructor.

Absences and Make-up Policy

In cases of school-sponsored activities or illness resulting in an absence by the student, it is the student's responsibility to notify the instructor in advance of the missed class. Absences with advance notice are considered "excused." Students are responsible for all reading, listening and other homework assigned during the absence. Absences without prior notification to the instructor ("unexcused") will automatically result in forfeiture of any possible points associated with the missed class. Quick Quizzes are exempt from this policy as they must be completed in class and cannot be made up or taken in advance.

Course Withdrawal/Petition for Incomplete Grade

On occasion, unforeseen circumstances may interfere with a student's ability to complete a course or to accomplish a satisfactory level of personal academic achievement. If you find yourself in this situation, I encourage you to visit with me to evaluate your options. Rarely is a grade unsalvageable if a student is willing to take the steps necessary to rectify it. If, however, a student is ever unable to fully devote his or her energies to the coursework, withdrawal may be the best option. Consult the college's academic calendar for the withdrawal deadline. Paperwork for withdrawals can be obtained from the Office of Records and Admissions.

A temporary grade of "I" or "incomplete" is available to students who cannot finish the course due to an emergency situation that arises late in the semester. The administration of an incomplete is at the instructor's discretion. Although I can be flexible depending on the circumstances of the student, my general policy is that the student should have at least 75% of the course completed and have a current grade of C or better at the time of the request for the incomplete grade. The incomplete portion of the course must be completed by the end of the semester following the request (summer sessions excluded) or the "I" will revert to an "F."

Northern Wyoming Community College District Policies

Academic Honesty Statement: Students are expected to maintain the highest standards of academic honesty and integrity. Academic honesty means performing all academic work without lying, cheating, deceit, plagiarism, misrepresentation, or unfairly gaining advantage over any other student. Violations of academic honesty are in violation of District standards for student conduct and shall result in disciplinary action.

Disability Statement: Students with disabilities who believe they may need accommodations in this class are encouraged to contact the Student Success Center as soon as possible to ensure such accommodations may be implemented.

A complete list of official college policies can be found on the NWCCD website by pointing your browser to this shortcut: **bit.ly/scpolicies**

Course Calendar

Subject to revision. All assignments are due at beginning of the next class meeting unless otherwise noted. Quick Quizzes are over the previous day's assigned reading.

Meeting 1, August 30

- **Topics:** Syllabus Formalities; Intro to Part I — *Basics of Western Pitch and Notation*; Musical Sound, Part 1
 - **In-Class Application Activity:** 1.1 Pitch Machine
 - **Reading Assignment:** Chapter 1, pp. 1-6 (up to "Intensity (Amplitude)")
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Meeting 2, September 1

- **Topics: Quick Quiz 1 (over previous meeting's reading/homework assignment);** Musical Sound, Part 2
 - **In-Class Application Activity:** 1.2 Filter Machine
 - **Reading Assignment:** Chapter 1, pp. 6-13
 - **Written Assignment:** Chapter 1 Exercises
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Meeting 3, September 3

- **Topics:** The Notes
 - **In-Class Application Activity:** 1.3 Scale/MIDI Drum Map Exercises
 - **Reading Assignment:** Chapter 2
 - **Written Assignment:** Chapter 2 Exercises
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September 6 — Labor Day; College Closed

Meeting 4, September 8

- **Topics:** Ear-Training Lab Day
 - **Assignment:** Ear Training Practicum 1: Introduction to *Solfège*
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Meeting 5, September 10

- **Topics: Quick Quiz 2 (over Ear Training Practicum 1 activities);** The Major Scale
 - **In-Class Application Activity:** 1.4 Major Scale Exercises
 - **Reading Assignment:** Chapter 3
 - **Written Assignment:** Chapter 3 Exercises
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Meeting 6, September 13

- **Topics:** Rhythm, Tempo, and Note Lengths, Part 1
 - **In-Class Application Activity:** 1.5 Metronome Patch
 - **Reading Assignment:** Chapter 4, pp. 39-45 (up to “Dotted Notes”)
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Meeting 7, September 15

- **Topics: Quick Quiz 3;** Rhythm, Tempo, and Note Lengths, Part 2
 - **In-Class Application Activity:** 1.6 Note Duration Exercise
 - **Reading Assignment:** Chapter 4, 39-48
 - **Written Assignment:** Chapter 4 Exercises
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Meeting 8, September 17

- **Topics:** Keyboard Lab Day
 - **Assignment:** Keyboard Practicum 1: Orientation to the Keyboard
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Meeting 9, September 20

- **Topics: Quick Quiz 4 (over Keyboard Practicum 1 activities);** Score Editing
 - **In-Class Application Activity:** 1.7 Score Editor Exercise
 - **Reading Assignment:** Chapter 5
 - **Written Assignment:** Chapter 5 Exercises
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Meeting 10, September 21

- **Topics:** Intro to Part II — *The Building Blocks of Music*; Intervals
 - **In-Class Application Activity:** 2.1 Interval Practicum
 - **Reading Assignment:** Chapter 6
 - **Written Assignment:** Chapter 6 Exercises
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Meeting 11, September 23

- **Topics:** Ear-Training Lab Day
 - **Assignment:** Ear Training Practicum 2: Reading and Notating Pitch on the Staff
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Meeting 12, September 27

- **Topics: Quick Quiz 5 (over Ear Training Practicum 2 activities);** Meter
 - **In-Class Application Activity:** 2.2 Metronome Track Exercise
 - **Reading Assignment:** Chapter 7
 - **Written Assignment:** Chapter 7 Exercises
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Meeting 13, September 29

- **Topics:** Chords, Part 1 (Intervals)
 - **In-Class Application Activity:** 2.3 Interval Exercises
 - **Reading Assignment:** Chapter 8 (pp. 87-94 [up to “Triadic Harmony”])
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Meeting 14, October 1

- **Topics:** **Quick Quiz 6;** Chords, Part 2 (Triads)
 - **In-Class Application Activity:** 2.4 Triads Exercises
 - **Reading Assignment:** Chapter 8 (pp. 97-104 [up to “Exercises”])
 - **Written Assignment:** Chapter 8 Exercises
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Meeting 15, October 4

- **Topics:** Keyboard Lab Day
 - **Assignment:** Keyboard Practicum 2: Five-Finger Positions
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Meeting 16, October 6

- **Topics:** **Quick Quiz 7 (over Keyboard Practicum 2 activities);** The Natural Minor Scale
 - **In-Class Application Activity:** 2.5 Chord Progressions Using Natural Minor
 - **Reading Assignment:** Chapter 9
 - **Written Assignment:** Chapter 9 Exercises
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Meeting 17, October 8

- **Topics:** Melody and Motives
 - **In-Class Application Activity:** 2.6 Melody from Motives
 - **Reading Assignment:** Chapter 10
 - **Written Assignment:** Chapter 10 Exercises
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Meeting 18, October 11

- **Topics:** Intro to Part III — *Expanding Your Knowledge of Keys and Chords*; The Harmonic Minor Scale
 - **In-Class Application Activity:** 3.1 Harmonic Minor Chord Progression
 - **Reading Assignment:** Chapter 11 (pp. 131-135)
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Meeting 19, October 13

- **Topics:** **Quick Quiz 8;** The Melodic Minor Scale
 - **In-Class Application Activity:** 3.2 Melodic Minor Chord Progression
 - **Reading Assignment:** Chapter 11 (pp. 136-139)
 - **Written Assignment:** Minor Scale and Minor Key Triad Review Worksheet
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Meeting 20, October 15

- Mid-Term Exam over Chapters 1-11
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October 18 — Fall Break; College Closed

Meeting 21, October 20

- **Topics:** Ear-Training Lab Day
 - **Assignment:** Ear Training Practicum 3: Rhythm and Melodies in Simple Meters
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Meeting 22, October 22

- **Topics: Quick Quiz 9 (over Ear Training Practicum 3 activities);** Augmented and Diminished Intervals and Interval Inversions
 - **In-Class Application Activity:** 3.3 Diminished/Augmented Interval Jam
 - **Reading Assignment:** Chapter 12
 - **Written Assignment:** Chapter 12 Exercises
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Meeting 23, October 25

- **Topics:** Chordal Inversions, Octave Doubling, and Spacing
 - **In-Class Application Activity:** 3.4 Spacing Exercise
 - **Reading Assignment:** Chapter 13
 - **Written Assignment:** Chapter 13 Exercises
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Meeting 24, October 27

- **Topics:** Additive Rhythms
 - **In-Class Application Activity:** 3.5 Additive Rhythm Ostinato Exercise
 - **Reading Assignment:** Chapter 14
 - **Written Assignment:** Chapter 14 Exercises
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Meeting 25, October 29

- **Topics:** Keyboard Lab Day
 - **Assignment:** Keyboard Practicum 3: Reading on the Grand Staff
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Meeting 26, November 1

- **Topics: Quick Quiz 10 (over Keyboard Practicum 3 activities);** Expanding Your Knowledge of Keys
 - **In-Class Application Activity:** 3.6 Modulating Progression Exercise
 - **Reading Assignment:** Chapter 15
 - **Written Assignment:** Chapter 15 Exercises
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Meeting 27, November 3

- **Topics:** Intro to Part IV — *More Chords and an Intro to Harmonic Function*; The Pentatonic Scale
 - **In-Class Application Activity:** 4.1 Exploring Pentatonic Modes
 - **Reading Assignment:** Chapter 16
 - **Written Assignment:** Chapter 16 Exercises
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Meeting 28, November 5

- **Topics:** Major, Minor, Augmented, and Diminished Triads
 - **In-Class Application Activity:** 4.2 Augmented and Diminished Triads Exercise
 - **Reading Assignment:** Chapter 17
 - **Written Assignment:** Chapter 17 Exercises
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Meeting 29, November 8

- **Topics:** Ear-Training Lab Day
 - **Assignment:** Ear Training Practicum 4: Rhythm and Melodies in Compound Meters
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Meeting 30, November 10

- **Topics: Quick Quiz 11 (over Ear Training Practicum 4 activities);** Chord Progressions and Root Movement
 - **In-Class Application Activity:** 4.3 Root Movement Exercise
 - **Reading Assignment:** Chapter 18
 - **Written Assignment:** Chapter 18 Exercises
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Meeting 31, November 12

- **Topics:** The Cycle of Fifths
 - **In-Class Application Activity:** Closely-Related Keys Exercise
 - **Reading Assignment:** Chapter 19
 - **Written Assignment:** Chapter 19 Exercises
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Meeting 32, November 15

- **Topics:** Keyboard Day
 - **Assignment:** Keyboard Practicum 4: New Registers, Tempo Markings, and *D.S. al Fine*
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Meeting 33, November 17

- **Topics: Quick Quiz 12 (over Keyboard Practicum 4 activities);** The Seven Diatonic Modes, Part 1
 - **In-Class Application Activity:** 4.5 Diatonic Modes Exercise, Part I
 - **Reading Assignment:** Chapter 20 (pp. 215-219)
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Meeting 34, November 19

- **Topics: Quick Quiz 13;** The Seven Diatonic Modes, Part 2
 - **In-Class Application Activity:** 4.6 Diatonic Modes Exercise, Part II
 - **Reading Assignment:** Chapter 20 (pp. 220-221, up to “Modes in Other Keys”)
 - **Written Assignment:** Chapter 20 Exercises
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Meeting 35, November 22

- **Topics:** Chords of the Seventh
 - **In-Class Application Activity:** 4.7 Harmonic Sequence/Seventh Chords Exercise
 - **Reading Assignment:** Chapter 21
 - **Written Assignment:** Chapter 21 Exercises
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Holiday Break, November 24; No Class Meeting

Holiday Break, November 26; No Class Meeting

Meeting 36, November 29

- **Topics:** Intro to Part V — *Additional Creative Resources*; Exotic Scales
 - **In-Class Application Activity:** 5.1 Exploring “Exotic” Modes/Scales
 - **Reading Assignment:** Chapter 22
 - **Written Assignment:** Chapter 22 Exercises
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Meeting 37, December 1

- **Topics:** Ear-Training Lab Day
 - **Assignment:** Ear Training Practicum 5: Minor Scales and Melodies
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Meeting 38, December 3

- **Topics: Quick Quiz 14 (over Ear Training Practicum 5 activities);** Complex Harmony, Part 1 (Ninth Chords)
 - **In-Class Application Activity:** 5.2 Ninth Chords Exercise
 - **Reading Assignment:** Chapter 23 (pp. 253-260)
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Meeting 39, December 6

- **Topics: Quick Quiz 15;** Complex Harmony, Part 2 (Eleventh and Thirteenth Chords)
 - **In-Class Application Activity:** 5.3 Eleventh/Thirteenth Chords Exercise
 - **Reading Assignment:** Chapter 23 (pp. 261-265)
 - **Written Assignment:** Chapter 23 Exercises
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Meeting 40, December 8

- **Topics:** Keyboard Day
 - **Assignment:** Keyboard Practicum 5: Major and Minor 5-finger Patterns, Triads, and Pieces
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Meeting 41, December 10

- **Topics: Quick Quiz 16 (over Keyboard Practicum 5 activities);** Arpeggiation
 - **In-Class Application Activity:** 5.4 Arpeggiation Exercise
 - **Reading Assignment:** Chapter 24
 - **Written Assignment:** Chapter 24 Exercises
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Meeting 42, December 13

- **Topics:** Intonation
 - **In-Class Application Activity:** 5.5 Non-Western Tuning Exercise
 - **Reading Assignment:** Chapter 25
 - **Written Assignment:** Chapter 25 Exercises
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Meeting 43, December 15

- **Topics:** Afterward; Lab Day for Semester Creative Project
 - **Assignment:** Complete Semester Creative Project; Take-home Final Exam over Chapters 12-21
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Meeting 44, December 17

- **DUE: Final Exam over Chapters 12-21**
 - **Presentation of Creative Projects**
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