

Northern Wyoming Community College District  
– Sheridan College –

**MUSC 1030 Written Theory I (3 credits)**

Fall 2021 • MWF • 8:30-9:20 AM

Whitney 130 • Music Department • Visual and Performing Arts Division

course webpage at [proferickson.com](http://proferickson.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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**Course Description**

This course is an introduction to the fundamentals of music theory. Topics include rhythm, meter, pitch, scales, keys, modes, intervals, triads, seventh chords, note-to-note counterpoint, and elementary two-voice part-writing.

**Prerequisites**

None

**Co-requisites**

MUSC 1035 Aural Theory I and MUSC 1290 Keyboard Theory I

**Purpose**

This is a required course for students seeking the Associates of Fine Arts degree in music, and can be used to fulfill the notation literacy requirement for the Certificate of Completion in music technology.

**Course Format**

Lecture

**Grading**

Letter

## Texts/Materials

- Clendinning, Jane Piper, and Elizabeth West Marvin. *The Musician's Guide to Theory and Analysis* (4th ed.). New York: W. W. Norton & Company, 2021.
- Clendinning, Jane Piper, and Elizabeth West Marvin. *The Musician's Guide to Theory and Analysis Workbook* (4th ed.). New York: W. W. Norton & Company, 2021.
- Pens, pencils, erasers, notebook, etc.
- Manuscript paper (available in the bookstore or online)
- Access to a computing device with an internet connection and a browser
- USB flash drive, 2 GB or larger

## Minimum Student Outcomes

Upon completion of MUSC 1030 Written Theory I, the student will be able to:

- identify and notate fundamental aspects of pitch and rhythm.
- identify and notate intervals, pitch collections, and scales.
- identify and notate key signatures.
- analyze and explain harmonic function in tonal music.
- identify and notate diatonic triads and seventh chords.
- identify and notate cadence types.
- identify and notate embellishing tones.
- construct simple contrapuntal melodic lines in a two-voice context

## Approximate Final Grade Evaluation

40% — Homework Worksheets

30% — Exams (2 @ ~15% each)

20% — Quick Quizzes

10% — Semester Composition

## Descriptions of Graded Course Components

**Homework Worksheets:** [Assigned on a daily basis] Homework that reinforces concepts studied in class with be assigned on a regular basis. Note that the bulk of your grade, unlike many other college courses, is *not* based on written exams, but rather on regular practice necessary to complete these homework worksheets. It is important that you complete all

worksheets in a timely manner to develop understanding and fluency in music theory. In order to maximize opportunities for practice and mastery, allowing for students to “learn from their mistakes” without fear of penalty, worksheets assigned at the beginning of a chapter will generally be given a completion grade. Those assigned at or towards the end of a chapter will be letter-graded.

**Exams:** [Letter-graded; two total; each worth about 15% of your final grade] Exams may cover any material from the text, handouts, class activities, videos, assignments, and lectures. Please make immediate note of exam days on our attached course schedule.

**Quick Quizzes:** [Given daily] Timed quick quizzes based on the prior meeting’s reading assignment will be administered regularly 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.

**Semester Composition:** [Worth 10% of your final grade] A semester composition will be completed during the final four weeks of this course. Students will be able to choose from a list of suggested types of pieces. The list will be distributed shortly after mid-term.

**Attendance:** While not directly factored into your grade, attendance and participation are vital to learning. Students are expected to attend class regularly, arrive on time, and stay for the entire session. You are responsible for learning all material covered in class whether you are present or not. If you do miss a meeting or a portion of one, please ask a classmate if you may review his or her notes. See also “College Attendance Policy” on the following page for institutional expectations on this matter.

## Course Website

Our class companion website for this course is available at [proferickson.com](http://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: 1030).

## 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. **Note:** As the course officially ends after the administration of the final exam, no late work will be accepted after our scheduled final exam time concludes.

### **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.

**College Attendance Policy:** Regular attendance is expected of all students attending NWCCD so they may fully benefit from the educational experience. Students receiving financial aid must regularly attend class and actively participate in their coursework in order to

earn their aid. Students failing to do so may be held liable for returning financial aid funds. Visit the Office of Financial Aid Services for more information.

**Disability Statement:** Students with disabilities who believe they may need accommodations in this class must contact the disabilities services coordinator on their campus as soon as possible to request such accommodations.

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## Course Calendar

Subject to revision. Workbook homework will be assigned in class. Quizzes are over the previous day's assigned reading.

Meeting 1, August 30

- **Topics:** Syllabus Formalities; Introduction to Pitch; Intro to the Piano Keyboard
  - **Reading Assignment:** Chapter 1, pp. 3-7 (up to "Intervals: Half Steps and Whole Steps")
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Meeting 2, September 1

- **Topics: Quick Quiz 1 (over previous meeting's reading/homework assignment);** Reading Pitches; Treble Clef
  - **Reading Assignment:** Chapter 1, pp. 7-12 (up to "Bass Clef")
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Meeting 3, September 3

- **Topics: Quick Quiz 2;** Bass Clef and the "C" Clef
  - **Reading Assignment:** Chapter 1, pp. 12-15 (up to "Naming Registers")
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**September 6 — Labor Day; College Closed**

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Meeting 4, September 8

- **Topics: Quick Quiz 3;** Other Basic Notation Symbols; Stylistic Periods
  - **Reading Assignment:** Chapter 1, pp. 15-23
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Meeting 5, September 10

- **Topics:** Musical Time
  - **Reading Assignment:** Chapter 2, pp. 26-29 (up to "Rhythmic Notation for Simple Meters")
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Meeting 6, September 13

- **Topics: Quick Quiz 4;** Notating and Counting in Simple Meters
  - **Reading Assignment:** Chapter 2, pp. 26-37
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Meeting 7, September 15

- **Topics: Quick Quiz 5;** Counting Rests and Dots; Slurs and Ties
  - **Reading Assignment:** Chapter 2, pp. 38-41 (up to "Metric Accents and Syncopation")
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Meeting 8, September 17

- **Topics: Quick Quiz 6;** Syncopation; Hemiola; Anacrusis; Beat Units Other Than the Quarter Note; Implications for Performance: Metric Hierarchy
  - **Reading Assignment:** Chapter 2, pp. 41-48
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Meeting 9, September 20

- **Topics:** Intro to Scales
  - **Reading Assignment:** Chapter 3, pp. 50-56 (up to "Spelling Chromatic Scales")
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Meeting 10, September 22

- **Topics: Quick Quiz 7;** Chromatic Scale; Intro to Key Signatures
  - **Reading Assignment:** Chapter 3, pp. 56-59
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Meeting 11, September 24

- **Topics: Quick Quiz 8;** Circle of Fifths; Writing and Identifying Key Signatures
  - **Reading Assignment:** Chapter 3, pp. 59-69
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Meeting 12, September 27

- **Topics: Quick Quiz 9;** Scale-Degree Names; Major Pentatonic Scale
  - **Reading Assignment:** Chapter 3, pp. 62-66
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Meeting 13, September 29

- **Topics:** Intro to Compound Meters
  - **Reading Assignment:** Chapter 4, pp. 71-73
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Meeting 14, October 1

- **Topics: Quick Quiz 10;** Rhythmic Notation in Compound Meters
  - **Reading Assignment:** Chapter 4, pp. 74-79
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Meeting 15, October 4

- **Topics: Quick Quiz 11;** Syncopation; Mixing Beat Divisions
  - **Reading Assignment:** Chapter 4, pp. 80-85 (up to “Hemiola in Compound Meter”)
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Meeting 16, October 6

- **Topics: Quick Quiz 12;** Hemiola; Metrical Accent and Implications for Performance
  - **Reading Assignment:** Chapter 4, pp. 85-88
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Meeting 17, October 8

- **Topics:** Parallel and Relative Keys
  - **Reading Assignment:** Chapter 5, pp. 90-96
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Meeting 18, October 11

- **Topics: Quick Quiz 13;** Variability in the Minor Scale
  - **Reading Assignment:** Chapter 5, pp. 97-105 (up to “Scale Degrees in Minor”)
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Meeting 19, October 13

- **Topics: Quick Quiz 14;** Scale Degrees in Minor; The Minor Pentatonic Scale
  - **Reading Assignment:** Chapter 5, pp. 105-107
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Meeting 20, October 15

- **Topics: Quick Quiz 15;** Modes of the Diatonic Collection
  - **Reading Assignment:** Chapter 5, pp. 108-114
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**October 18 — Fall Break; College Closed**

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Meeting 21, October 20

- In-Class Review for Mid-Term Exam
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Meeting 22, October 22

- **Mid-Term Exam** over Chapters 1-5
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Meeting 23, October 25

- **Topics:** Introduction to Intervals
  - **Reading Assignment:** Chapter 6, pp. 116-120 (up to "Interval Quality")
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Meeting 24, October 27

- **Topics: Quick Quiz 16;** Interval Quality
  - **Reading Assignment:** Chapter 6, pp. 120-123 (up to "Inverting Intervals")
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Meeting 25, October 29

- **Topics: Quick Quiz 17;** Inverting Intervals
  - **Reading Assignment:** Chapter 6, pp. 123-127
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Meeting 26, November 1

- **Topics: Quick Quiz 18;** Half Steps and Interval Size; Augmented and Diminished Intervals
  - **Reading Assignment:** Chapter 6, pp. 128-134
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Meeting 27, November 3

- **Topics:** Intro to Chords and Triads
  - **Reading Assignment:** Chapter 7, pp. 136-140
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Meeting 28, November 5

- **Topics: Quick Quiz 19;** Spelling Triads
  - **Reading Assignment:** Chapter 7, pp. 141-143 (up to "Triad Inversion")
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Meeting 29, November 8

- **Topics: Quick Quiz 20;** Inversion of Triads
  - **Reading Assignment:** Chapter 7, pp. 143-145 (up to "Figured Bass")
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Meeting 30, November 10

- **Topics: Quick Quiz 21;** Figured Bass
  - **Reading Assignment:** Chapter 7, pp. 145-151
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Meeting 31, November 12

- **Topics:** Seventh Chords
  - **Reading Assignment:** Chapter 8, pp. 153-155
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Meeting 32, November 15

- **Topics: Quick Quiz 22;** Inversion of Seventh Chords; Sevenths in Minor Keys
  - **Reading Assignment:** Chapter 8, pp. 156-160 (up to "Spelling Seventh Chords")
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Meeting 33, November 17

- **Topics: Quick Quiz 23;** Spelling Seventh Chords; Sevenths in Popular Styles
  - **Reading Assignment:** Chapter 8, pp. 160-163
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Meeting 34, November 19

- **Topics: Quick Quiz 24;** Arpeggiated Triads and Seventh Chords
  - **Reading Assignment:** Chapter 8, pp. 164-171
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Meeting 35, November 22

- **Topics:** Introduction to Counterpoint
  - **Reading Assignment:** Chapter 9, pp. 173-179
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**Holiday Break, November 24; No Class Meeting**

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**Holiday Break, November 26; No Class Meeting**

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Meeting 36, November 29

- **Topics: Quick Quiz 25;** Consonant Harmonic Intervals
  - **Reading Assignment:** Chapter 9, pp. 180-183 (up to "Writing Note-to-Note Counterpoint in Strict Style")
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Meeting 37, December 1

- **Topics: Quick Quiz 26;** Writing Note-to-Note Counterpoint in Strict Style
  - **Reading Assignment:** Chapter 9, pp. 183-184
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Meeting 38, December 3

- **Topics: Quick Quiz 27;** Invertible Counterpoint
  - **Reading Assignment:** Chapter 9, pp. 185-188
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Meeting 39, December 6

- **Topics:** Intro to Melodic and Rhythmic Embellishment in Two-Voice Composition
  - **Reading Assignment:** Chapter 10, pp. 191-196 (up to "Melodic Considerations")
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Meeting 40, December 8

- **Topics: Quick Quiz 28;** Melodic and Harmonic Considerations in Second-Species Counterpoint
  - **Reading Assignment:** Chapter 10, pp. 196-200 (up to "Further Melodic Embellishment in Third-Species (4:1) Counterpoint")
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Meeting 41, December 10

- **Topics: Quick Quiz 29;** Third-Species Counterpoint
  - **Reading Assignment:** Chapter 10, pp. 200-206
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Meeting 42, December 13

- **Topics: Quick Quiz 30;** Fourth-Species, Fifth-Species, and Free Counterpoint
  - **Reading Assignment:** Chapter 10, pp. 207-216
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Meeting 43, December 15

- Make-up Day or Lab Time for Semester Composition
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Meeting 44, December 17

- **Final Exam** over Chapters 6-10
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