



MUSC 1030 Written Theory I (3 credits)

Fall 2023 • MWF • 8:30-9:20 AM

Whitney 130 • Music Department • Arts and Sciences Division

course webpage at proferickson.com

Instructor and Contact Information

Dr. Christian Erickson

Office: Whitney 140-J

Office hours: MF 11:00 AM; TWTh 1:00 PM (additional hours by appointment)

(307) 675-0732

cerickson@sheridan.edu

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)

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 will be assigned regularly. Note that the bulk of your grade, unlike many other college courses, is not based on written exams but on regular practice that comes from completing these homework worksheets. You should finish all worksheets on time to develop fluency in music theory. I will give completion grades to worksheets assigned at the beginning of a chapter. This practice allows you to "learn from your mistakes" without fear of penalty. Worksheets 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 a quick note of exam days on our attached course schedule.

Quick Quizzes: [Given daily] Timed short quizzes based on the previous meeting's reading assignment will be administered regularly throughout the semester. Quizzes occur at the top of the hour at the beginning of class. Students cannot make up or complete the quizzes in advance. I will collect them five minutes after the hour. Missing a quiz here and there will not significantly affect your final grade, but consistent performance is important. Therefore, please be punctual for our meetings.

Semester Composition: [Worth 10% of your final grade] I will assign a semester composition to complete during this course's last four weeks. Students can choose from a list of suggested types of pieces. You will receive the list shortly after mid-term.

Attendance: While not directly factored into your grade, attendance, and participation are vital to learning. Students must 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 their notes.

Course Website

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: 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 final class meeting, no late work will be accepted after our scheduled final meeting 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

Occasionally, unforeseen circumstances may interfere with a student's ability to complete a course or accomplish a satisfactory level of personal academic achievement. If you are in this situation, I encourage you to visit me to evaluate your options. Rarely is a grade unsalvageable if a student is willing to take the steps necessary to rectify it. However, withdrawal may be the best option if a student cannot fully devote their energies to the coursework. Consult the college's academic calendar for the withdrawal deadline. You may obtain paperwork for withdrawals 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 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 student's circumstances, 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 student must complete the unfinished portion of the course by an instructor-set deadline, or the "I" will revert to an "F."

Course Calendar

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

Meeting 1, August 28

- **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")
-

Meeting 2, August 30

- **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")
-

Meeting 3, September 1

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

September 4 — Labor Day; College Closed

Meeting 4, September 6

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

Meeting 5, September 8

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

Meeting 6, September 11

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

Meeting 7, September 13

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

Meeting 8, September 15

- **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
-

Meeting 9, September 18

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

Meeting 10, September 20

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

Meeting 11, September 22

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

Meeting 12, September 25

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

Meeting 13, September 27

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

Meeting 14, September 29

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

Meeting 15, October 2

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

Meeting 16, October 4

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

Meeting 17, October 6

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

Meeting 18, October 9

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

Meeting 19, October 11

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

Meeting 20, October 13

- **Topics: Quick Quiz 15;** Modes of the Diatonic Collection
 - **Reading Assignment:** Chapter 5, pp. 108-114
-

Meeting 21, October 16

- In-Class Review for Mid-Term Exam
-

Meeting 22, October 18

- **Mid-Term Exam** over Chapters 1-5
-

Meeting 23, October 20

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

October 23 — Fall Break; College Closed

Meeting 24, October 25

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

Meeting 25, October 27

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

Meeting 26, October 30

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

Meeting 27, November 1

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

Meeting 28, November 3

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

Meeting 29, November 6

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

Meeting 30, November 8

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

Meeting 31, November 10

- **Topics:** Seventh Chords
 - **Reading Assignment:** Chapter 8, pp. 153-155
-

Meeting 32, November 13

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

Meeting 33, November 15

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

Meeting 34, November 17

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

Meeting 35, November 20

- **Topics:** Introduction to Counterpoint
 - **Reading Assignment:** Chapter 9, pp. 173-179
-

Holiday Break, November 22; No Class Meeting

Holiday Break, November 24; No Class Meeting

Meeting 36, November 27

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

Meeting 37, November 29

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

Meeting 38, December 1

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

Meeting 39, December 4

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

Meeting 40, December 6

- **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")
-

Meeting 41, December 8

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

Meeting 42, December 11

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

Meeting 43, December 13

- Make-up Day or Lab Time for Semester Composition
-

Meeting 44, December 15

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