

The University of Texas at Tyler

MUSI 1301, Music Fundamentals, Spring 2026

Course day and time: **10:10-11:05MWF** in FAC 2006

Instructor: Dr. Jeffrey Emge, 566-7091--email: jemge@uttyler.edu

Office: FAC 2023--Student hours: 1-3 MWF, 2-3 TR, or by appointment

DESCRIPTION: MUSI 1301 is a course for all students that covers introductory aspects of musicianship. Specifically, notation of pitches and rhythm, singing pitches with and without piano, writing and singing intervals, and elementary piano skills are presented in a low-impact fashion.

REQUIRED MATERIALS

1. **Staff Paper:** For success in this course, students must have manuscript staff paper in class *every day*. Free staff paper can easily be found online: http://www.musictheory.org.uk/manuscript_paper.php or many other places.
2. Access to a quality laptop or desktop computer.
3. Pencils; do not do any class work in pen, sharpie or non-erasable utensils. Homework will not be accepted in markings other than pencil.

SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIALS

Gray: *Just the Facts*, Books 3, 4, and 5 (provided free by UT Tyler)

Starer: *Rhythmic Training*, published by Hal Leonard

ATTENDANCE:

You are counted as present in class, if:

you arrive no later than 10:20, you have manuscript paper and pencil, and you are participating* in class

(*which means: not wearing headphones or earbuds and not looking at your cellphone during class).

Excessive absences will affect the final grade. Students are allowed **three** absences without the final grade being affected. Each absence, starting with the fourth, will lower the semester average by **two points**. The instructor retains the sole right to determine whether an absence is of an emergency nature that would not count towards the three allowed absences. Emergencies are handled on a case-by-case basis. Student participation in UT-Tyler-sponsored trips (absences associated with a UT Tyler course in which the student is enrolled AND the required two weeks advance notice in writing has been given) do not count towards the three allowed absences. Vacations, trips not associated with a UT Tyler class, airplane schedules, bad weather etc. are not reasons to miss class, and work missed for these reasons will be given a grade of zero. If a student has twelve or more absences, **regardless of the reason**, s/he must drop the course or receive a grade no higher than a D.

HOWEVER, if you are legitimately sick with something that might be contagious, **DO NOT COME TO CLASS**. You must then go to the university clinic or a doctor. After an absence for illness, I will not allow you to come back to class unless I see a note stating you were seen by the university clinic or your own private physician, and cleared to return to class.

HYGIENE: As we still have Covid-19 among us, extra precautions are in place for the entire semester. I ask all students to hand sanitize upon entering the class; a hand sanitizing bottle/station is located at the door to the classroom. Even though the state of Texas forbids public universities to require a mask when indoors, I encourage everyone to wear a mask indoors and to receive the free Covid-19 vaccination.

STUDENT DRESS AND CONDUCT: Pajamas or sleep pants are prohibited as dress in this class. Any recording--video and/or audio--of any portion of lectures without express prior approval of instructor is strictly forbidden, and violators will be asked to drop the class and referred for disciplinary proceedings. Students must avoid wearing strong perfumes/after shave in rehearsal, as they can easily triggered allergies. Personal grooming and hygiene are important in group settings, because students must sit for a long time near each other. Students with noticeable body odor will be asked to leave class and charged with an absence. Do not use smartphones to check messages during class. Students wearing any item with political or obscene content will be asked to leave and charged with an absence.

Resources for Students

The University of Texas at Tyler has numerous policies and resources regarding deadlines, student assistance, academic information, and your rights as a student. For MUSI 1301, these policies can be found [here](#) and [here](#).

GRADING The final grade is determined by:

50% Three exams, weeks 4, 9, and 14

40% homework, due at beginning of class

10% in-class quizzes, at beginning of class on many random days

There is no make-up for daily quizzes. Homework can only be made up with letter from clinic/doctor.

GRADING SCALE: 90-100 = A 80-89 = B 70-79 = C 60-69 =D

Statement on Plagiarism the use of Artificial Intelligence

For any written work involving the writing of paragraphs, papers, or analytical work in prose form, I reserve the right to use Turnitin© or similar plagiarism detection software to determine if you are the actual author of any written work product involving prose. If I or through Turnitin© detect the likelihood that you either plagiarized work, or copied in whole or in part work from another student, or used Artificial Intelligence to create the work, a grade of zero will be assigned.

Student Outcomes Upon completion of MUIS 1301, the student should be able to:

- *write proper notation of grand staff, notes, rests, and rhythms
- *sing, write, and play on piano notes and three scales given with proper note names, including octave name
- *sing and write by ear melodies of up to four tones in length
- *write simple rhythms by ear up to four patterns in both simple and compound meter
- *write and apply to singing, writing and piano both circle of fifths and major and minor scales
- *write and recite basic principles of harmony including triads, inversion and the Roman numerals involved

Tentative Course Outline

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| January 12 | Introduction to course; clef, staff, note names; Introduction to Starer rhythms |
| January 14 | Introduction to piano; treble clef note names and notation; C major and minor |
| January 16 | Starer Chapter 1; solfege do re mi/meh |
| January 19 | <u>MLK Day–No Class</u> |
| January 21 | Bass clef names and notation; simple rhythm patterns 1-2 |
| January 23 | Piano fingers 1-5; basic 1-3-5 arpeggio in C, F, G |
| January 26 | Intervals: P1, P8 writing and aural; writing and aural (census date) |
| January 28 | Intervals: m2, M2 melodic; review of notation and note names |
| January 30 | Keyboard: m2, M2 and P8 intervals melodic and harmonic |
| February 2 | Melodic intervals: m3, M3; Starer Chapter 1; simple patterns 1 and 2 in simple meters; play 3 notes at piano |
| February 4 | Solfege of seconds and thirds up and down; major scale; dictation fragments up to M3 up and down |
| February 6 | Keyboard: seconds and thirds up and down; writing seconds and thirds |
| February 9 | Exam 1 |
| February 11 | Melodic intervals P4 and P5 up and down written; rhythm review; |
| February 13 | Play at piano P4, P5 up and down from given notes; count half steps; first use of both hands |
| February 16 | Intervals P4 and P5 up and down aural, Starer chapter 2 |
| February 18 | Solfege up to P4 and P5 in major, scalar melodic dictation of four notes |
| February 20 | Play P4 and P5 intervals at keyboard both melodic and harmonic (may be online) |
| February 23 | Key signatures; notation of key signatures; circle of fifths |
| February 25 | Solfege major scale; audiation of major scale tones at piano; major scale names |
| February 27 | Play RH major scales: C, F, G with correct finger patterns (LH on tonic) |
| March 2 | Compound meters-patterns 1-4; review of simple and compound meter; duple and triple; time signatures |
| March 4 | Harmonic intervals M2 and m2; minor scale solfege and audiation |
| March 6 | Harmonic intervals m2 and M2; Play piano scale steps 1-5 both hands apart in simple keys |
| March 7-15 | Spring Break |
| March 16 | Starer chapter 2 review; simple and compound rhythms patterns 1-4; harmonic intervals m3 and M3 |
| March 18 | Harmonic seconds and thirds review both aurally and at piano |
| March 20 | Exam 2 (covers material since exam 1) |
| March 23 | SATB notation and four-voice texture in keys up to one sharp and flat |
| March 25 | Chapter 3 Starer; two voice (S and B) harmony; introduction to roman numeral analysis–tonic |
| March 27 | Listen and play three note fragments in keys up to one sharp and one flat–scalar only |
| March 30 | Harmonic dictation S and B separate, major keys, triad and triad component names (last day to withdraw) |
| April 1 | Audiation of tonic and dominant; solfege scale in major and minor |
| April 3 | Major scale review, hands separate C, F, G major one octave |
| April 6 | Harmonic dictation S and B separate, minor keys; inversion of intervals |
| April 8 | Key signatures, major; finding solfege from a given melody, major |
| April 10 | Minor scale review, hands separate a, d, e minor; writing triads |
| April 13 | Inversion of triads, SATB writing tonic in major and minor I, I, I ₆ , i ₆ |
| April 15 | Key signatures, minor, finding solfege from a given melody, melodic intervals review up to P5 |
| April 17 | Piano six scales hands together slowly (not on exam) |
| April 20 | Circle of Fifths review; Starer chapter 3; harmonic intervals review up to P5 |
| April 22 | Review of rhythm patterns 1-4 in simple and compound; rhythm dictation |
| April 24 | NO CLASS |

Final Exam/Exam 3: Wednesday April 29, 10:15-12:15 (covers material since exam 2)

Key predictors of student success in this course: 1. CONSISTENT ATTENDANCE

2. DO THE HOMEWORK EVERY DAY 3. PAY ATTENTION IN CLASS; WRITE AS THE CLASS WRITES