

Music Theory 1 Syllabus 2011

Purpose

This course will cover the basic elements of music composition and theory including pitch, rhythm, harmony, and ear training. The curriculum is designed to start with the very basics so as to accommodate those with little experience and progress through some more advanced topics that will challenge more experienced musicians.

Materials and Resources

The following materials are needed for the course: a pencil (**not** a pen), notebook or loose leaf paper, and your copy of the textbook/workbook each day.

The primary resource for the course is the book “Essentials of Music Theory” by Andrew Surmani, Karen Farnum Surmani, and Morton Manus. In addition it is strongly suggested that students make use of online resources linked from the music theory website, particularly in the area of ear training.

Grading

At **NO POINT** will a student be graded on his or her musical talent. Only participation, effort, knowledge gained, and skill improvement will be graded.

Ear Training & Keyboard Knowledge: Each unit will include activities to apply the information to ear training. Though this is not a piano performance course, extensive use of the piano keyboard will be utilized as a tool for understanding the Western music theory system so there will be some evaluation as to students' understanding of the keyboard as well. Students will be graded on their effort, improvement, and participation in this area. *Ear training will be worth 20% of each student's total grade.*

Written Work: These will be written assignments to practice the skills gained in each unit. Though there will be class time devoted to written work it should be expected that some exercises will need to be completed at home. *Written work is worth 40% of each student's total grade.*

Tests: A relatively brief test will be given at the end of each unit. The tests will evaluate both written and ear training skills. Tests will be graded on a curve based on the percentage of the top score each student achieves. *Tests are worth 40% of each student's total grade.*

Academic Integrity

In this class you will neither give nor receive unauthorized aid without specific permission for collaboration or without proper citation. This includes class work, quizzes, examinations, preparations of reports or projects, or any other work that is used to evaluate you. You can expect that any papers or projects you turn in will be checked to assure originality and accuracy of citations. At Cretin-Derham Hall we uniformly deplore cheating, lying, fraud, misrepresentation, plagiarism, copying other students' work, and other dishonest behaviors that jeopardize the rights, welfare, and integrity of Cretin-Derham Hall.

Website

The website contains links, a class calendar, and other resources. Please bookmark it and check it for updates: www.cretin-derhamhall.org/jacobson_theory1

Contact

For any other information or questions call Mr. Jacobson at 651-696-3315 or email at cjacobson@cdh.org