



**University of International Business and Economics
International Summer School**

MUS 110 Elementary Music Theory

Term: May 25 – June 25, 2020

Instructor: Dr. Rika Asai

Home Institution: University of Pittsburgh

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Class Hours: Monday through Thursday, 120 minutes each day (2,400 minutes in total)

Office Hours: TBD

Discussion Session: 2 hours each week

Total Contact Hours: 64 contact hours (45 minutes each, 48 hours in total)

Credit: 4 units

Course Description:

Elementary Music Theory is an introductory course that covers basic music notation, terminology, and structure. Previous musical experience is not necessary for a successful semester! Topics covered include: rhythm and its notation, pitch, intervals, melody, major and minor keys, scales, triads, harmony, the keyboard, and composition of a song.

Prerequisite:

None required

Course Goals:

Our goals for the semester are to be able to think critically about music we hear, and to attain the following skills:

- Gain familiarity and fluency with the language and notation of music
- Notate given rhythms by dictation and identify by ear intervals and triads
- Understand of the basic components of musical language and use the correct terminology to describe it
- Compose musical ideas in using music notation software

Required Textbook:

- Jane Piper Clendinning, Elizabeth West Marvin, Joel Phillips, *The Musician's Guide to Fundamentals*, 3rd ed., W. W. Norton & Company, 2018. e-book ISBN: 978-0-393-66440-9
Course packet, distributed in class—*please bring your course packet to class each day.*
- MuseScore notation software for assignments: <http://musescore.org/>

Supplemental Materials:

In addition to the textbook and handouts given in class, there are several online resources that will help you review and practice material we've covered in class. The first two websites are especially helpful resources for practicing the listening aspect of this course:

- <http://www.good-ear.com/>
- <http://www.musictheory.net/>
- Virtual piano: <https://virtualpiano.net>
- Free staff paper is available at www.blanksheetmusic.net

Grading Policy:

In this course, grading will be based on the following grade breakdown:

Exams	36%
Short Quizzes	20%
Composition Assignments	20%
Final Project	13%
Attendance, Preparation, Participation	11%

Grading Scale:

Assignments and examinations will be graded according to the following grade scale:

A	90-100	C+	72-74
A-	85-89	C	68-71
B+	82-84	C-	64-67
B	78-81	D	60-63
B-	75-77	F	below 60

Class Rules:

Students are expected to:

- Attend all classes and be responsible for all material covered in class and otherwise assigned.
- Complete the day's required reading and assignments before class.
- Review the previous day's notes before class; make notes about questions you have about the previous class or the day's reading.
- Participate in class discussions and complete required written work on time.
- Refrain from texting, phoning, or engaging in computer activities unrelated to class during class. Students who consistently use their electronic devices in unrelated ways will negatively influence their participation grade and may be asked to leave the class.
- While class participation is welcome, even required, you are expected to refrain from private conversations during the class period.

Academic Honesty:

Students are expected to maintain high standards of academic honesty. Except for some in-class activities, all homework, assignments, quizzes, and exams are individual projects and working on these with others is not allowed. On quizzes and exams, students may not consult other students, books, notes, electronic devices or any other source. Failure to abide by this will result in a zero on the quiz or exam and may even failure in the course.

Attendance Policy:

Summer school is very intense and to be successful, students need to attend every class. Any absence may impact on the student's grade. Arriving late or leaving early will count as a partial absence.

Any day you are late or absent, please get class notes from one or more classmates. You are responsible for knowing the content of every class, including announcements and assignments—I cannot take responsibility for what you missed.

Aside from exam days, each class period will have points attached to it. To receive full points for a day, you must arrive on time with your homework completed and participate. Disruptive behavior could result in the loss of all points for the day. Using electronic devices without permission during class WILL result in the loss of all points for the day. *All electronic devices (phones, tablets, laptops, etc.) must be silenced and put away during class.*

Communication:

Let me know if something is not clear. Let me know if there is a reason you are missing class. Let me know if you need more help—we can schedule some office hours and/or have the TA work with you. I want you to succeed in learning the material. If something is not working for you, I am not able to do anything about it if I don't know about it.

Detailed Discussion of the Course Requirements:

Homework:

Music theory is a skills class and your success will be based on your cumulative knowledge of the material. You can help yourself succeed by practicing daily...cramming has proven to be an ineffective way to learn the material! To help you stay on track, there will be homework exercises assigned after each class session. Homework assignments will be checked each day. Grades for homework assignments will be based on completeness and effort. Late homework will not be accepted.

Learning Quizzes and Exams:

There will be four exams and eight learning quizzes during the semester. Each will consist of both the written material we have covered in class as well as questions requiring you to listen to aural examples. Please take note of all dates on your personal calendar.



IMPORTANT NOTE: No electronic devices may be used during quizzes and exams. Anyone found using a cell phone, translator, or other electronic device during an exam or quiz will receive an “F” for that quiz or exam.

Missed Quizzes or Exams:

In the event that you must miss a quiz or exam, please let me know as much in advance as possible. In the case of illness or emergency, you may be eligible to make-up one quiz or exam. Please see me upon your return to class and be prepared to provide written documentation. All make-ups will be given during the last week of class.

Composition Assignments:

The composition assignments allow you to apply your musical knowledge to actual music! These assignments will be completed on music notation software and will be submitted electronically. The composition assignments also help you develop the skills you will need to complete the course project.

Course Project:

In addition to exams, quizzes, and assignments, you will also complete a course project. For this project, you will create and present to the class an original work for voice, instrument, or some combination of these. There are three parts to the final project: a draft, the composition, and the class performance.

For all of these course requirements, we will use a lot of class time to prepare and complete things. This makes class attendance an important component to your success in this course.

Course Schedule:

Topics	Important Dates	
Unit I—Basics of Music, Rhythm, Pitch		
Basic elements of music	Quiz 1	May 26
Rhythm, meter, and pulse	Exam 1	May 28
Simple meter and time signatures	Composition 1	May 29
Compound meter and time signatures		
Treble and bass clefs		
Staff notation		
The keyboard		
Whole and half steps		
Enharmonic pitches		
Ledger lines		
Dots and ties, syncopation		
Unit II—Major Scales, Key Signatures, Intervals		
Interval pattern for major scales	Quiz 2	June 2
Scale degrees	Quiz 3	June 3

Circle of fifths	Exam 2	June 4
Key signatures	Composition 2	June 5
Order of sharps and flats		
Intervals of the major scale		
Unit III—Minor Scales, Key Signatures, Intervals		
Minor key signatures	Quiz 4	June 9
Relationships to major keys: Relative and parallel	Quiz 5	June 10
Forms of the minor scale: Natural, harmonic, melodic	Exam 3	June 11
Intervals of the chromatic scale	Composition 3	June 12
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Unit IV—Triads, Tonality and Harmonization		
Triad construction: Major and minor	Quiz 6	June 16
Primary triads	Composition 4	June 16
Triad inversions	Quiz 7	June 18
Use of triads: Close and open position, textures	Final Project Draft	June 18
Roman numerals	Quiz 8	June 22
Simple chord progressions	Final Project	June 23
Augmented and diminished triads	Exam 4	June 24
Dominant seventh chord	Presentations	June 25
Cadences		
Harmonizing a melody		
Musical form		
Project presentations		
Course evaluations		