Syllabus

Basic Music Theory
Music 112

M, T, W, Th and F 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM in room 300 of the Music Center

Instructor: Brian Morris. Title: Brian

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Phone: 616-234-4095

Office: Room 114

Office Hours: M, T, Th, F from 10:15 AM to 11:15 AM W from 3:45-4:45 or by appointment

website: brianmorrisguitar.com

Course Information

Basic Music Theory MUS 112

A study of basic musical materials, scales, key signatures, intervals, triads, rhythm and pitch notation, ear-training and dictation. This course does not replace MUS 113. This course may be offered online. Students successfully completing the online version of MUS 112 will need to pass the music theory pretest before enrolling in MUS 113. This course was formerly offered as MU 100.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Read music in bass and treble clefs.
2. Recognize notes in alto and tenor clefs.
3. Understand rhythms in basic time signatures, including simple and compound meters.
4. Perform rhythmic exercises in simple and compound meters.
5. Identify Major and minor key signatures and scales.
6. Sing all Major scales.
7. Write all Major and all forms of minor scales.
8. Identify and write all intervals, including inversions and compound.
9. Hear and identify all ascending intervals within the octave.
10. Write and identify all Major, minor, diminished and Augmented triads.
11. Write and identify all triad inversions.
12. Write root position seventh chords.
13. Demonstrate a basic knowledge of the Finale computer software program.

The Course

In this class as one of my first music theory teachers used to like to tell me, “... we learn to hear with our eyes and see with our ears”. Each class will consist of lecture and developing musical skills, through aural and written drills, singing, ear training, keyboard and computer drill. We practice music skills in this class.

Required Materials

Basic Music Theory MUS 112 by Theodore A. Lynn,


Other Supplies

You will also need to bring a notebook, manuscript paper, pencils (not pens) and a portable device to use to save documents when we use the computer lab. We will work in the computer lab about once per week. There are computer lab hours and tutors available to help you. So please take advantage of these things. Here is a really great web site that we will use for practice and will help you in this class http://musictheory.net.
Section Policies

Attendance Policy
Regular attendance and participation in class is essential. The college administration sees excessive absenteeism as a very serious matter. If I am not contacted and you do not withdraw, I may issue the appropriate grade (E, WP or WF) after you miss more than one (2) weeks of class. The College makes no distinction between "excused" and "unexcused" absences.* If students are not present in a class in which they are enrolled they are simply absent, regardless of the reason.

*There are some exceptions. i.e.: pregnancy.

Attendance is important and affects your grade in several ways. First of all I know from experience that students who attend class have a much higher success rate than those who do not attend regularly. Secondly, I deduct points will be deducted for each absence after your first absence. Each time you are late for class it will count as 1/3 of an absence. If you are more than 15 minutes late it will count as ½ of an absence. If you miss class you are responsible for the work that was missed. It is a good idea to exchange phone numbers with another classmate so that if you do miss, you can help each other. Do not call or e-mail me expecting that I will cover what you missed. Please see me during office hours and I will help you, but only after your return to class. After a student’s eighth absence they will no longer be able to take advantage of the Mastery program grading policy. If you have missed more than eight classes and are in danger of failing the class you may drop by the 70% class date and receive a W instead of an E grade.
Grading

There will be about nine quizzes throughout the semester over the material covered during the previous classes. Most will be written but about three of them will be oral/aural quizzes. There may be periodic minor quizzes. The scores for the minor quizzes will be incorporated into the other quizzes. The final exam for this course will be **WEDNESDAY, December 11 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.** here in this room and will count as 31% of your grade. This is the only time that the final will be given. So be here. A student’s score on the final exam will be a deciding factor on whether or not they are recommended to take MUS 113 during the next semester. Other assignments such as homework, your journal and projects in the computer lab will be considered in the final grade for the course. Please do not miss quizzes, but **if you miss a quiz I will allow you to make it up at the final exam time.**

**Grading Calculations**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes 1–9</td>
<td>54% 6% for each</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homework, Learning Activities (Assignments)</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>And Attendance</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final (Comprehensive)</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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The following scale will be used:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage Range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>100–93%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A−</td>
<td>92–90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>89–88%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>87–82%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B−</td>
<td>81–80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>79–78%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>77–72%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C−</td>
<td>71–70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>69–68%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>67–62%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D−</td>
<td>61–60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td>59–0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**Other Grading Possibilities**

**Late Assignment Policy**

I will accept late assignments up to two class periods past the due date. Work that needs to be redone must be turned in within class periods after it
is returned to receive a satisfactory mark. The exception here would be if you are working on the Mastery program and are behind the class.

**Mastery Program**
Students are at varying places of experience when they take this class. Music theory builds on each skill we learn. It makes no sense for students to move-on to the next unit of study if they have not mastered the current unit at least at 80%. If you find yourself in this situation you may stay at the level to master it before moving to the next area of study. This will probably put you behind in the class, but will give you time to learn the material. To take advantage of this opportunity you must let me know in writing by October 15, 2013 (an e-mail is fine) that you intend to work in the Mastery Program. You may find that you cannot complete the course this semester and will need to repeat the class. You will receive a passing grade up to a C- for your work as long as you turn in homework, take quizzes with the class and have no more than eight absences. Students with nine or more absences will receive the grade as earned.

**College Policies**

**GRCC Email and Course Communications**

Students are responsible for all communications sent via Blackboard and to their GRCC email account. GRCC student email can be accessed through [Student Email](http://email.grcc.edu) and Blackboard at [Blackboard](http://bb.grcc.edu).

**Disability Support Services**

Students with disabilities who wish to request accommodations must be registered with [the Disability Support Services Office (DSS)](http://dss.grcc.edu) in Room 368 of the Student Center. You may contact DSS at (616) 234-4140 for more information. Once you are registered with the DSS Office, you will receive an *Accommodations Agreement* to present to me to verify your registration. Please see me as soon as possible so we may have a private conversation to discuss accommodations.
**Student Code of Conduct**

All GRCC students are held accountable to the Student Code of Conduct, which outlines expectations pertaining to academic honesty (including cheating and plagiarism), classroom conduct, and general conduct. The Code can be found in full at [Student Code of Conduct](#).

**Class Specific Code of Conduct**

We are here to learn Music Theory. Conduct that is conducive to learning music theory for individuals and the class as a whole is acceptable conduct. During our class time this is a special respected space. Please remember to treat it so for your benefit as well as others.

It is important to maintain a positive learning environment and this class will adhere to the Student Code of Conduct. See your student handbook for details. Please be on time for class, turn off cell phones, pagers, other electronic devices, etc. and use common sense. If a student continually disrupts class it is my responsibility to the rest of the class to make sure this situation does not continue. No food will be allowed in class. I will take whatever steps are necessary to create a positive learning environment in this class.

**Changes to the Syllabus**

The instructor reserves the right to change the contents of this syllabus due to unforeseen circumstances. Students will be given notice of relevant changes in class, through a Blackboard Announcement, or through GRCC e-mail.
Additions

**Blackboard**
(http://bb.grcc.edu).

**Early Alert**
Grand Rapids Community College uses an Early Alert monitoring system. Students may be flagged for academic performance issues. In addition, students not logging into Blackboard for seven days will also be flagged. If your performance and/or infrequent logging in jeopardize your ability to succeed in this course, you will be contacted by a Retention Specialist and referrals to support services such as tutoring, advising and counseling may be made. If you have questions about this service, ask me or contact the office of the Associate Dean of Counseling, Advising and Retention Services at 616-234-3449.

**Technical Support**
The IT Customer Support Team can assist with Blackboard, password resets, Novell and student e-mail accounts. Hours and other helpful information is at http://www.grcc.edu/itsupport/students. Students are encouraged to submit the Customer Support Form.

**Tutoring**
The Academic Support Center is on the 2nd floor of the Library - Room 232 (GRCC Learning Resources Center). The application for tutorial assistance can be downloaded from the ASC website. See http://cms.grcc.edu/tutoring.
Outline
I. First Class
   A. Syllabus
      1. Explanation of Class
      2. Explanation of Grading
   B. Thought Storm
      There are many styles of music throughout the world.
      Why do we study music theory?
   C. Goal Setting: Right for you goals. Group goal.
II. Music Basics (1 week)
   A. Musical Alphabet
   B. Reading Music
      1. Treble Clef
      2. Bass Clef
      3. C Clefs
   C. Attention Developing Movement
   D. Semitones
      1. Chromatic
      2. Diatonic
   E. Whole Tones
   F. Rhythm Reading and Understanding
   G. Drills
   H. Computer Lab: http://musictheory.net
   I. Quizzes
III. Key Signatures (1-2 weeks)
   A. Major Keys
      1. Order of Sharps
      2. Order of Flats
B. Major Scales
C. Circle of Fifths
D. Rhythm Drills
   1. Rhythmic Syllables
   2. Two Handed Rhythm Studies
E. Singing: Major Scales (through three sharps and three flats)
F. Computer Lab: Major Scales in Finale
G. Quizzes
IV. Intervals (2-3 weeks)
   A. Intervals of the Major Scales
      1. Perfect
      2. Major
   B. Other Intervals (Intervals continued)
      1. Minor
      2. Augmented
      3. Diminished
   C. Interval Inversions
   D. Compound Intervals
   E. Singing: All Major Scales and Intervals
   F. Ear Training: Intervals
   G. Rhythm Studies: Compound Rhythms
   H. Computer Lab: Ear Training and Finale
   I. Quizzes

V. Minor Keys (with triads)
   A. Minor Key Signatures
   B. Three Types of Minor Scales
      1. Natural
2. Harmonic
3. Melodic
C. Circle of Fifths with minor keys
D. Computer Lab: Minor Scales in Finale
E. Ear Training: Minor Scales
F. Singing: Minor Scales
G. Rhythm Studies
H. Quizzes
VI. Triads (2 weeks)
   A. Four Types of Triads
      1. Major
      2. minor
      3. diminished
      4. Augmented
   B. Spelling Triads
      1. From the root
      2. From the third
      3. From the fifth
   C. Triad Inversions
   D. Primary Chords with Roman Numerals, I, IV, V chords.
E. Seventh Chords
F. Singing: Triads
G. Ear Training: Triads
H. Rhythm Studies
   I. Computer Lab: Ear Master and Finale
   J. Quizzes
VII. Review and Comprehensive Exam (2 days)