**MUS-113: INTRODUCTION TO MUSIC THEORY**  
**Winter 2015**

**Division:** Fine and Performing Arts  
**Instructor:** Dr. Robin Connell  
**Office:** Room 112, Music Center  
**Phone:** 234-3375  
**Email:** Rconnell@grcc.edu [best way to reach me]  
**Office Hours:** Monday 11:30-12:30 [other times by appointment]

**Instructional Assistance:** Dr. Connell encourages students to make an appointment to meet with her outside of class for additional assistance with course material. It may be possible to drop in without an appointment during her regular office hours. Students are encouraged to drop in, without appointment, at any time if she is in her office. In addition, the computer lab on the first floor has ‘open’ hours during which a student monitor oversees the lab. The student lab monitor will also be able to answer music theory questions and each is required to give MUS113 students some assistance when asked. The music department often opens the piano lab (2nd floor) on Friday mornings, with student tutors in the lab available to help you. You are also welcome to simply come in and use either lab on your own, without asking for help.

The following websites allow online practice of music fundamentals:

- [http://www.musictheory.net](http://www.musictheory.net)  
- [http://www.musicards.net/](http://www.musicards.net/)  
- [http://www.8notes.com/theory](http://www.8notes.com/theory)  
- [http://www.teoria.com](http://www.teoria.com)  
- [http://www.emusictheory.com/practice](http://www.emusictheory.com/practice)  
- [http://www.musictheoryminute.com](http://www.musictheoryminute.com)

**Required Textbooks and Materials:** [Students must purchase & bring to class daily]

1. *Music in Theory & Practice* – by Bruce Benward and Marilyn Saker (9th ed.)  
2. *Workbook for Music in Theory & Practice* – by Bruce Benward and Marilyn Saker (9th ed.)  
3. *Essentials of Species Counterpoint* – by Dr. Carol VanRandwyk  
   ISBN 978-1-133-66529-8
4. music paper (staff paper)  
5. pencil with eraser

**Course Description:** An integrated theory course designed primarily for freshman music majors and minor. The course deals with the perception, writing, analysis, and performance of basic musical materials.

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

1) The student will develop fundamental technical knowledge and musical vocabulary, as applied to Western music.  
2) The student will develop the ability to discern design, proportion, and patterns of music.

**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, and through GRCC e-mail.

**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](http://email.grcc.edu) and at Blackboard [http://bb.grcc.edu] Do NOT assume I have received your email. If you do not receive a reply please ask me in class. This will be especially true if you use any email account other than your GRCC account. The GRCC security software tends to block ‘suspicious’ email and I do not always have access to ‘junk’ folders.
Attendance Policy:

If you miss class YOU are responsible for: finding out what was missed, getting handouts, and turning assignments in on time. Exchange contact info with classmates so you can help each other. This 3-credit class is scheduled for three meetings a week. You are required to attend all sessions. Failure to attend class on a regular basis will adversely affect your final grade. Please notify me, in advance, if it becomes necessary for you to miss class (send an email that explains the reason for your absence). Attendance will be taken at the start of class. If you arrive late, please speak with me after class to notify me of your presence. Each unexcused tardy or early departure will be counted as one half of an unexcused absence. After a student’s 6th absence he/she will receive an E grade for the course (unless he/she withdraws from class prior to the 70% date).

Grading Scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>100-93%</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>92-90%</td>
<td>A-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>89-87%</td>
<td>B+</td>
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<tr>
<td>86-83%</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>85-80%</td>
<td>B-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>79-77%</td>
<td>C+</td>
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<tr>
<td>76-73%</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>72-70%</td>
<td>C-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>69-67%</td>
<td>D+</td>
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<tr>
<td>66-63%</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>62-60%</td>
<td>D-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>59-0%</td>
<td>E</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Grading Procedure:

Exams 50%
Quizzes 10%
Class Attendance/Participation 5%
Assignments 30%
Final Project 5%

Grading Policy [Method of Evaluation for Final Grade]:

Exams
Four exams will be given this semester. The first three are each equal to 10% of the weight of your final grade. The last exam will be a comprehensive final exam and is equal to 20% of the weight of your final grade. You are expected to take all exams on their scheduled dates. Any conflicts you may have with the exam schedule must be made known to me prior to the date of conflict or through excused absence verification (excused absence documentation is subject to my approval). Missed exams are to be completed within seven days from the date the exam is given.

Quizzes
Quizzes may be given at any time during the semester, and without advance notice. Only one rescheduling of a quiz will be allowed during the term to compensate for an unexcused absence. If you miss a quiz because you were participating in a required GRCC Dept of Music activity, you (or your instructor) must provide excused absence documentation. Missed quizzes are to be completed within seven days from the date the exam is given.

Class Attendance/Participation
Each student is allowed two unexcused absences without penalty. After two unexcused absences, the ‘Class Attendance/Participation’ portion of your course grade will be reduced. After a student’s 6th absence he/she will receive an E grade for the course (unless he/she withdraws from class prior to the 70% date). Exceptions will be considered BUT, in the 13 years I’ve taught this course at GRCC, no student with poor attendance has been able to pass out of MUS113, even when I’ve allowed them to continue attending classes after accruing six or more absences. Attendance will be taken at the start of class. If you arrive late, please speak with me after class to notify me of your presence. Each unexcused tardy or early departure will be counted as one half of an unexcused absence.
Assignments

Assignments for this course will consist of reading, daily written work, and a final project. Specific instructions for each assignment will be given, in class, prior to the due date. A listing of assignments is provided under the ‘Course Schedule,’ however, please be advised that all assignments are subject to change. It is important that you attend class to receive instructions and any changes deemed necessary. If you miss class, it may not be possible for me to give adequate instructions to you via email regarding what you missed in class. Please be advised: exchange contact information with at least one other student so you can speak with each other outside of class regarding class material, instructions, assignments, etc.

Reading assignments: It is recommended that students study the specified chapter (reading) prior to class. Taking notes and writing down questions to ask in class are good practices. Playing all examples in the book at a piano/keyboard is considered part of the reading (i.e. read the words AND the music; make the music audible to better understand the example).

Written assignments: are to be completed by hand using pencil (NOT PEN) or by using music notation software. The specific notation method of pencil or computer printout will be announced in class prior to each assignment. Work completed using other notation methods will not be accepted. You are required to bring a paper copy of each assignment to class with you.

Assignments requiring music notation software can be completed in the computer lab on the first floor of the music building. Student lab monitors can assist you with learning Finale (you may also ask her/him to give you some help with understanding the music theory assignment). If you choose to buy your own music notation software, Volume I of your theory workbook includes a special offer on the inside cover that allows you to purchase Finale at a reduced rate.

Written assignments are due at the beginning of class time. Assignments may be collected and graded, or discussed in class. You should assume that all assignments will be turned in since you will not know in advance which papers will be collected. ILLEGIBLE ASSIGNMENTS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. Assignments not turned in AT THE TIME THEY ARE COLLECTED will be considered late.

Two written assignments will be accepted late, without penalty, if they are turned in by the next class meeting following the due date. All other late assignments will receive half credit and will not be accepted more than one week after the original due date. If you are required to miss class because of a GRCC Department of Music ensemble requirement, you are strongly encouraged to turn in due assignments prior to your absence. If this is not possible, turn in the assignments the class period immediately following your absence with documentation verifying your participation in the GRCC Department of Music activity.

Final Project

Your final project will be a composition based on the study of first species counterpoint. Complete specifications will be given at a later date. It will not be accepted past the due date (see class schedule).
Important information regarding final grades:

1. The GRCC Music Department requires students to earn a C (or higher) in order to pass out of MUS113 and receive credit for MUS114.

2. Students earning less than 60% in the ‘Exams & Quizzes’ component of this course will receive a C- or lower grade for the entire course. Students earning less than 50% in any of the other components of this course will receive a C- or lower grade for the entire course. COMPLETING ALL ASSIGNMENTS, TAKING ALL TESTS, and ACTIVELY PARTICIPATING in all class sessions is critical to success in this course.

3. Academic dishonesty will be penalized and will result in an F for the assignment and possibly for this course.

4. Students exhibiting disruptive conduct in the classroom will be penalized and may result in an F for this course. The following (from GRCC Student Code of Conduct) applies to this course: Engaging in behavior that disrupts or interferes with the learning experience includes, but is not limited to, talking in class while the faculty member or other students are speaking, using offensive language, creating distractions or disturbances, sleeping, reading unrelated materials, using a cell phone/pager or other electronic device. The use of personal laptop computers may be acceptable in some classes; however laptop computers must be used only for note-taking or activities in direct support of the course objectives. Faculty members reserve the right to ask students to shut down any electronic devices.

COLLEGE POLICIES

Disabilities and special needs:
Students with disabilities who require accommodations for this course must register with the Disability Support Services Office. Please contact Disability Support Services in room 368 of the Student Community Center or call 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
Refer to the GRCC ‘Student Code of Conduct’ for additional information at http://grcc.edu/studentconduct/studentcodeofconduct

Withdrawing from Class
Students may drop a class and receive a “W” until the date of 70% of class completion. Students must initiate all drops, using the online center or in person at the Enrollment Center.