

**MUSIC 115
MUSIC THEORY I**

BULLETIN INFORMATION

MUSC 115 - Music Theory I (3 credit hours)

Course Description:

An introduction to the basic elements, materials, and structure of Western tonal music with an emphasis on harmony, voice leading, and counterpoint

SAMPLE COURSE OVERVIEW

The Undergraduate Theory Diagnostic Exam

MUSC 115 *Music Theory I* is a fast-paced written theory course specifically designed for music majors and music minors. In order to qualify for MUSC 115 students must pass the Undergraduate Theory Diagnostic Exam (UTDE), a 10-20 min. placement exam that is administered during the first class meeting of MUSC 115. MUSC 115 students typically have 4 years of musical training in high school through participation in band, orchestra, or chorus, or equivalent musical experience. Students enrolled in MUSC 115 should be able to fluently read music in the clef of their primary instrument on day one. (MUSC 115 students are required to be able to read the treble and bass clefs fluently by Test 1.) Non-majors may take MUSC 115, but must pass the UTDE in order to qualify for the course. Non-majors who do not read music, or do not read music well, should take MUSC 114 *Introduction to Music Theory*.

If you do not read music, or do not read music well, you should take MUSC 114.

Students may freely drop MUSC 115/117 and add MUSC 114 until the official drop/add date.

ITEMIZED LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of Music 115, students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate ability to read music in a variety of clefs, keys, and score formats
2. Accurately notate and quickly identify tonal scales, intervals and chords
3. Analyze elements of rhythm, meter, counterpoint, harmony and voice leading
4. Notate and interpret theoretical symbols including: scale-degree, counterpoint, figured-bass, Roman numeral, and lead-sheet symbols
5. Compose 4-part music in the chorale style
6. Transcribe/arrange a 4-part setting for performance by members of the class ensemble

SAMPLE REQUIRED TEXTS/SUGGESTED READINGS/MATERIALS

1. Stefan Kostka and Dorothy Payne, *Tonal Harmony: With An Introduction to Twentieth-Century Music*, 6th ed. (New York: McGraw-Hill, 2008). Available at the Russell House Bookstore (777-4018) and online retailers. ISBNs: Textbook (978-0-07-340135-5); Student Workbook (978-0-07-332715-0).

2. Course Web Site- The course Web site is available online at:
<http://www.music.sc.edu/fs/bain/vc/musc115/>
 - a. It contains daily lesson plans for instructors, homework worksheets (PDF), answer keys for *Check Your Own Work* (CYOW) assignments, links to audio recordings in the Naxos Music Library, links to online drill exercises, and more.

SAMPLE ASSIGNMENTS AND/OR EXAM

1. **Reading assignments** should be prepared for the date indicated on the *MUSC 115 Daily Schedule*
2. **Homework assignments** are due the following class period (unless otherwise stated by your instructor).
3. **Three 50-min. tests** and a **2-hour comprehensive final exam** at the university-scheduled examination time.
4. **Final transcription project**
5. **Music Theory Area Web Site:** More information about our undergraduate written theory and aural skills sequence, academic integrity, OSDS, and links to important student services such as free counseling are available online at:
<http://www.music.sc.edu/ea/theory/>

SAMPLE COURSE OUTLINE WITH TIMELINE OF TOPICS, READINGS/ASSIGNMENTS, EXAMS/PROJECTS

Elements of Pitch & Rhythm (Ch. 1-2)

Pitch Notation

Major and Minor Scales (Natural, Harmonic, Melodic Minor)

Major and Minor Key Signatures

Intervals (Melodic, Harmonic, Specific, Generic)

Transforming Intervals • Interval Size and Semitones • Interval Inversion

Consonance vs. Dissonant Harmonic Intervals • Analyzing Two-Voice Counterpoint

Rhythmic Notation

Beat, Tempo & Meter • Time Signatures

Conducting Patterns • Metrical Accent Patterns • Meter Types

Test 1 (Ch. 1-2)

Diatonic Chords, Figured Bass and Roman Numeral Analysis (Ch. 3-4)

Triads (M, m, A & d)

Seventh Chords (MM, Mm, mm, dm & dd)

Inversions of Chords
Figured-Bass Symbols
Root vs. Bass • Bass-Position Symbols
Lead-Sheet Notation
Diatonic Triads • Diatonic Seventh Chords
Roman Numeral Analysis
Recognizing Chords in Various Textures

Test 2 (Ch. 3-4)

Principles of Voice Leading (Ch. 5)

The Chorale Style (SATB)
Composing the Soprano
Chord Voicing • Chord Spacing (Open vs. Close positions)
Relative Voice Motion (P, S, O, C, static) • Objectionable Voice Motions (P8s & P5s)
Voice-Leading Error Detection

Test 3 (Ch. 3-5)

Introduction to Part Writing (Ch. 6)

Four-Part vs. Three-Part Writing
Connecting Chords with Various Root Motions

Transcription Project

Instrumental Ranges and Transpositions (Ch. 6)

2-Hour Comprehensive Final Exam (Ch. 1-6)
at the university-scheduled final exam time