

MUS 11 : Fundamentals of Music

MWF, 1:00 - 2:00 PM

Fall 2008

Description: Although we're all familiar with music on some level, we may not always comprehend how it works. We might recognize agreeable (or disagreeable) qualities in the music we hear, but we may not be able to say or describe why music makes us feel this way. The ability to observe and analyze the technical aspects of music is an important prerequisite in appreciating and understanding this art. Through an introduction to the conventions and terminology of notated Western music, this course will provide students with a basic set of tools for music analysis. Students will learn about notation, rhythm, meter, scales, intervals, and chords, culminating in an introduction to functional harmony. During lab sessions, students will also be introduced to certain musicianship skills including piano playing, sight-reading, and ear training.

Lectures will include material not covered in the textbook. Students are responsible for all material covered in lectures. (Music 11 is a General Education class intended primarily for non-majors. It fulfills the General Education Area F (Arts) requirement.)

Instructor: Andre Mount amount@umail.ucsb.edu
office: Rm. 2308
hours: Monday, 2:00-3:00 (or by appointment)

Teaching Assistants: Claire Barbasch barbasch@umail.ucsb.edu
office: Rm. 2240
hours: Thursday, 11:00-12:00 (or by appointment)

Jessica Stankis jes01@umail.ucsb.edu
office: Rm. 2240
hours: Tuesday, 7:00-8:00 (or by appointment)

Michael Vitalino mvitalino@umail.ucsb.edu
office: Rm. 2240
hours: Thursday, 12:00-1:00 (or by appointment)

Textbook: Straus, Joseph N. *Elements of Music*. 2nd ed. Upper Saddle River: Pearson Prentice Hall, 2008.

Each week you will be given a reading assignment consisting of several lessons from this textbook. The readings are short, but can be dense. It is imperative that you take the time to not just read the lessons, but to understand them.

Most students in this course benefit greatly from extensive hands-on practice. This textbook doubles as a work/activity book and provides an exhaustive collection of exercises to help you master the material.

The textbook is available in the UCEN bookstore and costs about \$90 new. If you choose to purchase a used copy, please make sure you get the new (second) edition. The page numbers mentioned in class will correspond with the new edition.

Class website: <http://gauchospace.ucsb.edu/>

Aside from the textbook, the course Moodle site will be your primary source for course materials. Weekly lecture schedules, homework assignments, and critical supplementary materials will be posted here. Please check the site often for updates.

Login with your UCSBnetID (your U-Mail account). If you are enrolled in this course, you should already be enrolled in Moodle. If you are not enrolled, click on "Courses" and scroll down to "MUS 11." The enrollment key is "MiddleC" for this course.

Grade Breakdown: (Assignment of letter grades is based on a cumulative point-score only. You will not receive letter grades on individual assignments or exams. You must attend quizzes and exams on the date scheduled.)

Homework (30% of final grade): There will be weekly assignments consisting of selected exercises from the Straus text. (You are welcome to photocopy the assigned pages if you'd rather not tear the pages out, but photocopies of work already completed will not be accepted.) Homework will be assigned on the Friday of each week and will be due the following Monday. Assignments scoring less than 70% may be resubmitted with corrections and explanations of mistakes for another opportunity at full credit.

In addition to these regular assignments, there will also be mandatory weekly practice modules posted on the class website intended to help you with basic materials before attempting the homework. These are short and shouldn't take more than 15 or 20 minutes each. The practice modules will account for part of your grade, but you are welcome to revisit them as often as you like to improve your grade (only the highest grade will be counted).

Lab Attendance (10%) and Musicianship Exam (5%): Aside from the theoretical materials covered in class, this course is also designed to introduce you to some basic musicianship. Weekly lab sessions are aimed at helping develop such skills as piano playing, sight-reading, and ear training. These skills will be tested in a musicianship exam at the end of the quarter. You are expected to attend every scheduled lab session and your TA will be keeping track of attendance.

Quizzes (30%): There will be three quizzes throughout the quarter. The questions on the quizzes will be very similar to those appearing on the homework assignments. Practice quizzes will be posted on the course website (in PDF format).

Final exam (25%): The final exam will be on Thursday, December 11, 4:00 - 7:00 PM in rm. 1145. It will be cumulative, but will be heavily weighted towards material from the end of the quarter.

Tentative Weekly Schedule:

	Monday	Wednesday	Friday
Week 1: (9-21 to 9-27)			Introduction What is music?
Week 2: (9-28 to 10-4)	Pitch and Notation	Pitch and Notation (continued...)	Pitch and Notation (continued...)
Week 3: (10-5 to 10-11)	Rhythm and Meter	Rhythm and Meter (continued...)	Rhythm and Meter (continued...)
Week 4: (10-12 to 10-18)	Quiz #1	Major Scales	Major Scales (continued...)
Week 5: (10-19 to 10-25)	Minor Scales	Minor Scales (continued...)	Minor Scales (continued...)
Week 6: (10-26 to 11-1)	Intervals	Intervals (continued...)	Intervals (continued...)
Week 7: (11-2 to 11-8)	Intervals (continued...)	Quiz #2	Triads
Week 8: (11-9 to 11-15)	Triads (continued...)	Triads (continued...)	Triads (continued...)
Week 9: (11-16 to 11-22)	Seventh Chords	Seventh Chords (continued...)	Quiz #3
Week 10: (11-23 to 11-29)	Functional Harmony	Functional Harmony (continued...)	No School (Thanksgiving)
Week 11: (11-30 to 12-6)	Functional Harmony (continued...)	Functional Harmony (continued...)	Final Exam Review
Final Exam Thursday, December 11 4:00 - 7:00 PM in Music 1145			

Getting Help:

Music theory is, by nature, very logical, but some of the terminology and concepts can be difficult at first. Learning to talk about music in a technical way can be like learning a new language. We recognize these obstacles and are dedicated to helping you any way we can, provided you show evidence of effort. You are strongly encouraged to come to office hours or contact the instructor or your TA for extra help if you need it!