

## MU 009: MUSIC THEORY FUNDAMENTALS

WEBSITE: [www.uvm.edu/~dfeurzei/009](http://www.uvm.edu/~dfeurzei/009)

Spring 2018  
MWF 2:20-3:10  
Southwick 206  
The University of Vermont  
Office hours Mon. 9:30-10:30, Wed. 1-2, Fri. 11:45-12:45, and by appointment.

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### COURSE DESCRIPTION

An introduction to the fundamentals of music. Not designed for traditional music majors or those with substantial training in Western notated music. It can, however, be used to prepare students for entry into MU 109 or MU 103 if they lack the prerequisite skills, and for Music Technology & Business majors beginning their formal study of music.

### EXPLICIT LEARNING OUTCOMES

In this course you will learn:

- to speak, sing, clap, and play notated rhythms in simple and compound meters
- to notate rhythms in simple and compound meters
- to conduct standard patterns in simple and compound meters while speaking or singing in rhythm
- to speak basic rhythms using both takadimi and traditional Western rhythm syllables
- to identify pitches on the piano keyboard and in staff notation, in both treble and bass clefs
- to write and read staff notation, including realization on voice, recorder, and keyboard
- to sing simple melodies at sight, using solfege
- to play simple melodies from notation on keyboard and on recorder
- to write and identify major and minor scales and key signatures
- to write and identify precisely all intervals
- to write and identify triads and seventh chords, in both staff notation and via chord symbols
- to identify and describe simple musical forms using letters to label phrases or sections
- to read and write standard Italian terms and abbreviations for dynamics and tempo
- to hear, write, and perform standard chord progressions for 12-bar blues and rhythm changes

**ACTIVE MUSIC MAKING** is integral to this course. We will sing, clap, move, recite, and play keyboard and recorder, both as group activities and for individual graded assessment. For keyboard practice, you may use the practice rooms in Southwick or the electronic keyboards in the Technology Lab, Southwick 200D.

**REQUIRED MATERIALS**, available at UVM bookstore

- Houlahan and Tacka, *From Sound to Symbol*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Oxford Univ. Press, ISBN 0199751919
- Burakoff & Hettrick: *The Sweet Pipes Recorder Book*, Soprano Book 1 (SP2313)  
(at the Advance Music kiosk in the UVM bookstore)
- Soprano recorder with Baroque fingering, such as the Yamaha YRS-24B or YRS-20 models.  
(at the Advance Music kiosk in the UVM bookstore)
- Membership at [teoria.com](http://teoria.com). Follow instructions at the course website to receive class rate (\$10).
- Music manuscript paper, 8½ x 11 (or individual pages may be printed from the course website)
- Sharp pencils with working erasers
- Recommended: musician's earplugs for recorder practice and class playing

### EVALUATION

Written and online assignments	15 %
Quizzes, including performance assessments	30 %
Tests 1 & 2 (15% each)	30 %
Final Exam	20 %
Attendance	5 %

**WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS.** Some will be collected and graded, others corrected in class and checked off as complete/incomplete (pass/fail). Grades will be reduced by one full letter for each class day late. Once a given assignment has been returned to students, late submissions may not be accepted.

**QUIZZES** include both written and performance assessments in class or individual meetings, and online at [teoria.com](http://teoria.com). Performance will include rhythmic recitation, singing (usually while also conducting) and playing keyboard and recorder. Quizzes and tests may be made up only for excused absences. If you know you will miss class, or you have a true emergency, notify me as soon as possible by email.

**TEST DATES:** Feb. 16 and Mar. 30 in class; final exam Monday May 7 at 1:30 pm.

**ATTENDANCE** is required. This class is participatory. Each unexcused absence beyond two lowers your attendance grade by a percentage point. If you need to miss a class let me know.

### HELP

Do not wait until you are behind to get help. Music is a progressive discipline and hard to cram for.

- I am available to help you via email, phone, and in person. If my regular office hours (listed above) do not work for you, **contact me to schedule other meeting times**.
- The Center for Academic Success offers **free tutoring** by advanced music students: **656-4075**.

**ELECTRONIC DEVICES:** Off. Be here now!

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:** All work must be your own except on specified group assignments. Inappropriate collaboration will result in loss of all credit for all parties involved. Further consequences may result according to the UVM Code of Academic Integrity:  
[www.uvm.edu/~uvmppg/ppg/student/acadintegrity.pdf](http://www.uvm.edu/~uvmppg/ppg/student/acadintegrity.pdf)

**RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS:** Students have the right to practice the religion of their choice. Submit a documented religious holiday schedule to me by the end of the second full week of classes.

**DISABILITY ACCOMMODATIONS:** If you have a documented disability and wish to discuss accommodations, please contact me as soon as possible, but no later than the third week of classes.

### SCHEDULE

Subject to change. A current, detailed schedule with assignment due dates is posted on the website.

Week 1 (Jan. 15)	(no class Monday) Introduction to the Course and to Meter
Week 2 (Jan. 22)	Rhythm and Simple Meters; Introduction to Pitch
Week 3 (Jan. 29)	Pitch and the Keyboard; Introduction to Recorder
Week 4 (Feb. 5)	More Advanced Rhythms
Week 5 (Feb. 12)	Melody and Major Scales Test #1 on Friday Feb. 16
Week 6 (Feb. 19)	(no class Monday) Intervals I
Week 7 (Feb. 26)	Triads
Week 8 (Mar. 5)	Minor Scales
...week of Mar. 12	<i>Spring Break</i>
Week 9 (Mar. 19)	Minor Scale Forms and Other Modes
Week 10 (Mar. 26)	Compound Meters Test #2 on Friday Mar. 30
Week 11 (Apr. 2)	Intervals II
Week 12 (Apr. 9)	Harmonic Progression
Week 13 (Apr. 16)	Seventh Chords
Week 14 (Apr. 23)	Form & Composition
Week 15 (Apr. 30)	Form & Composition
Monday, May 7	Final Exam, 1:30-4:15 pm