

## MU 009: FUNDAMENTALS OF MUSIC THEORY

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

An introduction to the fundamentals of music theory, including rhythm, pitch, notation, melody, scales, keys, and harmony. It is not designed for music majors or for those who already have an extensive background in music. It can, however, be used to prepare students for entry into MU 109 if they lack the prerequisite skills.

**COURSE WEBSITE:** [www.uvm.edu/~dfeurzei/009](http://www.uvm.edu/~dfeurzei/009) (note that this is not a Blackboard site)

All notices about written assignments, due dates, and prepared quizzes will be posted on the website as well as announced in class.

### REQUIRED MATERIALS

- Houlahan and Tacka, *From Sound to Symbol*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Oxford Univ. Press, ISBN 0199751919
- Music manuscript paper, 8½ x 11, (available at UVM Bookstore or the course website)
- Sharp pencils with good erasers

### EVALUATION

Written assignments	15%
Quizzes and in-class assignments	15%
Tests 1 & 2 (in class)	(20% each, total =) 40%
Final Exam	20%
Attendance	10%

**WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS** will be reduced by one full grade for each class day late. After a given assignment has been returned to students, late submissions will not be accepted. Some assignments will be collected and graded, while others will be collected in class and ungraded.

**QUIZZES AND IN-CLASS ASSIGNMENTS** may be given at any time, announced or unannounced. Quizzes and tests may be made up only for excused absences. If you know in advance you must miss class, or have a legitimate emergency, notify me as soon as possible in writing or by email.

**TEST DATES:** Oct. 9 and Nov. 6 in class. Final exam (cumulative) Friday Dec. 18 at 7:30 am.

**ATTENDANCE** is required. The class is participatory in nature, with exercises, demonstrations, discussions, and explanations. Each unexcused absence beyond two will lower your attendance grade by a percentage point.

**KEYBOARD PRACTICE** is strongly encouraged. You may use the practice rooms in Southwick or the electronic keyboards in the Technology Lab (Southwick 201D, CATCard access).

### HELP

- My office hours are Mon. 3:30-4:30, Wed. 11:45-12:30, Fri. 9:30-10:30 and by appointment. I am available to help you via email, phone, and in person (see contact info above). You may schedule meeting times outside of regular office hours if needed.
- The LLC administers free tutoring by advanced music theory students. Call 656-4075 for information.

**ELECTRONIC DEVICES:** off, please, unless I indicate otherwise. 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 academic accommodations, please contact me as soon as possible, but no later than the third week of classes.

**SCHEDULE** (subject to change). Detailed assignments and due dates will be posted on the class website.

Week 1 (Aug. 31)	Introduction to the Course and to Meter
Week 2 (Sep. 7)	(no class Monday) Rhythm and Simple Meters; Introduction to Pitch
Week 3 (Sep. 14)	Pitch and the Keyboard
Week 4 (Sep. 21)	More Advanced Rhythms
Week 5 (Sep. 28)	Melody and Major Scales
Week 6 (Oct. 5)	Intervals Test #1 on Friday Oct. 9
Week 7 (Oct. 12)	Intervals
Week 8 (Oct. 19)	Minor Scales
Week 9 (Oct. 26)	Minor Scale Forms and Other Modes
Week 10 (Nov. 2)	Compound Meters
Week 11 (Nov. 9)	Triads
Week 12 (Nov. 16)	Harmonic Progression
Week 13 (Nov. 30)	Seventh Chords
Week 14 (Dec. 7)	Form (no class Friday)