

# BUTTE COLLEGE

## COURSE OUTLINE

### I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION

**MUS 3 - Music Fundamentals**

**3 Unit(s)**

**Prerequisite(s):** NONE

**Recommended Prep:** NONE

**Transfer Status:** CSU/UC

51 hours Lecture

An introduction to the notation and primary elements of tonal music. Incorporates the following concepts: staff notation in treble and bass clefs, rhythm and meter; basic properties of sound; intervals; diatonic scales and triads; and diatonic chords. Development of skills in handwritten notation is expected. (C-ID MUS 110).

### II. OBJECTIVES

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- A. Write and recognize in staff notation the elementary components of diatonic tonal music, including pitch and rhythm.
- B. Construct major and minor scales and key signatures; intervals up to the octave; and commonly used diatonic triads and seventh chords.
- C. Identify simple and compound meters; intervals up to the octave; major and minor key signatures; and commonly used diatonic triads and seventh chords.

### III. COURSE CONTENT

#### **A. Unit Titles/Suggested Time Schedule**

		Lecture	
<u>Topics</u>			<u>Hours</u>
1. Handwritten notation of pitch and rhythm			7.00
2. Simple and compound meters			8.00
3. Basic properties of sound			8.00
4. Intervals			7.00
5. Key signatures			7.00
6. Diatonic major and minor scales			7.00
7. Diatonic chords			7.00
Total Hours			51.00

### IV. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION

- A. Lecture
- B. Class Activities
- C. Homework: Students are required to complete two hours of outside-of-class homework for each hour of lecture
- D. Demonstrations

### V. METHODS OF EVALUATION

- A. Exams/Tests
- B. Homework
- C. Written Assignments

## D. Class Discussion

## VI. EXAMPLES OF ASSIGNMENTS

### A. Reading Assignments

1. Select and research one of the six main elements of music and prepare a presentation for the class on the results of your reading.
2. Read the chapter in your textbook about fundamental melodic and rhythmic concepts. To practice your notational skills, transfer the end-of-chapter exercises to music staff notation paper for the next class session.

### B. Writing Assignments

1. Write a one page informative essay about your musical self. You will find a list of helpful questions posted online that can help prompt your thoughts regarding your current music knowledge.
2. Attend a live music concert and write a report (1,500 word minimum) describing the performance. Properly utilize music terminology such as the elements of rhythm, melody, harmony, timbre, and dynamics, and identify the names of the instruments used in the performance. Proof of attendance must accompany your report.

### C. Out-of-Class Assignments

1. Listen to a recorded performance of the following three compositions: First movement of Beethoven's Symphony #5 in C minor; Maple Leaf Rag by Scott Joplin; Kashmir, as performed by Led Zeppelin. Analyze each piece for its use of rhythm as a compositional device. Be prepared to discuss your analysis in class.
2. Re-notate the song distributed in class on staff notation paper using pencil. Label the rhythmic count and all pitches in each measure.

## VII. RECOMMENDED MATERIALS OF INSTRUCTION

### Textbooks:

- A. Duckworth, W. A Creative Approach to Music Fundamentals. 11th Edition. Schirmer/Cengage, 2013.
- B. White, Gary C.. Music First!. 6th Edition. Brown and Benchmark, 2010.
- C. Gerhold, John . A Plain English Guide to Music Fundamentals. 1st Edition. Kendall-Hunt, 2013.

### Materials Other Than Textbooks:

- A. Blank music staff paper

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