

Syllabus – Foundations of Music Study, Fall 2015

Instructor	David John Baker
Office	MDA 208
Email	dbake29@lsu.edu
Office Hours	12:30 Mondays or by appointment
Location	MDA 215
Time	MWF 10:30 – 11:20
Textbooks	Music Theory Skill Builder, van Handel, OUP A New Approach to Sight Singing , 5 th Edition, Berkowitz

Course Objectives

This course aims to provide instruction in mastery of basic concepts of rudimentary music theory and musicianship. You will learn to fluently sight-sing and play simple melodies and chord progressions at the piano, and demonstrate excellence in writing, analyzing, and aurally recognizing intervals, triads, and seventh chords, cadences, and phrases.

Required Materials

Textbook:

Leigh van Handel, *Music Theory Skill Builder* (Oxford University Press) [DIGITAL]
Berkowitz, *et. al. A New Approach to Sight Singing*, 5th Edition, Norton Press

Other Materials:

Pencils, Manuscript Paper, Notebook

Classroom Etiquette

1. Attendance is expected at each class meeting since the instructor's demonstration of practice techniques and study materials will benefit the students greatly.
2. Attendance will be taken 20 times at random points during the semester on non-exam days that will contribute to your class participation grades.
3. Excused absence constitutes absence by the University (e.g., performance, tour) or a note provided by the University Health Center.
4. It is the student's responsibility to arrange a make-up time/day with the instructor within one week form the date of the excused absence. Failure to do so will result in a zero for the missed assignment.
5. Tardiness is considered to be a distraction to teaching. If you are late to class it may result in the student's ejection from class. Disruptive or disrespectful behaviour will not be tolerated and will be reported to the Dean of Students.
6. All written work is due at the start of class on the designated date.
7. Students are expected to complete all assignments. The instructor reserves the right to collect or spot check homework or classwork at anytime. Incomplete or missing work will result in a zero.

8. Required course materials must be brought to class. Sharing is not permitted.
9. Laptops, cell phones, or any other electronic device may not be used in class.

Assignments

1. The student is responsible for all assignments that are distributed/posted by the instructor on Moodle. Assignments will come from either the *Music Theory Skill Builder* or the Berkowitz text book.
2. All written work must be legible. If the instructor finds notation to be ambiguous, he reserves the right to deem it incomplete. Legibility can will be assessed objectively through external reference.
3. All written work must include the student's name written at the top of the page.

Examinations

Written

1. Five (5) Quizzes given either in class or online
2. Midterm exam will be given during midterm week and is a 50 minute test covering all material from the first half of the semester
3. The final exam is a two (2) hour cumulative test on everything covered during the course.

Performance

1. Four (4) recitations administered by the instructor or other LSU School of music staff
2. There will be no class on recitation days
3. It is your responsibility to sign up for a slot on a first come, first served basis
4. See recitation dates in the schedule below

Overall Evaluation

Attendance and Participation	15%
Research Participation	5%
Homework	15%
Recitations (4)	15%
Quizzes	20%
Midterm	15%
Final Exam	15%

Grading Scale

97-100	A+
93-96	A
90-92	A-
87-89	B+
83-86	B
80-82	B-
77-79	C+
73-76	C
70-72	C-
67-69	D+
63-66	D
60-62	D-
< 60	F

Late Assignments

Assignments must be submitted at the start of class, either on Moodle or by paper depending on the assignment. Late assignments will be deducted 5 percentage points per class. For example, an assignment due Monday that earns a 94 will be given a 89 if handed in before Wednesday, and 84 if handed in before Friday. Assignments will not be accepted after one week.

Attendance and Tardiness

Attendance will be taken every class, but only graded for 20 of all class meetings. Sign-in sheets will be handed out at the start of each class and collected in the first 10-15 minutes of class. If you are unable to sign in, it will be treated as an absence. If you are caught signing in for someone other than yourself, your attendance in class will be marked as absent.

You may miss at most two classes with no deduction unless you have a written note from a health care provider or have arranged the absence ahead of time with the instructor. More than two unexcused absences will result in a 5% deduction from your attendance and participation grade.

For more information, see the LSU university-wide attendance policy (PS-22).

Research Participation

Five percent of your grade in MUS 1701 will come from engaging with on-going music research at Louisiana State University. This requirement is normally completed by participating in two short experiments at either the Music Cognition and Computation Lab at LSU or reading a relevant research paper in

the field of music science and preparing a short presentation and write up on an article chosen in collaboration with the instructor. Participation in the first experiment is first experiment is required by midterm examination. The instructor will announce in class how to schedule a time. Students interested in engaging more fully with research and apply to be a research assistant in the Music Cognition and Computation Lab should let the instructor know.

Students With Disabilities

If you have a disability that may have some impact on your coursework for which you need accommodations, please see a staff member in the Office of Disability Services (112 Johnston Hall) so your accommodations can be met. Students that receive accommodations letters should meet with the instructor to discuss the provisions of the accommodations as soon as possible.

Assistance

The instructor is available and interested in discussing any course materials with you in order to enhance your learning. We can usually have brief discussions after class and can answer questions via email. Please feel free to visit me during my office hours at any point during the term. Additionally, I am happy to set up an appointment at any time that is mutually agreed upon for longer discussions or help.

Academic Integrity

All students enrolled at Louisiana State University are required to follow University policy regarding academic integrity. If any student is suspected of cheating, plagiarizing, or any other forms of academic dishonesty they will be reported to the administration.

Lecture and Reading Schedule

Week	Topic	Quiz/Recit	Date
1	Welcome/Basics of Pitch		
2	Intervals/Introduction to Rhythm		2 September
3	Key Signature/Major and Minor Scales	Quiz 1	19 September
4	Basics of Counterpoint/Melodic Cadences	Recitation 1	16 September
5	More on Counterpoint	Quiz 2	23 September
6	Minor Scales I	Recitation 2	30 September
7	Minor Scales II	Quiz 3	FALL BREAK
8	Triads I	Midterm	14 October
9	Triads II	Recitation 3	21 October
10	Seventh Chords and Compound Meter	Fall Break	28 October
11	Fundamentals or Harmony I	Quiz 4	4 November
12	Fundamentals of Harmony II	Recitation 4	11 November
13	Rhythm and Meter	Quiz 5	18 November
14	Special Problems		Thanksgiving
15	Review		2 December
16	Final Exam	7:30 – 9:30	6 December

Consent to Course Syllabus

I, _____, (print name) have read the syllabus and understand the classroom policies, expectations, and rules as stated in the syllabus and schedule. By signing this for I agree to comply with the polices listed and accept the schedule for this class.

Signed

Date
