

Oxford College of Emory University

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Music 114: Introduction to Theory and Composition

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Welcome to Music 114 and the study of basic theory and composition in the tonal system of Western music. It is your responsibility to read this syllabus, retain it for reference, and follow all course policies. You are responsible for all material covered in class and for all assignments. All of your work in this class is governed by the **College Honor Code** (see College Catalog.) This means that all homework assignments, tests, and compositions must be your own work, and all ideas derived from outside sources must be acknowledged.

Our class meets Monday/Wednesday/Friday from 10:40-11:30 a.m. in the Few Choral Rehearsal Room. My office hours are Monday/Tuesday/Thursday and Friday from 2:30-3:30 p.m. and also by appointment. Please feel free to come to my office and speak with me about any course-related issues.

Our class conference is on Learnlink and is titled **114 Music Archetto**. The syllabus and other information will be posted on the conference. Please check the conference daily; and please use it to communicate with me and to discuss course material with me and with your classmates.

Course Content

Music 114 is an introductory course exploring basic harmonic practice in the Western musical tradition. Fundamental topics in tonal music theory including pitch notation, rhythm and meter, scales, intervals, triads, harmony, and musical form are covered. You will learn some ways in which composers have created musical works by analyzing examples of high quality compositions by a variety of composers in different time periods. From analysis, you will learn concepts you will apply to your own original composition which you will also learn to notate. The course fulfills: a Humanities requirement at Oxford, the Area IVA GER for Emory College, and an elective for the music major or minor at Emory College. Classes use lecture and interactive format. Tests consist of objective and analytical questions. Requirements include an original composition, as well as individual sight-singing/ keyboard tests.

Music 114 Syllabus

Course Goals

The primary goals of the course are:

- to develop your ability to notate music in the Western tradition
 - to develop your ability to read music in the Western tradition
 - 2. to develop your abilities in understanding the principles of organization in music of the Western tradition
- 3. to develop your abilities in the critical analysis of Western tonal music
- 4. to develop your abilities in creating an original musical composition in the Western tonal idiom
 - 5. to develop your aesthetic sense by improving your perception and appreciation of beauty in music

Assessment of Student Learning

The grading system is "plus-minus."

4 Written Tests (40% of grade)

8 Sight-singing/Keyboard Tests (40%)

(Sight-singing/keyboard tests are individual oral tests given outside of class each week on **Friday afternoons**)

2 Assigned Short Compositions (5%)

Final exam (10%)

The final exam is an original extended composition which you will present to the class. This presentation will include:

1. The final written draft of your composition.
2. A written analysis of your composition
3. An oral report explaining your composition
4. Your live performance of the composition

Class participation and completion of daily homework (2.5%)

Self-evaluation (2.5%) The self-evaluation is a formal essay (minimum length is two pages). In this essay you should explain how and to what extent you have achieved the goals of the course which are listed above, *i.e.*, you should describe in detail what you have learned from the course. If you have learned something not reflected in the specific goals of the course, describe what further learning you experienced. Content, spelling, grammar, and writing style are graded in this essay.

Music 114 Syllabus

Course Requirements and Policies

Required book: William Duckworth, **A Creative Approach to Music Fundamentals**. Eighth Edition (Wadsworth Publishing)

Required supplies: Pencils and erasers, 3-ring binder (1.5")

The successful student in Music 114 will come to class well prepared. This means at least two hours of studying for each hour of class time. All work in the course is graded on quality of content and level of writing style (content includes the quality of ideas and information, writing style includes organization of material and accuracy of spelling and grammar.)

Music composition assignments are graded on quality of ideas, methods of organization into an artistic whole, and neatness of manuscript.

You are expected to attend all classes, ask questions, and participate in discussions, and to find out about work missed because of absence. Completion of homework on time is also expected. Excessive absences and lack of preparation for class will affect your grade negatively. See the College policy on class attendance (including the policy on religious holidays, College Catalog) You are allowed three absences without penalty. You should use these for serious illness and emergencies and for religious holidays.

All assignments are due at the beginning of class on the due date. **Late assignments will not be accepted.** Extensions may be requested on occasion, but this must be done before the due date. It is the responsibility of the student to be sure that the professor has received any paper.

There are no "make-up" tests except in cases of severe illness or emergency as documented in writing by a medical professional and determined by the professor. If you fail to appear for any test during the time specified, you will receive a grade of "0." Be sure to inform the professor (in advance, if possible) of your inability to be present for a test and the reason why.

Please be on time for class. Late arrivals are discourteous to everyone. If you arrive more than 5 minutes beyond the starting time of the class, you will be marked late. If you are late twice, this will equal one absence. Please do not bring food (including chewing gum) or drinks into the classroom. You may bring water or cough drops.

Music 114 Syllabus

Tentative Course Outline:

Date Topic

Reading and Exercises in Text

Assignments are listed on their due date

8/31 Music Theory in the Western Tradition Lecture
 9/2 Rhythm Ch. 1, pp. 1-17 Ex. 1-7
 Style periods in Western Music History Lecture
 Classical Heritage, Medieval and Renaissance

9/5 No class-Labor Day Holiday

9/7 Pitch Ch. 1, pp. 17-26 Ex. 8-15
 Style Periods in Western Music History Lecture
 Baroque, Classic, and Romantic

9/9 The Keyboard Ch. 1, pp. 27-31 Ex. 16-18
 Style Periods in Western Music History Lecture
 20th and 21st centuries

9/12 Focus Ch. 1, pp. 32-34 Prepare Musical Problem
 9/14 Rhythm Ch. 2, pp. 35-41 Ex. 1-6
 9/16 Rhythm Ch. 2, pp. 42- 53 Ex. 7-9
 Musical form Lecture
 Phrases, Sections, and Movements

9/19 Rhythm Ch.2, pp. 53-60 Prepare musical problems
 9/21 Focus Ch. 2, pp. 61-62 Prepare musical problems

9/23 Written Test 1

9/26 Pitch Ch. 3, pp. 63-71 Ex. 1-4
 9/28 Pitch Ch. 3, pp. 72-82 Ex. 4-8
 9/30 Focus on skills I pp. 83-86 Ex. 1-6
 Binary form (AB) In-class analysis
Short Composition #1 due

10/3 Major scales Ch. 4, pp. 87-99 Ex. 1-5
 10/5 Major scales Ch. 4, pp. 99-108 Ex. 6-10
 10/7 Focus Ch. 4, p. 108-110 Prepare musical problem
 on p. 110
 Ternary form (ABA) In-class analysis

Music 114 Syllabus

Date	Topic	Reading and Exercises in Text
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10/10 No Class—Mid-Semester Vacation

10/12	Major Key Signatures	Ch. 5, pp. 111-116 Ex. 1-3
10/14	Major Key Signatures	Ch. 5, pp. 116-121 Ex. 4-6

10/17 Written test 2

10/19	Intervals	Ch. 6, pp. 122-128, Ex. 1-4
10/21	Intervals	Ch. 6, pp. 129-139 Ex. 5-9
	Theme and Variation form	In-class analysis

Short Composition #2 due

10/24 Intervals Ch. 6, pp. 140-154 Ex. 10-14
 10/26 Focus on Skills II pp. 155-157 Ex. 1-6
 10/28 Minor key signatures Ch. 7, pp. 158-163 Ex. 1-3

Written Plan for Final Composition Due

10/31 Minor key signatures Ch. 7, pp. 164-169 Ex. 4-5
 11/2 Minor scales-natural Ch. 8, pp. 170-183 Ex. 1-5 and
 Musical Problem
 11/4 Minor scales-harmonic Ch. 8, pp. 173-193 Ex. 6-11 and
 Musical Problem

11/7 Minor scales-melodic Ch. 8, pp. 193-199 Ex. 12-14
 11/9 Minor scales-sight-singing Ch. 8 pp. 200-205 Ex. 15 and
 Musical Problems
 11/11 Review Major and Minor Scales and Musical forms
 Do Focus on Skills III, pp. 225-228, Ex. 1-6
Draft #1 of Final Composition Due

11/14 Written test 3

11/16 Pentatonic scales Ch. 9, pp. 206-212 Ex. 1
 11/18 Modes Ch. 9, pp. 212-224 Ex. 2-3
 Focus on Skills Ex. 1-6

11/21 Triads Ch. 10, pp. 230-240 Ex. 1-7

11/23 and 11/25 No Class Thanksgiving Vacation

Music 114 Syllabus

Date	Topic	Reading and Exercises in Text
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11/28	Triads	Ch. 10, pp. 240-253 Ex. 8-14
11/30	Triads	Ch. 10, pp. 254-261 Ex. 15-19
12/2	Dominant Seventh Chord	Ch. 10, pp. 261-274 Ex. 20-22

12/5	Tonality	Ch. 11, pp. 275-302. Do Musical Problem, p. 300-302
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12/7	Tonality	Do Focus on Skills IV, pp. 303-307 Ex. 1-6 College course evaluations
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12/9 No class at 10:40. You are required to attend the Oxford Chorale Holiday Concert on 12/8 or 12/9 at 8 p.m. in the Chapel. Sign your ticket with your name and Music 101.

12/12 Written test #4

12/13 Self-evaluation due by 5 p.m.

12/19 Final Exam in Choral Rehearsal Room at 9:00 a.m.

Final composition due in final written form.

Presentation with written report, oral report, and performance due.

See final exam schedule (printed by Records and Registration Office) for College policy on final exams.

