

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 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. Your work in this class is governed by the **College Honor Code**. This means that all homework assignments, tests, and compositions must be your own work, and all ideas derived from outside sources must be acknowledged.

We meet Mon/Wed/Fri 10:40-11:30 a.m. in Few Choral Rehearsal Room. My office hours are Mon -Fri from 2:00-3:00 p.m. and also by appointment. Please feel free to come and speak with me about any course-related issues.

Our class conference, **114 Music Archetto**, is on Learnlink . The syllabus and other information will be posted there. Check the conference daily. Use it to communicate with me and with your classmates about course material.

Course Content

Music 114 is an introductory course exploring basic harmonic practice in the Western musical tradition. Topics are tonal music theory including pitch notation, rhythm and meter, scales, intervals, triads, harmony, and musical form. You will learn how composers have created musical works by analyzing examples of compositions by a variety of composers from different time periods. From this, you will learn concepts to apply to your own original compositions which you will learn to notate. Classes use lecture and interactive formats. The course fulfills: the Oxford College Humanities requirement, the Emory College GER Area IVA and music major or minor.

Music 114 Syllabus

Course Goals

The primary goals of the course are:

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

Assessment of Student Learning

The grading system is "plus-minus."

4 Written Tests (40% of grade)

6 Sight-singing and Keyboard Quizzes (30%)

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

2 Short Compositions (10%)

Final exam – Long Composition (15%)

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

- The final written draft of your composition.
- A written analysis of your composition
- An oral report explaining your composition
- Your live performance of the composition

Self-evaluation (5%) This is a formal essay (minimum length is two pages, double-spaced) in which you explain how and to what extent you have achieved the goals of the course. Describe in detail what you have learned from the course. If you have learned something not reflected in the goals,

describe what further learning you experienced. Content, spelling, grammar, and writing style are graded in this essay.

Class participation and completion of daily homework are required. Points will be subtracted from your final total for excessive absences, lack of participation in class, and uncompleted homework.

Music 114 Syllabus

Course Requirements and Policies

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

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

The successful student will come to class well prepared. This means at least two hours of study for each hour of class time. All course work is graded on quality of content and 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, organization into an artistic whole, and neatness of manuscript.

You are expected to attend all classes, ask questions, participate in discussions, find out about work missed because of absence, and complete homework on time. Excessive absences and lack of preparation for class will affect your grade negatively. See the College policy on class attendance (including policy on religious holidays in the 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 or quizzes 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.

Be on time for class. Late arrivals are discourteous to everyone. If you arrive more than 5 minutes after class begins, you will be marked late. If you are

late twice, this will equal one absence. Do not bring food, chewing gum, or drinks into the classroom. You may bring water or cough drops.

Tentative Course Outline:

Date	Topic	Reading and Exercises in Text
Assignments are listed on their due date		

8/30	Music Theory in the Western Tradition	Lecture Introduction xix-xxii
9/1	Rhythm and Pitch	Chapter 1, pp. 1-15
	Style periods in Western Music History	Lecture
	Classical Heritage, Medieval and Renaissance	

Music 114 Syllabus

Date	Topic	Reading and Exercises in Text
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9/4	No class	Labor Day Holiday
9/6	The Keyboard	pp. 15-22
	Style Periods in Western Music History	Lecture
	Baroque, Classic, and Romantic	
9/8	Practice Materials	pp. 23-29
	Style Periods in Western Music History	Lecture
	20 th and 21 st centuries	

9/11	Rhythm I: Simple Meter	Chapter 2, pp.31-38
	Practice Materials	pp. 39-42
9/13	Focus on Skills	pp. 43-46
9/15	Rhythm II: Compound Meter	Chapter 3, pp. 47-58
	Musical form	Lecture
	Phrases, Sections, and Movements	

9/18	Practice Materials	pp. 59-60
9/20	Written Test 1	
9/22	Pitch	Chapter 4, pp.61-71
	Practice materials	pp. 73-77

9/25	Focus on Skills	pp. 79-81
9/27	Major Scales	Chapter 5, pp.83-92
9/29	Rhythm revisited: Beams	pp. 92-95

10/2	Practice materials	pp. 97-104
10/4	Major Key Signatures	Chapter 6, pp.105-112
	Practice materials	pp. 113-115
10/6	Intervals	Chapter 7, pp.117-131

10/9 No Class – Mid-Semester Vacation

10/11 Practice materials pp. 133-145

10/13 Focus on Skills pp.147-149

Short Composition #1 due

10/16 Written test 2

10/18 Minor key signatures Chapter 8, pp. 151-160

10/20 Practice materials pp. 161-163

10/23 Minor Scales

Chapter 9, pp. 165-181

10/25 Practice materials pp. 183-199

10/27 Pentatonic and Blues Scales pp.201-208

Music 114 Syllabus
Date Topic
Reading and Exercises in Text

10/30 Practice materials

pp. 209-212

11/1 Focus on Skills

pp. 213-216

11/3 Triads

pp. 217-229

Short composition #2 due

11/6 Practice materials

pp. 231-238

11/8 Triads in a musical context

pp. 239-253

11/10 Practice materials

pp. 255-260

11/13 Written test 3

11/15 Chord progressions

pp. 261-275

11/17 Practice materials

pp. 277-278

11/20 Focus on Skills

pp.279-281

Draft #1 of Long Composition Due
11/22 and 11/24
No Class Thanksgiving Holiday

11/27 Writing a Song

pp. 283-295

11/29 Strophic form

Lecture, In-class analysis

12/1 Binary and Ternary Forms

Lecture, In-class analysis

12/4 32-Bar Song Form Lecture, In-class analysis

12/6 Review
College course evaluation forms

12/8 No class at 10:40. You are required to attend the Oxford Chorale Holiday Concert on 12/7 or 12/8 at 8 p.m. in the Chapel. Sign your ticket with your name and Music 101.

12/11 Written test #4

12/13 Self-evaluation due in Few 204 by 5 p.m.

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

Final Draft of Long Composition due

Presentation of Long Composition with written report, oral report, and performance due.

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