

Las Positas College
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Course Outline for MUS 6

BASIC MUSIC SKILLS

Effective: Fall 2009

I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

MUS 6 — BASIC MUSIC SKILLS — 2.00 units

Essentials of music through notation, time elements, melody, harmony, and tonality, texture, dynamics and knowledge of the keyboard. Sight singing and ear training.

2.00 Units Lecture

Grading Methods:

Letter or P/NP

Discipline:

Family: Music Harmony and Musicianship Elementary

	<u>MIN</u>
Lecture Hours:	36.00
Total Hours:	36.00

II. NUMBER OF TIMES COURSE MAY BE TAKEN FOR CREDIT: 1

III. PREREQUISITE AND/OR ADVISORY SKILLS:

IV. MEASURABLE OBJECTIVES:

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

- A. interpret notation of both pitch and rhythm;
- B. identify and notate key signatures;
- C. identify and construct triads and seventh chords;
- D. identify and construct simple intervals;
- E. interpret expressive markings such as dynamic indications, accents, repeats;
- F. recognize and construct scales: major, minor (3 forms), chromatic, whole-tone;
- G. perform simple exercises in ear training and sight singing.

V. CONTENT:

- A. Musical notation
 - 1. Notation of pitch
 - a. Staff
 - b. Clefs
 - c. Accidentals
 - d. Reading staff notation
 - e. Writing notation by hand
 - f. Enharmonic equivalents
 - 2. Notation of duration
 - a. Kinds of notes and equivalent rests
 - b. Metronome markings
 - c. Beat and measure
 - d. Simple and compound meter
 - e. Writing rhythmic notation
 - f. Reading rhythmic notation
 - g. Complex rhythms: triplets, duplets, syncopation, hemiola
 - 3. Other signs in musical notation
 - a. Articulation markings: accents, staccato, slurs and phrasing marks
 - b. Tempo indications
 - c. Dynamic indications
 - d. Repeats
 - e. Other signs
- B. Major and minor key signatures
 - 1. Identifying key signatures
 - 2. Notating key signatures
- C. Scales: identification and construction
 - 1. Major
 - 2. Minor: natural, harmonic, melodic
 - 3. Chromatic

- 4. Whole tone
- D. Harmony
 - 1. Triads and inversions
 - 2. Seventh chords and inversions
 - 3. chord progressions
 - 4. Identification of harmony in musical context
- E. Intervals: number and quality
 - 1. Identification
 - 2. Construction
- F. Ear training
 - 1. Intervals
 - 2. Triads
 - 3. Melodic dictation
 - 4. Rhythmic dictation
- G. Sight singing
 - 1. Solfegg
 - 2. Numbers
 - 3. Other methods
- H. Analysis
 - 1. Harmony
 - 2. Form

VI. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:

- A. Lecture-demonstration of concepts
- B. Small group and whole class discussion
- C. Individual compositional experimentation and performance
- D. Class participation through tapping and counting rhythms, singing and/or playing instruments to respond to musical notation
- E. Class and individual basic musical analysis
- F. Written practice exercises

VII. TYPICAL ASSIGNMENTS:

- A. In reading: 1. Read Chapter IV, "Reading Rhythm" in *Windows on Music* in preparation for counting exercises in class. 2. Read chapter 1 in *Windows on Music* and do computer activity 3 on page 6. B. In writing, listening, problem solving/critical thinking: 1. identify the major, minor, perfect, augmented and diminished intervals on the worksheet; 2. change each major scale on the worksheet to harmonic minor; 3. analyze the folk song and identify the harmony in each measure.

VIII. EVALUATION:

- A. **Methods**
- B. **Frequency**
 - 1. Written quizzes – 10 per semester
 - 2. Rhythm quizzes – 10 per semester
 - 3. Ear training quizzes – 5 per semester
 - 4. One individual project
 - 5. One mid-term examination
 - 6. Final examination

IX. TYPICAL TEXTS:

- 1. Lynn, Theodore, A. *Introductory Musicianship*. 7th ed., Harcourt Brace, 2007.
- 2. White, Gary *Music First! An Introduction to the Fundamentals of Music and Music Reading*. 3rd ed., McGraw-Hill, 1995.
- 3. Duckworth, William A *A Creative Approach to Music Fundamentals*. 9th ed., Wadsworth, 2007.

X. OTHER MATERIALS REQUIRED OF STUDENTS:

- A. Staff paper
- B. Ear phones