

21M051 Fundamentals of Music

Fall 2011

T-Th 2:00-3:30 pm

Dr. Elaine Kwon

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Office Hours: By appointment

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The basis for this course is the Western tonal system, developed in the 17th and 18th centuries. Students can expect to learn scales, key signatures, intervals, triads and the rudiments of chord progressions. In addition, students will work on ear training, sight singing, and basic piano keyboard skills. This class is designed for music beginners and those who have not had any prior music theory experience. Topics will include, but not be limited to, the following:

Whole steps, half steps	Modes, symmetrical and diatonic scales
Meter and rhythm	Clef reading
Key signatures, circle of 5ths	Intervals, triads, diatonic triads
Sight-singing	Melodic and rhythmic dictation
Ensemble work	Cadences
Alterations in the minor mode	Chord progressions
Musical terms and instruments	Basic score reading
Beginning musical analysis	Musical form

There will be written assignments at each class meeting, in addition to specific readings from the text and other supplemental material. Attendance is mandatory. There will be many exercises done in class, so full immersion and participation is crucial to successfully learning the material. Only through steady, consistent exposure and practice will you be able to fully understand and internalize the fundamentals of music.

In addition to daily/weekly assignments, there will be 3 exams, 3 concert papers, and several very short quizzes (will be announced one class ahead). The course will culminate with an in-class piano recital.

REQUIRED MATERIALS:

TEXT: Duckworth, William. *A Creative Approach to Music Fundamentals*. 10th ed. Belmont, CA: Thomson/Schirmer, 2007.

MUSIC MANUSCRIPT PAPER (please bring to every class)

PENCIL with eraser

Please keep all handouts/assignments organized in a binder/folder.

All written work should be done in pencil.

REQUIRED PIANO LAB: Begins the week of September 12.

Weekly attendance in this lab is mandatory and essential to your grade. The grade you receive from piano lab will be factored into your final grade.

Sign up sheets are posted outside of the piano lab, 4-070. Piano lab meets once a week for one hour and is a required component of this course. Based on your skill level, you will work on repertoire pieces and major/minor scales. There will be an in-class recital at the end of the semester where you will perform

one prepared piece.

First piano lab session is the week of Sept. 12.

GRADING POLICY:

Attendance	10%
Piano Lab	10%
Assignments	30%
Concert reports	10%
Exams	35%
Quizzes	5%

10% - Attendance: Attendance and class participation are extremely important to your final grade. You are expected to attend every class meeting. You can have up to 2 excused absences if they are due to illness or some unforeseen, unavoidable conflict, and they must be cleared with me beforehand. If you do miss class, it is your responsibility to get class notes and any handouts.

10% - Piano Lab

30% - Daily Assignments

Each written assignment will receive a "+", "√" or an "R". A "+" indicates that you clearly understood the material, and that your preparation was careful and without significant errors. A "√" indicates that you understood the material, but there were an acceptable number of errors. An "R" (resubmit) indicates either careless preparation or that you did not clearly understand the material. You must correct the errors and resubmit the assignment during the next class, at which time, if the corrections were acceptable, the grade will be raised to a "√". If all of your assignments have received a "√," your grade will be a "B" for the assignment portion of your final grade. 40% of the assignments receiving a "+" will raise the grade to a B+, 60% "+"s will raise it to an A-, and 80% will raise it to an A. Each assignment that receives an "R" and is not resubmitted or an assignment not turned in at all will drop the grade by a full letter (e.g. B+ to C+). All assignments are due the next class. You will be permitted five late submits during the term. These are to be used for when you are sick, out of town, etc. Don't waste them--use them wisely! Each late submit after the first five will drop your entire assignment grade by a minus (B+ to B, A to A- etc.). In addition, late submits after the first five cannot receive a "+" grade.

10% - Concert Reports

You will be required to attend three concerts during the semester and write concert reports for each of them. Each paper should be 3-4 pages of your impressions and reflections of the selected concert. (See concert report guidelines handout.) MIT presents numerous free concerts during the semester. At the beginning of each month, you will be given a list of possible options. You may attend concerts of classical, classic jazz or world music. (If you're not sure of what these categories entail, check with me). Off-campus concerts used for these papers must be cleared with me beforehand. Please note: the concert must take place in a concert venue. One of the purposes of writing a concert report is to help you listen and think carefully and intentionally during the performance and to express your ideas in writing. The papers are due within ten days of the concert date.

For all concerts, you must arrive on time, stay for the entire concert, and comment on all of the works performed. You may submit up to three more concert reports for extra credit. Of these three extra credit reports, ONE can be pop/rock concert, but as above, must be in a concert venue, not a club. The other

two must be classical, classic jazz or world music.

35% - Quizzes and Exams

There will be three in-class exams throughout the semester. In addition, you will be given a few very short quizzes during the term. These will be announced ahead of time. If you are absent and miss a quiz, it is your responsibility to make arrangements to make it up within a week. If you don't, you will receive a zero for that quiz.

The grading scale used for quizzes and exams is as follows:

A = 95-100; **A-** = 90-94; **B+** = 87-89; **B** = 84-86; **B-** = 80-83; **C+** = 77-79;
C = 74-77; **C-** = 70-73; **D+** = 67-69; **D** = 64-66; **D-** = 60-63; **F** = below 60

DATES TO REMEMBER:

All exam dates are subject to change

Sept. 12	Piano lab begins this week
Oct. 6	Exam 1
Oct. 11	Columbus Day holiday, no class
Nov. 8	Exam 2
Nov. 10	No class
Nov. 24	Thanksgiving, no class
Dec. 8	Exam 3
Dec. 13	Class piano recital

