

Saint Louis Christian College
PWM010: Introduction to Music Theory
2 Credit Hours

Instructor: Kelly Stinnett
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Fall 2014
Wednesday and Friday
1:30-2:20pm
No prerequisites

Mission Statement

Saint Louis Christian College pursues excellence in the Word and develops servant leaders for urban, suburban, rural, and global ministry.

Course Description

Intro to Music Theory is the first semester music theory course of a required four-semester curriculum in the music degree. This course is designed to equip students having little or no formal musical training with the basic skills required to begin the Worship and Music major. The course covers the fundamentals of music including pitch, rhythm, scales, keys, intervals, and triads.

Course Rationale

To communicate with other church musicians, a worship leader must be able to speak the language of music. "Speaking" music requires one to have a working knowledge of music terms, notes, and chords on the staff as well as the keyboard.

Course Objectives

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

1. Recognize and quickly name notes on the treble and bass staves (minimum of 30 notes in 60 seconds for the final exam).
2. Demonstrate basic skills on the keyboard.
 - a. Know names of all piano keys.
 - b. Be able to play C, D, E, F, G, and A pentascales and their corresponding major and minor chords.
 - c. Recognize and play intervals.
3. Understand basic rhythms in simple meter.
 - a. Clap and count note values for eighth, quarter, dotted quarter, half, dotted half, and whole notes.
 - b. Notate a simple dictated rhythm.
4. Recognize and understand the meaning of basic music symbols.
5. Understand beginning music theory principles.
 - a. Recognize whole and half steps, intervals, and enharmonic notes on the keyboard and staff.
 - b. Identify key signatures.
 - c. Build primary chords on the staff.

Course Expectations

Attendance: Regular attendance is expected of all students. There will be no make up quizzes; therefore every absence results in a 0 quiz grade. In accordance with the SLCC Student Handbook, you will be withdrawn from the class after missing the 5th class hour.

Timely Work: Homework is due by the end of the class day. If you will be absent or need to turn your work in after class time, you may submit your work by another student, by email, or by campus mail. If you are submitting your work after class time, you may scan your homework and send it in an email. Please do not send pictures or JPGs of your work. No work will be accepted past the calendar day it is due.

Course Assessment

Quizzes: Weekly quizzes will be given on Wednesdays to assess your progress. **Quizzes will be given at the beginning of class. Students who are 10 minutes late or more will not be permitted to take the daily quiz.**

Homework: Expect frequent homework as an evaluation of your progress. Some homework will be graded only for completion. In the event of an absence, it is the responsibility of the student to pick up new homework assignments from the professor, or to arrange for another student to do so.

Listening Paper: We will be attending a St. Louis Symphony Concert on **Friday night, October 17th**. Attendance is mandatory and a project/paper will be associated with this trip. **Assignment due 11/5.**

Tests: There will be four tests given throughout the semester. The lowest test score will be dropped. These tests are to be considered cumulative and may include material from previously tested sections.

Keyboard Proficiency Exams: Each student will demonstrate proficiency in mastering the keyboard skills listed in the course objectives section of this syllabus. These will be given one-on-one in a 15-minute session scheduled outside of class. Sign-ups will be taken for time slots the week prior to the exam. **Proficiency Exams will be scheduled the weeks of 9/15, 10/13, 11/10, and 12/1.**

Final Exam: A final comprehensive exam will be given the week of December 8th.

Assignment	% of Final Grade
Listening Paper	10%
Daily Quizzes	15%
Homework	15%
Tests	20%
Keyboard Proficiency	20%
Final Exam	20%
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Total	100%

Course Schedule

- There will be no class on September 10th or 12th; October 2nd or October 8th; or November 25th or November 27th.
- A full schedule will be made available no later than the third class period.

Classroom Policies

- No electronic devices are to be seen or heard in class.
- Show respect to other students, the instructor, and any class visitors. Refrain from side conversations when someone else has the floor. If you must leave class early, please let the instructor know at the beginning of class.
- Students are responsible for completing their own work. Turning in work that is not your own will not be tolerated and will result in a failing grade in this course.
- Come prepared for class by doing your reading and homework in advance. **Homework should be done in pencil so that corrections can be made.** For class, you should bring your book, blank staff paper, and note taking materials.
- Although the instructor does not have set office hours, please feel free to ask for help. Professor Stinnett is on campus Wednesdays and Fridays and will be happy to meet with you one of those days if you need assistance with an assignment.
- If you have a diagnosed learning disability, please see the Director of The Hundred (Center for Student Success) to discuss strategies that would enhance your ability to learn. The professor cannot implement any special accommodations without authorization from The Hundred.

Course Textbooks and Recommended Resources

Required Texts:

Alfred's Essentials of Music Theory Complete, Andrew Surmani, Karen Farnum Surmani, and Morton Manus (Alfred Publishing, Van Nuys, CA: 1998).

Recommended Resources:

Clendinning, Jane Piper and Elizabeth West Marvin. *The Musician's Guide to Theory & Analysis*, 2nd ed. USA: W. W. Norton & Company, 2010.

Duckworth, William. *A Creative Approach to Music Fundamentals*. United States: Schirmer Cengage Learning, 2010.

Kostka, Stefan and Dorothy Payne. *Tonal Harmony with an Introduction to 20th Century Music*. New York: McGraw-Hill, 2009.

Mayfield, Connie E. *Theory Essentials: An Integrated Approach to Harmony, Ear Training, and Keyboard Skills*, 2nd ed. USA: Schirmer Cengage, 2013.

Miller, Michael. *The Complete Idiot's Guide to Music Theory*. New York: Penguin Group, 2005.

Turek, Ralph. *The Elements of Music: Concepts and Applications*, Vol. 1. New York: McGraw-Hill, Inc. 1996. Textbook and Workbook.