

Music Theory I Course Syllabus

Greenville Fine Arts Center

Eleonore Shults

Room #212

Office Phone: 355-2560

E-mail: eshults@greenville.k12.sc.us

Required Materials

Our textbook/workbook is a music theory materials packet and the Alfred's Essentials of Music Theory which will be purchased for you using your fee money. Each student will also need to purchase and maintain a one inch binder for the materials written and compiled specifically for this course by Dr. Jon Grier and myself. This materials packet includes charts, examples, and worksheets. They are used in class every day along with your workbook. We will have binder and workbook checks throughout the year. You will also need 4x6 notecards and a book ring to hold the notecards to make flash cards throughout the year. Lastly, you will need a pencil everyday in class.

Course Description

Oral skills: Sight-singing is taught using solfege, movable "do" system. Melodies, very simple at first, are sung in class as a group and as solos; ancillary drills emphasizing specific problems in sight-singing (larger intervals, difficult rhythms, etc.) as also used.

Aural skills: Melodic dictation is begun using very simple 5-7 note fragments; these are notated without rhythm. Gradually, the fragments are lengthened and rhythm added. Later in the course, intervals and triads (major, minor, augmented, diminished) are introduced for identification by ear. These skills are reinforced by the singing of the same items.

Analytical skills: Basics of musical analysis are presented in lecture-demo format, with vocabulary introduced as necessary to the discussion. Illustration is provided on the piano and with recordings. Worksheets of practice problems dealing with current topics are assigned almost daily; these are discussed the next day in class. Whenever possible, singing is used to reinforce the concepts.

Objectives At the conclusion of this course, the student will:

- understand basic terminology relating to music theory;
- know major and minor scales and key signatures;
- demonstrate a knowledge of intervals and triads;
- demonstrate aural skills which include recognition of scales, intervals, triads, simple rhythms and melodies;
- sight-sing simple diatonic melodies and rhythm patterns
- identify the basics of Baroque, Classical, Romantic and 20th century styles

Course Requirements

A. Attendance and Tardy Policy

REFER TO FINE ARTS CENTER HANDBOOK

B. Classroom Rules and Expectations

- Students should be seated and ready at the scheduled beginning of class.
- All students will bring a pencil (NOT pen) and the theory binder and workbook to class every day. Any worksheets assigned for homework will be finished and placed in their proper places in their binder.
- As with any arts class emphasizing skill acquisition, regular attendance is vital. If you are absent, it is expected that you will ask for the make-up work.
- The instructor is available on *most* days for extra help from 11:05-11:30. It is expected that any student requiring extra help will ask for it. Appointments are required.
- Mature behavior, respectful of colleagues and instructors, is expected at all times.

C. Supplies Necessary for Course

A 3-ring binder at least one inch thick along with your workbook, notecards and book ring, and access to a keyboard instrument is vital. The use of computer online ear-training software is suggested with parental guidance.

Assessment Information and Grading Scale

Student performance is graded using the mandated South Carolina state grading scale. Specifics of student evaluation:

Oral skills: Solo singing quizzes covering a previously announced selection of melodies; rhythm performance quizzes covering previously announced rhythm exercises.

Aural skills: Dictation quizzes similar in difficulty and identical in format to drills used in class, covering melody, intervals, triads, and rhythms.

Analytical skills: Generally speed drills and 1 page quizzes identical in format to the worksheets and/or class work.

Major Assignments and Projects Required

A major 9-weeks exam and midterm exam are given, and a comprehensive and cumulative final exam is given.

Composer Life Study “Interesting Facts” Project (Counts as two major tests grades)

Plan for Routine Communication with Parents

- Quarterly Fine Arts Center Newsletter is emailed to all parents of FAC students.
- Greenville County School District Parent access to online resources.
- Teacher emails and/or calls with any questions or concerns.

Tentative Course Outline

The pace and content of this course are adjusted as much as possible to the aptitude and background of the class members; all topics and dates are variable.

This course is very cumulative: the majority of these topics are referenced repeatedly after they are introduced. Thus, this schedule lists the approximate points at which each topic is introduced, but not necessarily the points at which they are finished. The course incorporates numerous cursory analyses of pieces to illustrate current topics. Also, throughout the Theory I curriculum are various sight-singing and ear-training exercises; intensive drilling and testing of musical terminology also occurs throughout the year as new terms are introduced in support of new topics.

WEEKS 1-8	Essential elements of Music: pitch, rhythm, melody, texture, etc. Vocabulary: fundamental elements of music; basics of musical notation; pitches on the keyboard; half & whole steps; major scales; key signatures, intervals (notation and listening)
WEEK 9	Review and 9-weeks exam
WEEKS 10-12	Review essential elements. Introduce Modes and non-diatonic scales. Mode Music Listening.
WEEKS 13-16	Rhythm and melodic sight reading and dictation.
WEEKS 17-18	Review and semester exam.
WEEKS 19-22	Rhythm unit, terms, notation; meter identification. Music listening identification of meters.
WEEKS 23-27	Expand rhythm and melodic sight reading and dictation. Introduction of minor key essential elements and music.
WEEKS 28-33	Essential harmony terms and basics of triads.
WEEK 34-37	Music appreciation of standard music examples from various styles.
WEEKS 36-38	Review and final exam.