

Music Fundamentals II

Syllabus - MUST 1312

Prospect 308 – 9:20-11:30 AM (daily, Monday – Friday)

Instructor: Dr. Brian Jarvis (bejarvis@utep.edu)

The University of Texas at El Paso – Summer 2016 (July 5th – August 1st)

Course description

Music Fundamentals II is a continuation of Music Fundamentals I. In Music Fundamentals II, you will advance your ability with the materials you learned in Music Fundamentals I. When you complete this course, you will be accurate, consistent, and fast with the necessities of music fundamentals. To continue with college-level studies of music, it is not sufficient to simply know the basics with this material. In order to be successful in pursuing a music degree here at UTEP, you need to be able to use the basic elements of music theory in a practical way. So, it is the focus of this course to make sure that you are fast, accurate, and consistent with the materials of music fundamentals.

We will cover the following topics:

- Pitch (note reading, key signatures, intervals, chords, and scales)
- Rhythm & Meter (simple & compound meters, rhythmic patterns, dots & ties, etc.)
- Notation (clefs, beaming, accidentals, key signatures, time signatures, stems, etc.)
- Musicianship (rhythmic dictation, rhythmic performance, aural identification of scale degrees, singing, chord quality, and intervals)

Unlike most of your music courses here at UTEP, this course will primarily be in a lab format. There will be almost no formal lectures because this course is focused on increasing your ability with skills you've already learned about. In place of lectures, students will be able to refresh their memory on current concepts in one of three ways: (1) reading from the Duckworth textbook, (2) reading about them online with links that will be provided for you, and/or (3) through watching video lectures online with links that will be provided for you.

Useful information

Course website	The course website (Blackboard) has course documents, the daily schedule, homework, skills quizzes, proficiency quizzes, staff paper, and helpful links.
Office hours:	Fox Fine Arts Center 431 11:30 – 12:30 PM on Thursdays and by appointment.

Required materials for every class

- Staff paper (notebook or loose sheets) – see Blackboard for printable PDFs
- Pencil with eraser (no need for pens)
- Headphones or earbuds
- USB flash drive

Optional textbook

- Duckworth, *A Creative Approach to Music Fundamentals*, 11th edition

Grading

- Your overall grade for the semester will be calculated as outlined below:

○ Daily, In-class Quizzes	25%
○ Notation Assignments	10%
○ Weekly Skills Quizzes	25%
○ Final Exam	40%
- Letter grades will be assigned as follows:

A	90-100	B	80-89	C	70-79	D	60-69	F	Below 60
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- Grade updates will be provided a few times throughout the semester. Please feel free to inquire about your current average at any time.
- In order to take Music Theory I/Aural Skills I, you need to get at least a C in this course.

Daily, In-class Quizzes

Most of the work in this course will be done at an internet-connected computer. Each day, you will come in and complete a combination of “quizzes.” There will be approximately 5-8 quizzes each day. The quizzes are timed and are pass/fail. In order to pass the quiz, you need to complete it within the allotted time **and** it needs to be at or above the required minimum grade. All daily quizzes are to be completed during class time. As the semester goes by, you will take many of the same quizzes but the allotted time will be shorter and the required minimum may be higher. During the class period in which they are assigned, all quizzes can be taken as many times as necessary for you to pass them. For the quizzes within Blackboard, the computer will simply take the highest grade of the all the attempts you made. These quizzes will prepare you for the weekly skills quizzes.

Notation Assignments

Each week, there will be one notation assignment that is to be completed as homework. These assignments are on the Blackboard site and need to be printed out, completed in pencil, and a physical copy needs to be submitted by the due date. They will be graded on correctness and legibility. If I consider an element to be illegible, it will be counted wrong. Notation needs to be correct and easily readable by other musicians.

Weekly Skills Quizzes

Each Friday, a comprehensive quiz will be given that covers all the concepts you worked on throughout the week. It will cover the following three areas: (1) theory, (2) musicianship, and (3) notation. The theory and musicianship portions will be completed online through Blackboard and the notation portion will be completed by hand on paper. There are minimum grades that must be met before each portion counts for credit. Each area of the theory and musicianship portions need to be an 80% or higher before they count for credit. The notation portion will be taken first and I will review it during class and hand it back the same day for revisions, if necessary. The revisions need to be corrected in order for it to count for credit.

Final Exam

The final exam is comprehensive, timed, and each portion must be passed in order to pass the course. The four portions are: (1) pitch, (2) rhythm & meter, (3) notation, and (4) musicianship. Each of these four portions must be passed with an 80% or higher in order to pass the course. For example, even if you scored a 100% on portions 1, 2, and 3, scoring a 60% on portion 4 would mean you fail the course. Luckily, if you show up every day and complete the daily quizzes with the required minimum grades, you will do really well in this course.

No late homework

Late homework is **NOT** accepted. Unless you have made prior arrangements with the instructor, any missed homework, quizzes, and exams will receive a grade of a zero. Exceptions can be made in the case of a genuine emergency or significant illness if written documentation (e.g., a note from a health care provider, an accident report, etc.) is shown to the instructor within one week of the due date. See the instructor if you are unsure about whether your absence will be counted as excused or unexcused.

Attendance policy

- Plan to attend every class and to show up on time.
- One unexcused absence is allowed.
 - Each subsequent unexcused absence will result in a **3% DEDUCTION FROM THE STUDENT'S FINAL GRADE.**

Excused absences include documented illness, deaths in the family and other documented crises, call to active military duty or jury duty, religious holy days, and official University activities. These absences will be accommodated in a way that does not arbitrarily penalize students who have a valid excuse. Consideration will also be given to students whose dependent children experience serious illness. This does not mean that any note from a medical professional will excuse students from absences. Notes from medical providers should state that the student was unable, in their professional opinion, to be in class on the day or days in question. Voluntary appointments like teeth cleanings or physicals will not be excused. In accordance with the university policy the authority for deciding whether the student is excused for medical reasons rests with the instructor. Please feel free to check with me if you are unsure whether or not an absence counts as excused.

Being prepared for class

In order to be prepared for class, you need to do following:

- Arrive before the scheduled start of class
- Stay for the duration of the class (or until I excuse you)
- Not use unapproved cell phones, laptops, or other electronic devices during class (see policy below).
- Complete any homework proficiency quizzes before the due date and at the required level
- Not distract others or the classroom environment in the opinion of the instructor
- Bring the required materials to each class (see Required Materials section above)

If any of the above requirements are not met, the student will be marked as being unprepared for class. The first three instances of being unprepared for class will be recorded by the instructor but do not impact your grade. Starting with the fourth instance and all instances after that, **1% WILL BE DEDUCTED FROM THE STUDENT'S FINAL GRADE** for *each* instance.

If you are late (tardy or not tardy) tell the instructor during class so that you can be counted as present. The instructor takes attendance at the very beginning of class and will not be updating attendance with late arrivals. This is done to ensure that class time is maximized for course content.

