

**MUST 1311 – Music Fundamentals I**  
**Joseph Lecher, MM – Instructor**  
**UTEP Course Syllabus – Fall Semester**

**Course Description**

Music Fundamentals I is a course designed to create a foundation of core musical knowledge and ability in the tradition of Western-European music theory. The topics covered in this course will include, but are not limited to, musical notation, rhythm, basic harmony, scales, intervals, and solfege. While some of you may already have some knowledge of these topics from your previous studies, this course aims to fill in any gaps that you may have. Whether you are a singer or an instrumentalist, a beginner or an advanced performer, knowledge of basic music theory is essential to ensuring a successful career with music.

**Class Time: MWF 9:30-10:20 AM Room FFA M402**

**Topics Covered:**

- **Pitch and Notation** (clefs, note reading, accidentals, stems and beams, key signatures, intervals, chords, scales)
- **Rhythm** (simple and compound meter, note values, rhythmic patterns, value altering symbols such as dots, ties, and special notation)
- **Musicianship** (rhythmic dictation, rhythmic performances, aural identification of scale degrees, singing, chord quality, and interval quality)

**Required Materials**

- Manuscript Paper (Blank Music Staff Paper)
- Access to Blackboard
- Pencil
- Folder

**Apps or Website Access (suggested but not required)**

- Tenuto (iOS only), otherwise free access at [musictheory.net](http://musictheory.net)
- [RhythmRandomizer.com](http://RhythmRandomizer.com)
- [BlankSheetMusic.net](http://BlankSheetMusic.net)
- [openmusictheory.github.io](http://openmusictheory.github.io)

**Office Hours**

Room M438 (4<sup>th</sup> Floor Fox Fine Arts) Time TBD

## **Assignments and Exams**

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

- Homework: 20 Assignments – 10 Points Each (200 Total Points)
- Quizzes: 6 Quizzes – 20 Points Each (100 Total Points) **Lowest Quiz grade will be dropped**
- Midterm: 2 Midterm Exams – 150 points each (300 Points Total)
- Final Exam: 1 Final Exam – (400 Points Total)

## **1000 Total Points**

### **Grading Scale**

**A = 90-100%**

**B = 80-89.99%**

**C = 70-79.99%**

**D = 60-69.99%**

**F = below 60%**

**An overall grade of C is required to advance to Music Fundamentals II.**

Homework is due at the beginning of each class. Late homework will not be accepted. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. If you are going to miss class, you must email a scanned copy of the homework to your instructor by the start of class on the day that it is due.

Quizzes and exams will be taken without notes or devices. Quizzes may not be retaken or made up if a student is absent unless medical documentation is presented to the instructor.

### **Attendance Policy**

**3 unexcused absences are allowed for the semester.** Each additional unexcused absence will result in a lowering of the final grade by 1 point. Students should be seated in the classroom at the start of class (9:30 AM). Students arriving late will be marked tardy. Every 3 tardies will count as an unexcused absence. Computers, mobile devices, and headphones/earbuds must be put away at the start of class or the student will be counted tardy.

Excused absences include, but are not limited to, university-sanctioned functions with a letter from the Dean of Students Office (such as an out-of-town ensemble performance or NCAA sports event), a positive COVID test, COVID symptoms, probable COVID exposure, medical emergencies, hospitalization, military deployment, and severe weather conditions.

**See academic calendar on next page (subject to change)**

**Academic Calendar:**

Assignment	Topic	Due Date
Homework 001B	Quarter/Half/Whole Rhythm	Friday 8/30
Homework 002B	8 <sup>th</sup> Notes	Friday 9/6
Quiz 1	Quarter/Half/Whole/8 <sup>th</sup>	Monday 9/9
Homework 004B	16 <sup>th</sup> Notes	Wednesday 9/11
Homework 005B	Dotted Rhythms	Monday 9/16
Quiz 2	Rhythms	Monday 9/16
Homework 007B	Simple Meter	Friday 9/20

Homework 008B	Compound Meter	Friday 9/27
Homework 009B	Compound Meter	Wednesday 10/2
Exam 1	Rhythm	Friday 10/4
Homework 011B	Reading in clefs	Friday 10/11
Homework 012B	Accidentals	Monday 10/14
Homework 014B	Alto and Tenor Clef	Friday 10/18
Homework 015B	Chromatic Notes	Wednesday 10/23
Homework 016B	Major Scales	Friday 10/28

Quiz 3 (O17)	Scales	Wednesday 10/30
Homework 018B	Sharps	Friday 11/1
Homework 019B	Flats	Friday 11/1
Quiz 4	Key Signatures	Monday 11/4
Homework 021	Intervals	Friday 11/8
Homework 022	Intervals	Monday 11/11
Homework 023B	Intervals	Wednesday 11/13
Homework 024C	Intervals	Friday 11/15

Quiz 5	Intervals	Monday 11/18
Homework 030B	Scales	Friday 11/22
Homework 031B	Scales	Monday 11/25
Homework 033B (extra credit)	Scales	Wednesday 12/4
Quiz 6	Scales	Wednesday 12/4
Midterm 2 TBA	Comprehensive	TBA
<b>Final Exam</b>	Comprehensive Exam	Wednesday 12/11, 10:00 AM