

# Music Fundamentals I

SYLLABUS – MUST 1311

Tuesday/Thursday 10:30 am – 11:50 am

Room: M343 Fox Fine Arts Building

Instructor: Joseph Lecher

The University of Texas at El Paso – Fall 2023

## 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 or experience, 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.

## 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](https://musictheory.net)
- [RhythmRandomizer.com](https://RhythmRandomizer.com)
- [BlankSheetMusic.net](https://BlankSheetMusic.net)
- [openmusictheory.github.io](https://openmusictheory.github.io)

## Office Hours

Room M441: Tuesday and Thursday 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. or by appointment.

## Tutoring

Please contact the graduate teaching assistant Noah Schaffrick by email for tutoring:

[nwschaffrick@miners.utep.edu](mailto:nwschaffrick@miners.utep.edu)

**Attendance Policy:**

I will be taking attendance regularly for my own records, but this class does not have a stated attendance policy. I strongly encourage you to attend EVERY class! Since homework will be due nearly every class, you will to be in class anyways to turn it in at the start of each class unless otherwise stated. Please note I reserve the right to change this attendance policy at any time and implement a new policy during the course.

**Assignments and Exams**

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

Homework: 25%	There will be homework assignments almost every class.
Quizzes: 25%	There will be 6 quizzes.
Exams: 25%	There will be 1 exams.
Final Exam: 25%	There will be one final comprehensive exam.

**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.

**Academic Calendar (SUBJECT TO CHANGE – Please refer to Blackboard regularly for updates):****Unit 1: Rhythm**

Tuesday 8/29 – Syllabus and Introduction

Thursday 8/31 Due: Homework 001-B

Tuesday 9/5 – Due: Homework 002-B

Thursday 9/7 – Quiz 1; Homework 004-B

Tuesday 9/12 – Due: Homework 005-B

Thursday 9/14 – Due: Homework 007-B

Tuesday 9/19 – Quiz 2; Due: Homework 008-B

Thursday 9/21 – **Begin Unit 2 (Notation)**

Tuesday 9/26 – Due: Homework 011-B

Thursday 9/28 – Due Homework 12-B;

Tuesday 10/3 – Due Homework 014-B

Tuesday 10/10 – Due: Homework 016; Quiz 3 (017)

Thursday 10/12 – Due: Homework 018-B

Tuesday 10/17 – Due: Homework 019-B

Thursday 10/19 – EXAM (020)

Tuesday 10/24 – Due: Homework 021

Thursday 10/26 – Due: Homework 022

Tuesday 10/31 – Due: Homework 023B; Quiz 4 (024)

Thursday 11/2 Due: Homework 024C

Tuesday 11/7 Due: Homework 025

Thursday 11/9 Quiz 5 (026)

### **Unit 3 Key Signatures and Harmony**

Tuesday 11/14

Thursday 11/16 Due: Homework 030-B

Tuesday 11/21 Due: Homework 031 B

Thursday 11/23 (No Class – Thanksgiving)

Tuesday 11/28 Review

Thursday 11/30 Quiz 6

Tuesday 12/5 Exam 2

Thursday 12/7 (Last Day of Course) Review

**FINAL TBD**