

# SYLLABUS: Music Fundamentals I

MUST 1311 - University of Texas at El Paso  
Fall 2017

**Instructor: Dr. Lindsey Macchiarella**

Instructor's office hours:

- M, W, 2:30-3:30 pm in FFA (Fox Fine Arts Building) M234
- Or by appointment

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**COURSE OBJECTIVES:** To develop basic musical and aural skills, including:

1. To understand the musical alphabet, the layout of a keyboard, and to be able to identify notes in treble, alto, and bass clef.
2. Understand the theory behind scales in major and minor keys and be able to identify them by ear.
3. To have a basic understanding of scale degrees, and to be able to sing basic melodies using solfege syllables.
4. To understand key signatures, and to be able to identify the key of basic musical passages.
5. To be able to identify intervals by size and quality.
6. To write and identify basic triads
7. Understand the construction of meter and basic beaming techniques.

## RECOMMENDED TEXT:

Duckworth, William. *A Creative Approach to Music Fundamentals* 11<sup>th</sup> edition. Boston, MA: Cengage, 2013.

## CLASS REQUIREMENTS:

**BlackBoard Quizzes** - you must complete exercises within the specified time limit. Some are topical, and others are cumulative (including all blackboard quizzes up to that point). They may be taken as many times as you like before the due date and the highest score is kept. These are due at irregular periods, so keep your eye on the course calendar! Occasionally, class time may be replaced with BlackBoard Quiz drilling.

**Daily Homework** - There are almost daily assignments for this course, all of which will be posted on Blackboard usually 2 days before the assignment is due. They pertain to lecture and reading material. Use the Duckworth text for reference while working at home.

**Tests and Exams** - There will be 2 tests throughout the semester that cover specific topics and a final exam, given during finals week, which will be cumulative. In order to receive a C in the class, you must pass the final exam with at least a 70%.

## YOUR GRADE

Homework: 25%

Blackboard Quizzes: 25%

Tests: 50%

100-90% = A

80-89% = B

70-79% = C

60-69% = D

Below 60% = F

\*NOTE: Music majors must receive a C or higher in this class to progress into the next course in the theory sequence.

\*NOTE: You must receive a 70% or higher on the final exam in order to receive at least a C in this class.

## ATTENDANCE:

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. *The final decision on whether an absence counts as excused is made by the instructor.*

### Class Attendance Policy in a Nutshell

- Go to class! Don't be late!
- It is your responsibility every day to hand in either your daily homework or a piece of paper with your name on it, otherwise you will be marked as absent for the day. Do not have someone else turn in attendance for you, or you will be required to personally check in with the teacher for your attendance point each day.
- **After the third unexcused absence** the student's final grade will go down 2% per unexcused absence (so 4 unexcused absences would mean a loss of 2%, 5 would mean 4% etc.). It is the student's job to keep track of absences, though you can check with the instructor at any time concerning your grades and number of excused or unexcused absences.

## REGARDING DEADLINES

Please see the Course Calendar within the first week of classes (available on blackboard) to familiarize yourself with project deadlines and exams. Let the instructor know in the first week of the semester if you foresee any legitimate conflicts with these dates. Unless you have a legitimate medical excuse, **under no circumstances** will exams or writing assignments be moved to accommodate individual preferences or vacation plans.

### DEADLINES IN A NUTSHELL

- Exam dates can be found on the course calendar on the blackboard website and are non-negotiable. Manage your time and travel plans accordingly.
- If you have a reasonable excuse, whether documented or undocumented, and you let the instructor know **before you miss class**, you may be allowed to turn in homework assignments the next class meeting, or schedule an appointment to re-take a quiz.

**ACADEMIC HONOR POLICY**

The state of Texas has particularly harsh punishments for Academic Honor Transgressions, so think very carefully before you break the rules listed here! Plagiarism is not tolerated in the course. Suspected cases of plagiarism will be immediately turned over for disciplinary action. Refer to the Student Conduct Guide for further information <http://sa.utep.edu/osccr/academic-integrity/>

**To Summarize:**

- Don't copy other people's work.
- Collaboration with other students or tutors on written assignments is prohibited unless the instructor says otherwise.
- Blackboard quizzes are to be completed by each individual student without outside help.

**AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT:** Any reasonable accommodations for students with limitations due to disabilities will be made. If you have a documented disability and require specific accommodations, you will need to contact the Center for Accommodations and Support services Office. Cass can be reached in the following ways: <http://sa.utep.edu/cass/> 915-747-5148, or via email, [cass@utep.edu](mailto:cass@utep.edu).