

McLennan C O M M U N I T Y C O L L E G E

WACO, TEXAS

COURSE SYLLABUS AND INSTRUCTOR PLAN

COMMERCIAL MUSIC THEORY I

MUSC - 1213 - 01

CLARK NAUERT

NOTE: This is a 16-week course.

COVID 19 Notice:

McLennan Community College is committed to providing you with every resource you need to reach your academic goals including your safety. We will continue to monitor the evolving situation with COVID 19 and adjust our safety guidelines to make sure we offer a safe environment for you and our faculty. Please make sure to consult your faculty and the MCC website at <https://www.mclennan.edu/crisis-management/coronavirus-updates/index.html> on any changes to these guidelines.

COMMERCIAL MUSIC THEORY I

1213 & 01

Course Description:

Introduction to chord progressions, scales and modes, song forms, and harmonic techniques used in commercial music. Topics include modern chord notation and chord voicings, scales and scale usage, intervals. Semester Hours 2 (3 lec)

Prerequisites and/or Corequisites:

None

Course Notes and Instructor Recommendations:

Students should bring the text, staff paper, pencils and face coverings to every class meeting.

Instructor Information:

Clark Nauert

MCC E-mail: cnauert@mclennan.edu

Office Phone Number: 299-8258

Office Location: PAC 101

Office/Teacher Conference Hours: will be posted 2nd week of classes

Required Text & Materials:

Title: Commercial Music Theory I Workbook

Author: Nauert

Publisher: MCC Bookstore

MCC Bookstore Website: <http://www.mclennan.edu/bookstore/>

Methods of Teaching and Learning:

Lecture, exams, quizzes, homework, class discussion. **My plan for this semester is that all students in this class will meet face to face with the instructor on both Tuesdays and Thursdays unless the college makes a change due to public health concerns**

Course Objectives and/or Competencies:

The student will be able to explain scale construction, interval classification and chord spellings; analyze and identify commercial music chord progressions using standard lead sheet and chord symbols and Nashville numbers; and harmonize selected melodies with appropriate chord voicing.

COMMERCIAL MUSIC THEORY I

1213 & 01

Course Outline or Schedule:

WEEK 1

Origins of music notation

The Musical Alphabet

Intervals – half steps and whole steps

Pitches/Note Names on the musical staff

Major Scales – construction – calculating major and perfect intervals using the major scale

WEEK 2

Key Signatures

The Circle of Fifths

Notes on the staff continued

Major Scale review

WEEK 3

Major Scales

Using key signatures to construct major scales

Major Pentatonic scales

WEEK 4

Review:

notation basics

intervals

key signatures

major scales

major pentatonic scales

UNIT I Test - on Thursday

WEEK 5

Major triads

Building triads from scales

Recognizing triads as patterns

Diatonic triads

Chords expressed as numbers – 1, 4 and 5 chords

COMMERCIAL MUSIC THEORY I

1213 & 01

WEEK 6

Major scale review

Triads in inversion

Key signature review

Chord progressions

Chord movement in 4ths – the 2m – 5 – 1 progression

WEEK 7

Review:

Major Scales

Major triads

Triad inversions

Diatonic triads

Chord progression – 1- 4- 5, 2m 5 – 1

UNIT 2 Test – on Thursday

WEEK 8

Minor scales – Natural, Harmonic, Melodic

The minor circle of 5ths

Minor key signatures

Building the Natural Minor Scale using minor key signatures

WEEK 9

Minor Triads

Minor triad – Major triad comparison

Recognizing minor triads as patterns

Relative major and minor

WEEK 10/11

Diatonic minor chords

Modes of the major scale

The modes analyzed relative to major and natural minor scales

Modes and Diatonic chords

COMMERCIAL MUSIC THEORY I

1213 & 01

WEEK 12/13

UNIT 3 Test – *Tuesday* of week 12

Chromatic intervals

Augmented and Diminished intervals

Melodic intervals

Harmonic intervals

Augmented and Diminished triads

Diatonic chord analysis

Week 14

Form and Structure

Song Form

All triads – root position and inversion

Chromatic Intervals continued

Week 15

Semester review

Week 16 – Final Exam

Course Grading Information:

The final grade will be based on a point system of 1-100. The final grade will be an average of 1) the 3 major test grades, 2) homework, daily grades and quizzes 3) the final exam grade. Each of the 3 components will count as 1/3 of the grade.

90 to 100 – A

80 to 89 – B

70 to 79- C

60 to 69 – D

COMMERCIAL MUSIC THEORY I

1213 & 01

Late Work, Attendance, and Make Up Work Policies:

Homework assignments will be given regularly throughout the semester. Assignments that are one week late will have the grade reduced by one letter grade. For each additional **class meeting** that the assignments are late another letter grade will be taken off. **Turn these in on time.** The averaged grades for all homework assignments will count as one-third of your final grade.

Major tests can be made up by appointment with the instructor. The Final Exam can be made up only in the event that extreme circumstances prevent you from attending the day of the final. Decisions on acceptable circumstances for missing the final and being allowed to take a makeup final are at the discretion of the instructor.

ATTENDANCE

ATTENDANCE WILL BE KEPT. IF A STUDENT MISSES 7 CLASS MEETINGS, HE/SHE WILL BE DROPPED FROM THE CLASS.

3 TARDIES WILL COUNT AS 1 ABSENCE

Student Behavioral Expectations or Conduct Policy:

CLASSROOM CONDUCT

- Cell phones must be turned off or set on vibrate.
- No text messaging during class.
- Do not talk to the person next to you **during lecture**. If you have a question, raise your hand.
- No earbud use in class during lecture or class discussion.
- If you leave before class is over without consulting the instructor you will be counted absent for the day.
- No food or drink in class except for water bottles with a lid or cap.

Failure to adhere to the conduct outlined above will result in disciplinary action and may result in dismissal from the course.

- No use of profanity will be allowed. No threatening or hostile language or behavior will be allowed.

Any instance of this type of behavior will result in removal from the classroom and may result in dismissal from the course.

COMMERCIAL MUSIC THEORY I

1213 & 01

[Click Here for the MCC Attendance/Absences Policy](https://www.mclennan.edu/highlander-guide/policies.html)

(<https://www.mclennan.edu/highlander-guide/policies.html>)

Click on the link above for the college policies on attendance and absences. Your instructor may have guidelines specific to this course.



ACADEMIC RESOURCES/POLICIES

Accommodations/ADA Statement:

Any student who is a qualified individual with a disability may request reasonable accommodations to assist with providing equal access to educational opportunities. Students should contact the Accommodations Coordinator as soon as possible to provide documentation and make necessary arrangements. Once that process is completed, appropriate verification will be provided to the student and instructor. Please note that instructors are not required to provide classroom accommodations to students until appropriate verification has been provided by the Accommodations Coordinator. For additional information, please visit www.mclennan.edu/disability.

Students with questions or who require assistance with disabilities involving physical, classroom, or testing accommodations should contact:

disabilities@mclennan.edu

254-299-8122

Room 319, Student Services Center

Title IX:

We care about your safety, and value an environment where students and instructors can successfully teach and learn together. If you or someone you know experiences unwelcomed behavior, we are here to help. Individuals who would like to report an incident of sexual misconduct are encouraged to immediately contact the Title IX Coordinator at titleix@mclennan.edu or by calling Dr. Drew Canham (Chief of Staff for Diversity, Equity & Inclusion/Title IX) at (254) 299-8645. Individuals also may contact the MCC Police Department at 299-8911 or the MCC Student Counseling Center at MCC at (254) 299-8210. The MCC Student Counseling Center is a confidential resource for students. Any student or employee may report sexual harassment anonymously by visiting <http://www.lighthouse-services.com/mclennan/>.

Go to McLennan's Title IX webpage at www.mclennan.edu/titleix/. It contains more information about definitions, reporting, confidentiality, resources, and what to do if you or someone you know is a victim of sexual misconduct, gender-based violence or the crimes of rape, acquaintance rape, sexual assault, sexual harassment, stalking, dating violence, or domestic violence.

Student Support/Resources:

MCC provides a variety of services to support student success in the classroom and in your academic pursuits to include counseling, tutors, technology help desk, advising, financial aid, etc. A listing of these and the many other services available to our students is available at <http://www.mclennan.edu/campus-resource-guide/>

College personnel recognize that food, housing, and transportation are essential for student success. If you are having trouble securing these resources or want to explore strategies for balancing life and school, we encourage you to contact a Success Coach by calling (254) 299-8226 or emailing SuccessCoach@mclennan.edu. Students may visit the Completion Center Monday-Friday from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. to schedule a meeting with a Success Coach and receive additional resources and support to help reach academic and personal goals. Paulanne's Pantry (MCC's food pantry) provides free food by appointment to students, faculty and staff based on household size. Text (254) 870-7573 to schedule a pantry appointment. The Completion Center and pantry are located on the Second Floor of the Student Services Center (SSC).

MCC Foundation Emergency Grant Fund:

Unanticipated expenses, such as car repairs, medical bills, housing, or job loss can affect us all. Should an unexpected expense arise, the MCC Foundation has an emergency grant fund that may be able to assist you. Please go to <https://www.mclennan.edu/foundation/scholarships-and-resources/emergencygrant.html> to find out more about the emergency grant. The application can be found at https://www.mclennan.edu/foundation/docs/Emergency_Grant_Application.pdf.

MCC Academic Integrity Statement:

Go to www.mclennan.edu/academic-integrity for information about academic integrity, dishonesty, and cheating.

Minimum System Requirements to Utilize MCC's D2L|Brightspace:

Go to <https://www.mclennan.edu/center-for-teaching-and-learning/Faculty-and-Staff-Commons/requirements.html> for information on the minimum system requirements needed to reliably access your courses in MCC's D2L|Brightspace learning management system.

Minimum Technical Skills:

Students should have basic computer skills, knowledge of word processing software, and a basic understanding of how to use search engines and common web browsers.

Backup Plan for Technology:

In the event MCC's technology systems are down, you will be notified via your MCC student email address. Please note that all assignments and activities will be due on the date specified in the Instructor Plan, unless otherwise noted by the instructor.

Email Policy:

McLennan Community College would like to remind you of the policy (<http://www.mclennan.edu/employees/policy-manual/docs/E-XXXI-B.pdf>) regarding college email. All students, faculty, and staff are encouraged to use their McLennan email addresses when conducting college business.

A student's McLennan email address is the preferred email address that college employees should use for official college information or business. Students are expected to read and, if needed, respond in a timely manner to college emails. For more information about your student email account, go to www.mclennan.edu/student-email.

Instructional Uses of Email:

Faculty members can determine classroom use of email or electronic communications. Faculty should expect and encourage students to check the college email on a regular basis. Faculty should inform students in the course syllabus if another communication method is to be used and of any special or unusual expectations for electronic communications.

If a faculty member prefers not to communicate by email with their students, it should be reflected in the course syllabus and information should be provided for the preferred form of communication.

Email on Mobile Devices:

The College recommends that you set up your mobile device to receive McLennan emails. If you need assistance with set-up, you may email Helpdesk@mclennan.edu for help.

You can find help on the McLennan website about connecting your McLennan email account to your mobile device:

- [Email Setup for iPhones and iPads](https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/office/set-up-an-outlook-account-in-the-ios-mail-app-b2de2161-cc1d-49ef-9ef9-81acd1c8e234?ui=en-us&rs=en-us&ad=us) (<https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/office/set-up-an-outlook-account-in-the-ios-mail-app-b2de2161-cc1d-49ef-9ef9-81acd1c8e234?ui=en-us&rs=en-us&ad=us>)
- [Email Setup for Androids](https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/office/set-up-email-in-android-email-app-71147974-7aca-491b-978a-ab15e360434c?ui=en-us&rs=en-us&ad=us) (<https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/office/set-up-email-in-android-email-app-71147974-7aca-491b-978a-ab15e360434c?ui=en-us&rs=en-us&ad=us>)

Forwarding Emails:

You may forward emails that come to your McLennan address to alternate email addresses; however, the College will not be held responsible for emails forwarded to an alternate address that may be lost or placed in junk or spam filters.

For more helpful information about technology at MCC, go to [MCC's Tech Support Cheat Sheet](#) or email helpdesk@mclennan.edu.

Disclaimer:

The resources and policies listed above are merely for informational purposes and are subject to change without notice or obligation. The College reserves the right to change policies and other requirements in compliance with State and Federal laws. The provisions of this document do not constitute a contract.