

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

WACO, TEXAS

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**COURSE SYLLABUS**

**AND**

**INSTRUCTOR PLAN**

**COMMERCIAL MUSIC THEORY I**

**MUSC - 1213 - 02**

**JON FOX**

**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\_02

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## **Course Description:**

Introduction to musical notation, chords and chord progressions, scales and modes, song forms, intervals and harmonic techniques used in commercial music. Semester Hours 2 (3 lec)

## **Prerequisites and/or Corequisites:**

None

## **Course Notes and Instructor Recommendations:**

Commercial Music Theory I is designed to provide the student with the basic knowledge and skills required to read and write standard musical notation and to communicate, both verbally and in writing, with other musicians using musical notation, terminology and nomenclature. In addition, MUSC 1213 will provide the student with a beginning understanding of **some** of the general principles and theory utilized in the organization of musical concepts (melody, harmony and rhythm) within commercial music styles.

## **Instructor Information:**

Instructor Name: Jon Fox

MCC E-mail: [jfox@mclennan.edu](mailto:jfox@mclennan.edu)

Office Phone Number: 299-8286

Office Location: BPAC 119

Office/Teacher Conference Hours: TBA

Other Instruction Information:

## **Required Text & Materials:**

Title: *Commercial Music Theory I Workbook*

Author: Clark Nauert

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

Students will need to bring staff paper, note paper and writing utensils (pencils recommended) to every class session. It is also recommended that students bring a representation of a keyboard (picture, laminate, etc.) for reference during lecture.

**Recommended Additional Resources:**

- A thorough knowledge of the piano keyboard is **highly** recommended and will greatly enhance the student's understanding of class material. **Please plan on spending a high percentage of practice/study time in front of a keyboard.**

**Methods of Teaching and Learning:**

Class meetings will include lecture and in-class assignments relevant to the text and to class lectures. Written homework will be given on a regular basis.

**Course Objectives and/or Competencies:**

The student will demonstrate proficiency in basic musical knowledge and skills, including:

- Ability to communicate musical ideas using standard musical notation
- Knowledge of major and minor scale construction, key signatures and the circle of fifths
- Knowledge of major, minor, diminished and augmented triad construction and inversions
- Knowledge of diatonic chords within the major and minor scales
- Knowledge of common chord progressions used in commercial music styles
- Knowledge of the modes of the major scale and their relationship to chord progressions
- Knowledge of melodic and harmonic intervals
- Knowledge of melodic and song forms

**Course Outline or Schedule:**

(Subject to change, students will be notified in class of any changes)

- Unit 1 (wk 1-4) – intro to musical notation / basic intervals / accidentals / major scales / key signatures / the circle of fifths / major pentatonic scales / interval quantity and quality / unit 1 test
- Unit 2 (wk 5-7) – triads / diatonic triads in major keys / 1-4-5 chord progressions / chord inversions / open vs. close position chord voicings / unit 2 test
- Unit 3 (wk 8-11) – minor scales, key signatures and the minor circle of fifths / natural, harmonic and melodic minor scales / parallel and relative major and minor scales / diatonic triads in minor keys / modes / chord-mode relationship / unit 3 test

- Unit 4 (wk 12-15) – chromatic intervals / simple and compound intervals / melodic and harmonic intervals / song and melodic forms / final exam

**Course Grading Information:**

Final grades will be determined by a combination of daily grades, homework and quizzes (80%), and the final exam (20%). A standard numeric scale will be utilized:

90 to 100% = A, 80 to 89% = B, etc.

**If you have a 92+ average on homework and quizzes, you may be exempt from the final exam (at the discretion of the instructor). Begin thinking about this NOW! Homework must be turned in on time to fulfill this requirement.**

Students must complete the course with at least a 70% average in order to receive CMP credit.

**Late Work, Attendance, and Make Up Work Policies:**

All assignments will incur a 10% deduction for each class period that they are late.

**Assignments will not be accepted more than two class periods (one week) late.**

Quizzes may be given at any time and may include any material covered in class up to that point in the semester. **There will be NO make up quizzes or tests without prior notification of an absence. With advance notice of an upcoming absence and at the discretion of the instructor, a test or quiz may be taken prior to the test date.**

**Student Behavioral Expectations or Conduct Policy:**

Students are expected to maintain classroom decorum that includes respect for other students and the instructor, prompt and regular attendance, and an attitude that seeks to take full advantage of the educational opportunity.

- All electronic devices should be silent and put away. Electronic communication of any kind (sending or receiving e-mail, text messages, etc.) during class time will result in the student being asked to leave the class until the next meeting. Any electronic communication sent or received during a test or quiz will result in an automatic F.
- Professional, courteous and respectful behavior is expected of all students. Threatening, hostile or profane language or behavior will not be tolerated and will result in immediate dismissal from the course.
- As per the MCC Attendance Policy (see below), absence (or the equivalent 3 tardies) from more than 7 scheduled class meetings (25% of the course) will result in the student

being withdrawn from the course with a grade of W. If reached after the official drop date for the semester, the student will receive a grade of F.

- Leaving class early or an excessively late arrival (missing more than 25% of class time) will result in an official absence for the day.
- No food or drink (except water in a container with a sealable top) in class.
- **MUSC 2213 is integral to a student's development as a musician. Students must attend class regularly and be prepared to study class material outside of class if they hope to be successful.**

[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 additional guidelines specific to this course.



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## 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](http://www.mclennan.edu/disability).

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

[disabilities@mclennan.edu](mailto: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](mailto: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/](http://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](mailto: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](https://www.mclennan.edu/foundation/docs/Emergency_Grant_Application.pdf).

**MCC Academic Integrity Statement:**

Go to [www.mclennan.edu/academic-integrity](http://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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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.