

Updated 08/03/2023



WACO, TEXAS

COURSE SYLLABUS

AND

INSTRUCTOR PLAN

FUNDAMENTALS OF MUSIC

MUSI-1303-001

EDGAR SIERRA

NOTE: This is a 16-week course.

NOTE: This is a Face-to-Face course.

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Course Description:

Introduction to the basic elements of music theory for music and non-music majors: scales, intervals, keys, triads, elementary ear training, keyboard harmony, notation, meter and rhythm. (Does not apply to a music major degree.)

Prerequisites and/or Corequisites:

No prerequisites are required for this course

Course Notes and Instructor Recommendations:

- 1. Pencil and notebook to take notes given by instructor*
- 2. Reading at the college level means the ability to analyze and interpret a variety of printed materials -- books, articles, and documents. A core curriculum should offer students the opportunity to master both general methods of analyzing printed materials and specific methods for analyzing the subject matter of individual disciplines.*
- 3. Students will be asked to write in correct notation on the board as a group activity with the rest of the class.*
- 4. Students will be taught how to properly read and identify musical notations.*
- 5. Students are required to opt-in to Brightspace by week one (1) to receive notifications.*

Instructor Information:

Instructor Name: Edgar Sierra

MCC Email: ersierra@mclennan.edu

Office Phone Number: 254-299-8222

Office Location: BPAC 107

Office/Teacher Conference Hours: Tuesday/Thursday 9:00-9:30. Friday 9:00-10:00. Additional office hours will be added after the first week of the semester and all voice lessons have been scheduled.

Comments: I will do my best to reply to your email within 24 hours during the 8:00-5:00 weekday hours. Emails sent in the evening or the weekend will most likely have a delayed response.

Required Text & Materials:

Title: Basic Music Distilled: Workbook

Author: Gail Wade

Textbook is available on Brightspace. It will have its own tab under "Contents"

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

Methods of Teaching and Learning:

Two weekly lectures in which the instructor will begin with introducing basic musical notation and give demonstrations on identifying notation.

The basic plan for each learning unit is the following:

- 1. You will read/watch the initial instruction*
- 2. You will perform various activities/practice assignments and quizzes to gain proficiency and understanding of the material, and finally...*
- 3. You will complete graded quizzes and assignments to demonstrate mastery of skills and concepts.*
- 4. Occasionally, you will be asked to demonstrate, orally or physically (on a piano keyboard), previously learned skills, knowledge, and activities in real-time to show retention and competency.*

Course Objectives and/or Competencies:

Fundamentals of Music is designed to provide students with fundamental skills, both written and aural, in preparation for further musical study. This course is the foundation for all studies in music theory. The course includes notation, rhythm, major and minor scales, key signatures, intervals, and triads. Additional skills include dictation, sight singing, and familiarity with the piano keyboard. Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- 1. Understand elements of musical notation*
- 2. Identify and notate intervals, scales, and triads*
- 3. Comprehend ear training examples*
- 4. Find intervals, scales, and chords on a piano keyboard*
- 5. Recognize and properly notate rhythmic patterns*

Course Attendance/Participation Guidelines:

If a student is not in attendance in accordance with the policies/guidelines of the class as outlined in the course syllabus as of the course census date, faculty are required to drop students from their class roster prior to certifying the respective class roster. A student's financial aid will be re-evaluated accordingly and the student will only receive funding for those courses attended as of the course census date.

Before the 60% point of the semester, a student who is absent for 25% or more of a face-to-face or blended course or who misses 25% or more of assigned work for an online course will be

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withdrawn from the course with a grade of W. A student may also request to be withdrawn with a grade of W before the 60% point of the semester. After the 60% point of the semester, the student may request to be withdrawn if the student is passing, or be assigned the final grade earned at the end of the semester after grades have been updated to reflect missing work.

15 mins or more tardy=Absence

Course Outline or Schedule:

Module 1: Units 1-4

- *Pitch on the Staff and Keyboard*
- *Whole and Half Steps*
- *All Accidentals*
- *Major scales and Keys*

Test 1- February 6th

Module 2: Units 5-9

- *Interval Quality and All Intervals*
- *Minor scales and keys*
- *Relative and Parallel Key*
- *Chord inversions*
- *Minor Scales, Key Signatures, and Circle of 5ths*

Test 2-March 14th

Module 10-11

- *Interval Inversion and Descending Intervals*
- *Diatonic Triads in Major and Minor Keys*
- *Dictation, Sight-Singing, and Ear Training*
- *Meter*

Test 3- April 11th

Final exam date and time TBD.

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No class on the following dates: February 8th (TMEA), February 29 (Tentative), March 5 and 7 (Spring Break), March 21 (Opera performance)

Course Grading Information:

Grades will be calculated as follows:

- *Homework, daily grades, and class participation 40%*
- *Module Tests 40%*
- *Final Exam 20%*

If you have a 92+ average on tests and homework, 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.

Late Work and Make-Up Work Policies:

Homework 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. All homework about a unit must be turned in before the test for that unit to receive credit. You cannot realistically expect to pass this class without doing the coursework. Remember that each new concept is based on the understanding and mastery of previous concepts. Drill and repetition are essential to that mastery.

** Exceptions can be made due to illness or emergencies. Please contact the instructor before the assignment due date for assistance**

Students are required to attend a minimum of 75% of lectures to prevent being dropped/or for absences not to negatively impact their progress and grades. Due to class meetings once a week, students are allowed up to seven (7) absences before the instructor is required to drop (W) on the eighth absence. If a student has reached their drop limit of six (6), the instructor is required to issue a failing (F) grade if a student fails to attend 75% of lectures.

Make-up work opportunities will be given throughout the semester to allow the student to review previous materials and improve grades.

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Extra credit assignments will be offered throughout the semester. These assignments may include but are not limited to transcribing additional music.

Additionally:

This schedule is subject to change. All deadlines are listed on Brightspace. Students will be notified of changes through Brightspace, text messages, and synchronous class announcements.

Grades are weighted. Please keep track of deadlines on Brightspace, and exercise good time management skills regarding all assessments.

Student Behavioral Expectations or Conduct Policy:

Students are to maintain respectful classroom etiquette during lectures by interrupting the lecture. Cellphones are to be put away or in silent mode(unless for emergencies which are addressed with the instructor before the lecture.). Use of cell phones during lectures (i.e. texting, Snapchat, etc..) will result in a lowering of participation grade by the instructor. Be respectful of fellow students and instructors during class meetings.

[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.

10/09/2023



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. Claudette Jackson, (Accommodations/Title IX) at (254) 299-8465. MCC employees are mandatory reporters and must report incidents immediately to the Title IX Coordinator. Individuals may also contact the MCC Police Department at (254) 299-8911 or the MCC Student Counseling Center at (254) 299-8210. The MCC Student Counseling Center is a confidential resource for students. Any student may report sexual harassment anonymously by visiting <http://www.lighthouse-services.com/mclennan/>

Additionally, Title IX provides rights and protections for pregnant and newly parenting students. 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/>

Academic Support and Tutoring is here to help students with all their course-related needs. Specializing in one-on-one tutoring, developing study skills, and effectively writing essays. Academic Support and Tutoring can be found in the Library and main floor of the Learning Commons. This service is available to students in person or through Zoom. You can contact the Academic Support and Tutoring team via Zoom or email (ast@mclennan.edu) by going to our website (<https://www.mclennan.edu/academic-support-and-tutoring/>)

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 either MCC CREW – Campus Resources Education Web by calling (254) 299-8561 or by emailing crew@mclennan.edu or a Success Coach by calling (254) 299-8226 or emailing success@mclennan.edu.

Paulanne's Pantry (MCC's food pantry) provides free food by appointment to students, faculty and staff. To schedule an appointment, go to <https://calendly.com/paulannespantry-mcc/15min>.

The CREW, Success Coaches, and Paulanne's Pantry are all located on the second floor of the Student Services building in Success Coaching Services.

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:

Please view our [Academic integrity statement](#) for more information about academic integrity, dishonesty, and cheating. The unauthorized use of artificial intelligence (AI) for classwork can be a violation of the College's General Conduct Policy. Whether AI is authorized in a course and the parameters in which AI can be used in a course will be outlined by each instructor.

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/studentemail.

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](#)
- [Email Setup for Androids](#)

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](#) 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.