

# MUSI-121: MUSIC THEORY I

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## Effective Term

Fall 2026

## CC Approval

10/03/2025

## AS Approval

10/09/2025

## BOT Approval

10/16/2025

## SECTION A - Course Data Elements

### Send Workflow to Initiator

No

### CB04 Credit Status

Credit - Degree Applicable

### Discipline

Minimum Qualifications	And/Or
Music (Master's Degree)	

### Subject Code

MUSI - Music

### Course Number

121

### Department

Music

### Division

Arts and Humanities (ARAH)

### Full Course Title

Music Theory I

### Short Title

Music Theory I

### CB03 TOP Code

1004.00 - Music

### CB08 Basic Skills Status

NBS - Not Basic Skills

### CB09 SAM Code

E - Non-Occupational

### Rationale

Adding pre-requisite in order to align with the C-ID descriptor.

## SECTION B - Course Description

### Catalog Course Description

This course, through guided composition and analysis, incorporates the following concepts: rhythm and meter; basic properties of sound; intervals; diatonic scales and triads; diatonic chords, basic cadential formulas and phrase structure; dominant seventh; figured bass symbols; and non-harmonic tones. Development of skills in handwritten notation is expected. Required for music majors and minors.

**SECTION C - Conditions on Enrollment****Open Entry/Open Exit**

No

**Repeatability**

Not Repeatable

**Grading Options**

Letter Grade or Pass/No Pass

**Allow Audit**

Yes

**Requisites****Advisory Prerequisite(s)**

Completion of MUSI-110 with a minimum grade of C.

**Advisory Corequisite(s)**

Concurrent enrollment in MUSI-120A Aural Skills I.

**SECTION D - Course Standards****Is this course variable unit?**

No

**Units**

3.00000

**Lecture Hours**

54.00

**Outside of Class Hours**

108

**Total Contact Hours**

54

**Total Student Hours**

162

**Distance Education Approval****Is this course offered through Distance Education?**

Yes

**Online Delivery Methods**

DE Modalities	Permanent or Emergency Only?
Entirely Online	Permanent
Hybrid	Permanent
Online with Proctored Exams	Permanent

**SECTION E - Course Content****Student Learning Outcomes**

Upon satisfactory completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. Analyze and compose musical examples including and up to the use of seventh chords.

**Course Objectives**

**Upon satisfactory completion of the course, students will be able to:**

1. Notate and identify all major and minor scales and key signatures.
2. Transpose a given melody to any specified key or clef.
3. Construct and identify all intervals up to an octave, ascending and descending.
4. Notate and identify any triad or seventh chord in root position and inversion.
5. Identify simple and compound meters.
6. Identify cadence types, including perfect authentic, imperfect authentic, half, plagal and deceptive cadences.
7. Analyze diatonic chords and identify patterns in harmonic progressions.
8. Identify phrases and periods in notated music.
9. Write four-part diatonic harmony.

**Course Content**

## I. Basic properties of sound

1. Harmonic series
  - a. Fundamental
  - b. Overtones/partials

## II. Notation

1. Pitch
  - a. Clefs and staff
  - b. Ledger lines
  - c. Melodic intervallic relationships
    - i. Perfect
    - ii. Major
    - iii. Minor
    - iv. Augmented
    - v. Diminished
  - d. Accidentals
  - e. Enharmonic equivalents
  - f. Key signatures
    - i. Circle of fifths
    - ii. Major
    - iii. Minor
2. Rhythmic notation
  - a. Beat/pulse
    - i. Simple meter
    - ii. Compound meter
  - b. Melodic rhythm
  - c. Time signatures
3. Compositional medium
  - a. Handwritten notation
  - b. Software notation

## III. Melodic structure

1. Phrases
2. Melodic period
3. Extended period
4. Sequence

## IV Harmony

1. Diatonic scales;
  - a. Major
  - b. Minor
    - i. Natural
    - ii. Harmonic
    - iii. Melodic
2. Diatonic chords

- a. Triads (3 notes)
  - i. Major
  - ii. Minor
  - iii. Augmented
  - iv. Diminished
- b. Chords (4 notes)
- c. Dominant seventh
- d. Inversions
  - i. Triads
  - ii. Chords
  - iii. Dominant seventh chords
- 3. Cadences
  - a. Perfect authentic
  - b. Imperfect authentic
  - c. Plagal
  - d. Deceptive
  - e. Half
- 4. Non-harmonic tones
  - a. Passing tones
  - b. Neighboring tones
- 5. Harmonic notation
  - a. Figured bass/Roman numeral analysis
  - b. Non-harmonic tones
  - c. Voice leading
  - d. Harmonic progression/harmonic rhythm
  - e. Four-part chorale writing principles

## Methods of Instruction

### Methods of Instruction

Types	Examples of learning activities
Lecture	Audio and online-enhanced lectures covering basic theoretical principles.
Other	Written and group oral critiques analyzing musical compositions; student created compositions with relation to music theoretical principles of diatonic harmony.
Observation and Demonstration	Including use of piano keyboard, CD and DVD.

### Online Adaptation

Types	Examples of learning activities
Critique	Listen to a Bach Chorale and analyze the voice leading.
Individualized Instruction	Individual meetings with instructor to go over work as needed.
Activity	Practice writing intervals and their inversions. Practice writing minor scales up and down.
Discussion	Critique fellow students' part-writing.
Lecture	Watch video explaining how to manage chord inversions.

### Instructor-Initiated Online Contact Types

Announcements/Bulletin Boards  
 Discussion Boards  
 E-mail Communication  
 Video or Teleconferencing

### Student-Initiated Online Contact Types

Chat Rooms  
 Discussions  
 Group Work

### Course design is accessible

Yes

## Methods of Evaluation

### Methods of Evaluation

Types	Examples of classroom assessments
Class Participation	Group identification of scales.
Exams/Tests	identification of major and minor scales. Creation of intervals and their inversions.
Homework	Practice writing intervals and their inversions. Practice writing minor scales up and down.
Projects	Part-writing, creating chords over a given bass line.
Quizzes	Identify a list of key signatures and their relative and parallel minor counterparts.

## Assignments

### Reading Assignments

Selected readings from textbook, and handouts.

Example 1. Read the notational exercises in handout worksheet on rhythm, distinguishing simple and compound meter.

Example 2. Read the section on Major scales in the Tonal Harmony (Kosta/Payne) book, and be prepared to identify half and wholes in a major scale at next class period.

### Writing Assignments

Example 1. Clap rhythm of the Bach chorale melody "Ein' feste Burg ist unser Gott," using variety of tempo, such as quarter equals 60, 96 and 120.

Example 2. Identify major seconds in a prepared melody, and rewrite them in minor seventh inversion.

### Outside-of-Class Assignments

Analyze the first phrase of the Bach chorale "Christ lag in Todesbanden - Wir essen und leben wohl" from the J.S. Bach 371 Four-Part Chorales, published by Kalmus, using Roman numeral analysis system.

## SECTION F - Textbooks and Instructional Materials

### Material Type

Textbook

### Author

Kostka, Stefan

### Title

Tonal Harmony

### Edition/Version

9th edition

### Publisher

McGraw Hill

### Year

2023

### ISBN #

1264094752

## SECTION G - Diversity, Equity and Inclusivity

**How does your course and/or course outline of record reflect strategies for accommodating and engaging diverse student populations, advancing equitable outcomes, and fostering inclusion for all students?**

This course reflects inclusive practices by incorporating diverse musical examples from multiple cultures and genres, using varied assessment methods (written, aural, practical) to accommodate different learning styles, providing additional support resources for students who need reinforcement of foundational concepts, ensuring accessible materials and technology, and creating a welcoming

environment that validates all forms of musical experience while clearly communicating the prerequisite music reading skills required for course success.

### **Course Codes (Admin Only)**

**CB00 State ID**

CCC000542420

**CB10 Cooperative Work Experience Status**

N - Is Not Part of a Cooperative Work Experience Education Program

**CB11 Course Classification Status**

Y - Credit Course

**CB13 Special Class Status**

N - The Course is Not an Approved Special Class

**CB23 Funding Agency Category**

Y - Not Applicable (Funding Not Used)

**CB24 Program Course Status**

Program Applicable

**Allow Pass/No Pass**

Yes

**Only Pass/No Pass**

No