



MUS 171 Foundations of Music

Summer 2024

Course Credits: 4

Contact Hours: 56 hours

Instructor: TBA

Email:TBA

COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course is an introductory course designed to provide students with a comprehensive understanding of the fundamental principles of music theory and its practical applications. This course serves as an essential foundation for individuals interested in pursuing a deeper knowledge of music, whether as performers, composers, educators, or enthusiasts. Topics include notation, rhythm, scales, intervals, triads, chords and more.

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Gain a comprehensive understanding of the fundamental elements of music, including rhythm, melody, harmony, and form.
2. Learn how to read and write music notation, including notes, key signatures, time signatures, and basic musical symbols.
3. Develop listening skills by identifying musical intervals, chords, and rhythms. This will improve your ability to recognize and reproduce musical patterns
4. Delve into the world of harmony, learning about chords, chord progressions, and how to harmonize simple melodies.
5. Foster an appreciation for diverse musical styles and cultures, encouraging students to develop their musical preferences and open-mindedness towards different genres.

PREREQUISITES

N/A



GRADING

Grades will be determined by accumulating points, with 100 points being the maximum, as follows:

ITEM	POINTS
Assignments	20 Points
Midterm 1	15 Points
Midterm 2	15 Points
Final Project	20 Points
Final Exam	30 Points
Total	100 Points

Late submissions will be graded at the end of the course. Grades will be assigned according to the following rule:

$$A \geq 90 > B \geq 80 > C \geq 70 > D \geq 60 > F.$$

We reserve the right to make adjustments to the overall grading policy.

COURSE MATERIALS

Required Texts:

Stefan Kostka, Byron Almén, *Tonal Harmony*, 9th Edition, McGraw-Hill Higher Education

Recommended (Optional) Texts or Other Materials:

None

COURSE TOPICS

MODULE	TASKS
Module 1	Topics: Topic 1: Fundamentals Topic 2: Elements of Pitch Topic 3: Notation on the Staff Topic 4: The Major Key Signatures Assessments: Assignment#1



Module 2	Topics: Topic 5: Perfect, Major, and Minor Intervals Topic 6: Augmented and Diminished Intervals Topic 7: Elements of Rhythm Topic 8: Durational Symbols Assessments: Assignment#2
Module 3	Topics: Topic 9: Beat and Tempo Topic 10: Simple and compound Time Signatures Topic 11: Introduction to Triads and Seventh Chords Topic 12: Inversion Symbols and Figured Bass Assessments: Midterm#1
Module 4	Topics: Topic 13: Diatonic Chords in Major and Minor Keys Topic 14: Root-Position Part Writing Topic 15: Harmonic Progression and the Sequence Topic 16: The I and V Chords Assessments: Midterm#2
Module 5	Topics: Topic 17: Triads in First Inversion Topic 18: Bass Arpeggiatio and Parallel Sixth Chords Topic 19: Two-Part Tonal Counterpoint Topic 20: Chromaticism Assessments: Final Project Final Exam

ATTENDANCE

1) Class attendance is required. Missing classes without permission will lead to decrease in overall grade.

Missing less than two classes: no penalty.

Missing more than two classes: 7% will be taken off from the overall grade.

If the instructor reports a student's frequent missing of class to the Soochow University Academic Administration Office, the student might get a written warning and might be prohibited from attending final exam.

2) Participants in this course are expected to arrive in class promptly and adequately



prepared. The primary objective of this course is to critically engage with the readings and the subject matter. Therefore, course participants are expected to have completed the reading prior to class and prepare thoughtful reflections/commentaries to share with fellow colleagues.

LEARNING REQUIREMENTS

- 1) Late assignments are not acceptable and are subjected to grade deductions.
- 2) Assignments submitted in the wrong format will be counted as not submitted.
- 3) Failure to submit or fulfill any required course component results in failure of the class.
- 4) Make-up for midterm and final exams only with valid excuses, as defined by the University.
- 5) In order to earn a Certificate of Completion, participants must thoughtfully complete all assignments by stated deadlines and earn an average quiz score of 50% or greater.

TECHNOLOGY POLICY

The use of electronic devices in class is distracting, both for the user and for the rest of the class. Only non-programmable calculators can be used in the tests and exam. Any attempts to use cell phones and other electronic communication devices will be seemed as cheating. Laptops are discouraged, unless you use them for activities DIRECTLY related to the course (eg., note taking, reading course documents).

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY

Soochow University highly values the academic integrity and aims to promote the academic fairness, honesty and responsibility. Any academic dishonesty behaviors and any attempts to cheats and plagiarism will be reported to the university administration office. A written warning and the relevant penalties will be imposed. The record might be shown on the official university transcript.

DISABILITY ACCOMMODATION

Soochow University is committed to maintaining a barrier-free environment so that



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students with disabilities can fully access programs, courses, services, and activities at Soochow University. Students with disabilities who require accommodations for access to and/or participation in this course are welcome.

Note:

Please contact the University Administrative Office immediately if you have a learning disability, a medical issue, or any other type of problem that prevents professors from seeing you have learned the course material.