MUSIC 121: Music Theory 1

Credit Hours: 4
Scheduled hours per week: Lecture: 4 Lab: 0 Other: 2 (MacGamut)

Catalog Course Description: Music Theory 1 is the first in a developmental sequence of music courses designed to provide students with basic fundamentals necessary for advanced study. The sequence will integrate harmony, analysis, composition, ear training and dictation, sight singing, and keyboard fundamentals. The primary objective of the music theory sequence is to increase student's knowledge of music fundamentals, to develop written, aural, and keyboard skills, and to facilitate musical maturity.

Pre-requisites: None (although some previous music experience is assumed).

Co-requisites: None

Course Learning Outcomes:

WRITTEN THEORY: By the end of the semester the student will demonstrate the following:

1. The student will master musical notation for pitch (including the Treble, Bass, and C clefs) and rhythm.
2. The student will write all major and minor scales (natural, harmonic, and melodic), know appropriate key signatures, and understand relative and parallel relationships.
3. The student will write or identify all intervals from perfect unison (PU) to major tenth (M10).
4. The student will write or identify major, minor, augmented, and diminished triads in all keys.
5. The student will write or identify authentic, plagal, deceptive, and half cadences.
6. The student will realize a figured bass.
7. The student will identify non-harmonic tones including passing tones, neighbor tones, appoggiaturas, escape tones, anticipations, changing tones, pedal tones, and suspensions.
8. The student will transpose music for band and orchestral instruments.
9. The student will complete exercises in species counterpoint.
10. The student will harmonize a figured bass and soprano melody in four parts.

EAR TRAINING: From the very beginning of formal study, musicians must work to develop a perceptive ear. The MacGamut 6 ear training software has been developed to assist students in this process. At the end of the semester, the student will demonstrate the following competencies:

1. The student will identify the following scales after hearing them: major, minor (natural, harmonic, melodic), chromatic, whole-tone, and pentatonic scales, and all authentic modes.
2. The student will identify the following intervals after hearing them: PU, m2, M2, m3, M3, P4, T, P5, m6, M6, m7, M7, P8.
3. The student will identify the following triads after hearing them: major, minor, augmented, or diminished.
4. The student will distinguish among I, IV, and V chords in root position and inversions heard in a progression.
5. The student will notate the melody of a traditional folk song or carol on the staff.

SIGHTSINGING: The student will sing intervals, scales, and triadic arpeggios using solfege syllables and will sing exercises on the Froseth/Blasser CD.

KEYBOARD: All theoretical concepts will be applied directly to the keyboard. At the end of the semester, the student will demonstrate the following competencies:

1. The student will identify any pitch on the keyboard given its octave identification.
2. The student will play major scales beginning on any pitch.
3. The student will play minor scales (natural, harmonic, melodic) beginning on any pitch.
4. The student will demonstrate chromatic, whole-tone, and pentatonic scales on the keyboard.
5. The student will play the following authentic modes beginning on any pitch: Dorian, Phrygian, Lydian, Mixolydian, Aeolian, Locrian, and Ionian.
6. The student will demonstrate the following triads on the keyboard: major, minor, augmented, and diminished.
7. The student will demonstrate the following intervals on the keyboard: PU, m2, M2, m3, M3, P4, T, P5, m6, M6, m7, M7, P8.
8. The student will accompany a simple folk song or carol on the keyboard using I, IV, and V chords.

Topics to be studied:

1. Music notation/Properties of sound
2. Major and minor (diatonic) scales and key signatures
3. Modes and non-diatonic scales
4. Intervals
5. Triads, chords, figured bass, cadences
6. Transposition of instruments
7. Melodic organization and musical texture
8. Species counterpoint
9. Harmonization of figured basses and melodies
10. Sight singing and solfegg
11. Ear training
12. Keyboard applications and fundamentals

Relationship of Course to Discipline Learning Outcomes	
Students will develop a specialized vocabulary appropriate for speaking or writing about music.	X
Students will develop listening skills so they may distinguish among significant forms, styles, and genres.	
Students will understand the significance of music within historical and cultural contexts.	
Students will acquire writing and aural skills through the music theory sequence to facilitate musical maturity.	X
Students will experience music in live performance in the local community.	
Students will develop performance and musicianship through the study and performance of a diverse repertoire of music.	

Relationship of Course to General Education Learning Outcomes:	
Composition and Rhetoric Students illustrate a fundamental understanding of the best practices of communicating in English and meet the writing standards of their college or program-based communication requirements.	
Science & Technology Students successfully apply systematic methods of analysis to the natural and physical world, understand scientific knowledge as empirical, and refer to	

data as a basis for conclusions.	
Mathematics & Quantitative Skills Students effectively use quantitative techniques and the practical application of numerical, symbolic, or spatial concepts.	
Society, Diversity, & Connections Students demonstrate understanding of and a logical ability to successfully analyze human behavior, societal and political organization, or communication.	
Human Inquiry & the Past Students interpret historical events or philosophical perspectives by identifying patterns, applying analytical reasoning, employing methods of critical inquiry, or expanding problem-solving skills.	
The Arts & Creativity Students successfully articulate and apply methods and principles of critical and creative inquiry to the production or analysis of works of art.	X

Special requirements of the course:

1. Regular class attendance, completion of homework assignments, out of class drill and practice on ear training, singing, and keyboard applications are all expected for success in this course.
2. MacGamut music software for ear training drill.

Additional Information:

The four semester sequence in music theory is part of the 2+2 articulation agreement with the West Virginia University School of Music for the Bachelor of Arts degree in music. Because music theory is sequential, students who plan to earn a bachelor's degree from any college or university in music, regardless of music specialization, must take Music Theory 1 during their first semester to assure graduation on a four year schedule.

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