



15800 Calvary Rd.
Kansas City, MO 64147

Syllabus

Course: MU221-T, N/T Music Theory I
Credit: 4 credit hours
Semester: Spring 2025
Time & Location: MW 1:00-3:00pm (plus 3-4 PM office hour in classroom)
Location: E. Ed 107
Instructor: Dr. Ian Guthrie

I. DESCRIPTION

A course in the basic elements of music, including foundational studies in chords, progressions, cadences, part-writing, melodic and harmonic structure. In addition, approximately one-fourth of the course is devoted to the development of ear training and sight-singing. All music majors will be given a basic music theory placement test early in their first semester. Students deficient in basic music theory will be required to complete a guided independent study before being admitted into Music Theory I.

Non-music majors with a strong music background may substitute MU221 Music Theory I for MU110 by taking the basic music theory placement test. (See the Music Department for permission)

II. OBJECTIVES

A. General competencies to be achieved. The student will:

1. Obtain a thorough and proficient knowledge of the fundamentals of music.
 - a. Program Objectives 3
 - b. Assignments A, B, C
2. Acquire a foundation for the integration of the following music skills:
 - A. Analysis
 - B. Historical Knowledge
 - C. Composition
 - D. Sight-Singing
 - E. Ear-Training
 - F. Performance
 - a. Program Objectives 3
 - b. Assignments A, B, C, D

Our Mission: "...to prepare Christians to live and serve in the church and in the world according to the Biblical worldview."

B. Specific competencies to be achieved. The student will:

1. Become aware of the structural elements of melody, rhythm, harmony, form, and sound in music by score examination and identification of these elements.
 - a. Program Objectives 3
 - b. Assignments A, B, C

2. Analyze representative selections from the Common Practice Period.
 - a. Program Objectives 3
 - b. Assignments A, C, D

3. Recognize and translate music from aural to visual and visual to aural by:
 - A. ear-training skill development in taking dictation, identifying intervals, chords, non-harmonic tones, and scale degrees.
 - a. Program Objectives 3
 - b. Assignments A, C, D

 - B. sight-singing skill development in singing intervals, chords and scales; singing melodies in solo and ensemble settings; clapping rhythm patterns.
 - a. Program Objectives 3
 - b. Assignments A, C, D

III. REQUIREMENTS

- A. Complete all reading in *Harmony in Context* and prepare all end-of chapter assignments for class discussion as assigned.

- B. Take all exams on designated dates. Exception: student illness or family emergency.

- C. Practice sight-singing a minimum of 45 minutes each week. Complete *MuseClass* assignments in the computer lab each week

- D. Competency-based requirements carry no point values, but must be completed in order to achieve goals and objectives of the class, and in order to receive full credit.

E. GRADING

Written Theory and Keyboard Assignments	25%
Composition	5%
SSET	10%
Class Participation	20%
Quizzes and Exams	40%
Total	100%

IV. METHODS

In-class methods include lecture, discussion, demonstration, sight-singing, and ear-training activities.

V. MATERIALS

- The Holy Bible

- Roig-Francoli, Miguel. *Harmony in Context*, 3rd edition. Dubuque, IA: McGrawHill, 2020. ISBN13: 9781260055764 \$105.12 (looseleaf purchase), \$72 (e-book purchase), \$50 (textbook rental from McGraw-Hill), \$62 (360-day e-book rental)

- Loose-leaf notebook for class notes, assignments, and projects. Include in it plenty of staff papers.

VI. TENTATIVE CLASS SCHEDULE

MTP = *Music in Theory and Practice: Volume I*
 SS/ET = *Sight-singing and Ear-training* (Last 30 minutes of class period)

Weeks 1-2: Basic notation (Chapter A-B) and **Quiz 1**; Dictating with rhythmic and pitch notation; SS Rhythm and stepwise melodies

Weeks 3-4: Scales and Keys (Chapter C) and **Quiz 2**; Dictating beat subdivisions and standard notation; SS Arpeggiating the tonic chord

Week 5: Triads, sevenths, qualities, and labels (Chapters D-E); Dictating longer dictations; SS syncopation

Week 6-7: First-species counterpoint (Chapter F, first part); Dictating dotted rhythms; SS arpeggiations in V

Week 8: Exam 1

Week 9: First-species counterpoint review (Chapter F); Dictating dots and ties in the dominant triad; SS minor

Weeks 10-11: Chord connections (Chapter 1) and **Quiz 3**; dictating leaps and compound meters; SS sixteenths

Week 12: Tonic and Dominant (Chapter 2); Dictating minor

Week 13: Subdominant chord (Chapter 3); Dictating longer minor; SS compound meters

Week 14: First-inversion chords (Chapter 4); Dictating subdivisions in simple meter; SS other arpeggios

Week 15: Review theory; Dictating subdivisions in compound meter; SS leapy basslines

VII. OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- The Bible is a required textbook in every course at Calvary University. To facilitate academic level study, students are required to use for assignments and research an English translation or version of the Bible based on formal equivalence (*meaning that the translation is generally word-for-word from the original languages*), including any of the following: New American Standard (NASB, English Standard Version (ESV), New King James (NKJV), or King James (KJV). Other translations and versions based on dynamic equivalence (*paraphrases, and thought-for-thought translations like NLT and NIV*) may be used as supplemental sources. Please ask the professor if you have questions about a particular translation or version.
 - Students with disabilities have the responsibility of informing the Accommodations Support Coordinator (aso@calvary.edu) of any disabling condition that may require support.
 - Plagiarism is defined as copying any content without identifying the source. This also includes taking another person's or AI entity's ideas or constructs and presenting them as your own. Plagiarism of any kind will not be tolerated. Most assignments at Calvary require the student to produce original work. Therefore, unless specifically permitted by the instructor, the use of AI-generated content is prohibited (even if cited) as it does not represent original work created by the student and is an unreliable aggregate of ideas from other sources. AI, however, may be utilized in cases where the instructor has explicitly permitted its use to accomplish specific tasks. It is only in these cases that AI-generated (or modified) content may be submitted by the student. If there are any questions as to the permissibility of AI use for an assignment, please ask your instructor for clarification.
 - The Clark Academic Center (learning@calvary.edu) is dedicated to providing free academic assistance for Calvary University students. Student tutors aid with all facets of the writing process, tutor in various subject areas, prepare students for exams and facilitate tests. Please take advantage of this service.
 - All class papers must follow the Turabian style according to A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations, 8th edition and the Calvary Style Guide, 2019 update.
- 1.
- Grading Scale: See grading scale in the university catalog.

Carnegie Units

MU221 (Music Theory I)

Assignments	Hours	Assigned
Class time	60	60
Reading	20	180 pages
Homework	97	3 hrs. per week
Final Exam	3	Avg.
Total	180	