

Introduction to Tonal Theory

College of William and Mary – Music 101

Section 1 – Mo/Wed 1:00pm - 1:50pm, Ewell Hall 151

Section 2 – Mo/Wed 2:00pm - 2:50pm, Ewell Hall 151

SPRING 2004

Instructor: Marcus Bittencourt, Visiting Assistant Professor

Office Hours: by e-mail appointment (with one day notice), 110 Ewell

Office Phone: (757) 221-1070

E-mail: mabitt@wm.edu

Required Materials:

Required book: The Elements of Music: Concepts and Applications, 2nd edition.
by Ralph Turek

- All the hand-outs given in class ;
- Pencils, pens and an eraser ;
- MUSIC STAFF PAPER !!!!!!!!

This class will teach elementary music theory and introduce the students to the basics of writing and reading music. There will be sight singing and ear-training exercises, including recognition of intervals and chords, as well as rhythmic and melodic dictations. We will use the fixed-do system.

Grading is done in the following way:

A= 100-90 B= 89-80 C= 79-70 D= 69-60 F= 59-0

Pluses and minuses are also used. There will be weekly written assignments and there will be one midterm and one final test. The actual schedule may change as I see your progress in the class. Also, you are expected to participate actively in the class discussions and performing exercises. Your willingness, promptness and diligence to join those discussions and to tackle those exercises in class (as well as the homework assignments) will be the most important part of your grade.

Attendance is very important. You are allowed only two excused absences per semester. In other words, those two excused absences don't count against your grades (any unexcused absence will be counted even if you have no excused absences). Please tell me in advance that you will be absent. You can call me at my office, e-mail me, or have a friend tell me. I will accept excuses if you tell me when you come to the next class at the latest.

Needless to say, I would recommend to all of you that you work hard in order to get a good grade. So, start working as soon as possible. If you have any problems or questions, please talk to me anytime. I will be very happy to help you out.

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Syllabus

Part I: The classical parameters of sound. Pitch and its notation.

1/21
1/26 1/28
2/2 2/4

Part II: The notation of rhythm.

2/9 2/11
2/16 (2/18) date to be rescheduled

Part III: The notation of dynamics. Timbre and classification of the traditional musical instruments.

2/23 2/25
3/1 **3/3 midterms due**
3/8 3/10 (*spring break, no classes*)

Part IV: Scales, modes, key signatures and the cycle of fifths.

3/15 3/17
3/22 3/24

Part V: Scales (continued). The study of intervals.

3/29 3/31
4/5 4/7

Part VI: Triads, Tetrads, and chord inversions. Tonic, subdominant, and dominant functions.

4/12 4/14
4/19 4/21

Review:

4/26 4/28