

COURSE SYLLABUS  
MUS 161.  
INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY OF MUSIC  
3 Credit Hours  
Fall, 2007

Location: Music Building, Room 202

Time: 8:00 am – 8:50 am

Instructor: Ellary Draper

Office: Music Building, Studio 39 (Basement)

Phone: 936-294-3261

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Office Hours: Monday 3 – 4 pm, Wednesday 11 am – 1 pm, Thursday 12 – 1 pm,  
and Friday 1 – 2 pm  
Also by appointment

### **Course Description**

This course is a study of the fundamentals of music including: major and minor scales, key signatures, rhythms, chords, and composition. Emphasis is on music reading and elementary music theory for the non-music major. Material will be learned through lectures, hands-on performance on recorder, and other classroom activities. Tests will include written and performing portions.

### **Course Objectives**

Through completing this course, you will learn:

- Music notation
- Basic music terms
- How to read music and play the recorder
- The basics of the piano keyboard
- How to recognize basic compositional elements of melody, harmony, rhythm, color, texture, and form

### **Required Texts and Materials**

- Feldstein, Sandy. "Practical Theory Complete." Alfred Publishing Co., Inc.
- Feldstein, Sandy. "My Recorder Book" with soprano recorder. Playin' Time Productions, Inc.
- Music staff paper, pencils (do NOT use ink for assignments or exams)
- Pencil and eraser
- Notebook

### **Attendance Policy**

Attendance will be taken at each class. In accordance with university policy, regular and punctual attendance is expected of all students. Class attendance is a criterion for final determination of your grade. After two class meetings of unexcused absences, grade will be lowered. Absence excuses are at the sole discretion of the teacher. They may include such things as a severe illness requiring doctor's attention (for yourself or close family member), official university functions for which are required to miss class, or other things. If you have more than two unexcused absences, you may attend on-campus concerts and write concert reports to replace the classes lost due to being absent.

Classes may be earned back at one class per concert paper to a maximum of two classes for two concert reports.

### **Classwork**

Students are expected to keep a binder or notebook in which to collect class notes and handouts. This binder is to be brought to class. All course work must be done in pencil.

There will be homework assignments and in-class quizzes throughout the semester. Some of these will be written and some will involve performance of music. There will be no make up quizzes. One quiz missed due to absence will not count against your average; it will be ignored. No late homework will be accepted. Homework due the day of an absence is due the following class meeting.

### **Exams**

There will be five mandatory exams throughout the semester. (There is no 'final' exam. There are simply five equal exams.) There will be no make-up exams once an exam is returned to the class. If an exam is missed, it is the responsibility of the student to discuss the situation with the instructor as soon as possible.

### **Grading Policy**

|  | Possible Points |
|--|-----------------|
| Exams (10 points each test x 5 tests = 50)         | 50              |
| Quizzes, homework assignments, class participation | 30              |
| Attendance   | 20              |
| Total  | 100             |

| Attendance                   | Attendance Grade |
|------------------------------|------------------|
| Number of unexcused absences |                  |
| 0-3                          | 20               |
| 4                            | 17               |
| 5                            | 14               |
| 6                            | 7                |
| 7 or more                    | 0                |

A = 90 – 100

B = 80 – 89

C = 70 – 79

D = 60 – 69

F = 59 or lower

## **University Policies**

### **Students with Disabilities**

SHSU adheres to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. In order to receive such accommodations, students with disabilities must register with the SHSU Counseling Center and request help from the instructor. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential.

### **Writing Assistance**

The Sam Houston Writing Center, located in Wilson 114, is open Monday-Thursday from 8 a.m. until 7 p.m., Friday from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., and Sunday from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m. Writing tutors will work with you one-on-one to help you generate, organize, or revise a draft of any assignment in any subject. You can drop by to work with a tutor or call (936) 294-3680 to schedule an appointment.

### **Student Absences on Religious Holy Days**

Section 51.911(b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examinations or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence. A student desiring to absent himself/herself from a scheduled class in order to observe (a) religious holy day(s) shall present to the instructor a written statement concerning the religious holy day(s). This request must be made in the first fifteen days of the semester. The instructor will notify the student of a reasonable timeframe in which the missed assignments and/or examinations are to be completed.

### **Academic Honesty**

The University expects all students to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. Furthermore, the University and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials.

### **Classroom Rules of Conduct**

Students will refrain from behavior in the classroom that intentionally or unintentionally disrupts the learning process and, thus, impedes the mission of the university. Cellular telephones and pagers must be turned off before class begins. Students are prohibited from eating in class, using tobacco products, making offensive remarks, reading newspapers, sleeping, talking at inappropriate times, wearing inappropriate clothing, or engaging in any other form of distraction. Inappropriate behavior in the classroom shall result in a directive to leave class. Students who are especially disruptive also may be reported to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action in accordance with university policy.

### **Visitors in the Classroom**

Unannounced visitors to class must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. If the visitor is not a registered student, it is at the instructor's discretion whether or not the visitor will be allowed to remain in the classroom.