

# MUS 161.03: INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY OF MUSIC

CID NUMBER 2866

M/W/F 12:00 P.M. -12:50 P.M., SPRING 2008 ; CREDIT: 3 HRS.

SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY

MUSIC BUILDING, ROOM 219

## COURSE SYLLABUS <sup>1</sup>

**Instructor:** Vincetti Frizzo

**Office:** Kirkley G02

**Office hours:** By Appointment

**Telephone.:** (936) 294-4008

**Email:** [vincetti@shsu.edu](mailto:vincetti@shsu.edu)

### REQUIRED MATERIALS

- *Practical Theory* by Sandy Felstein).
- Recorder and Textbook.
- Pencils, manuscript paper, eraser (These are required).

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course explores the fundamentals of music, including major and minor scales, rhythm, chords, and diatonic function. The course is designed to start at the basic level of theory from naming notes to being able to identify harmony and chords progressing to being able to identify musical elements and overall function in musical score. We will also explore how major/minor scales and key signatures are derived and how they play an integral part in writing music, and attempt to broaden our knowledge and appreciation of music theory as it relates to all styles of music. [Prerequisites: *none, not open to music majors or minors*]

### COURSE OBJECTIVES

Students will become familiar with the identification and correct notation of key signatures, scales, meters, intervals, triads, and root position roman numerals. They should understand basic concepts of tonality, tonal function, consonance, dissonance, non-harmonic tones, and simple cadences as they relate to actual music. Further learning will include basic performance on a recorder instrument.

### ASSIGNMENT AND TEST POLICIES

- All assignments and quizzes must be done IN PENCIL. Any work done in pen WILL NOT be accepted.
- You are responsible for knowing assignments and turning them in on time.
- Late assignments will be accepted only by approval of the Instructor. Late Assignments will be given a grade penalty for each day late. Assignments more than one week late WILL NOT be accepted.
- You are responsible for taking quizzes and knowing when they will be given. There will be NO makeup exams (unless extreme circumstances are deemed valid).

### COURSE ATTENDANCE

Regular and punctual attendance will be expected of you throughout the semester. If you foresee difficulties because of commuting, working, or carrying too many credit hours, then I recommend **NOT** to take this course. **University policy permits three (excused or unexcused) absences without penalty (except for announced tests).** For each additional unexcused absence, **3.3 points will be deducted from your final grade.** Valid excuses include official university functions, serious illness or family emergency with a valid explanation/note. You are responsible for all assignments and material covered on the days of your absence. Tardiness will be counted as one-third (1/3) off your attendance for the day. **Attendance is a significant factor affecting your success in this course.**

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<sup>1</sup> The College of Arts and Sciences at Sam Houston State University states that a syllabus is regarded as a binding "legal contract" or legal document that holds both students and professors accountable. More than just an outline of the course, a syllabus establishes the respective obligations and rights of the student and professor. A clear and specific syllabus promotes the educational process and helps to avoid disagreements and grievances.

## GRADING AND EVALUATION

• Quizzes/Exams	40%
• Homework Assignments	45%
• Final Exam (required)	15%
• Adjustments for Class Attendance	(see above)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>

### Grading Scale

A = 90 – 100

B = 80 – 89

C = 70 – 79

D = 60 – 69

F = 0 – 59

Because of the large attendance and the limited availability of the instructor, MAKE-UP EXAMS WILL NOT BE GIVEN. Please make every effort to make all exams. Because music theory builds on previous materials learned, the final WILL be comprehensive. The Final Exam will take place as scheduled in the University Calendar unless indicated otherwise

## HOMEWORK COPYING/COLLABORATION POLICY

Consultation between students about general concepts is allowed, but copying and/or collaboration (working together) on quizzes or homework assignments is cheating and will be dealt with severely (First offence: no credit for all papers involved; Second offence: referral for disciplinary action).

## OFFICE HOURS

My office is in room G02 of the Kirkley-Smith Building. I am usually there in the afternoons, but I cannot guarantee that I will always be there. If you would like to meet with me, I would recommend that you email me so that we can set up an appointment. I also encourage you to check your email and *Blackboard* often for updates and announcements. You can contact me via email or if needed at [vincetti@shsu.edu](mailto:vincetti@shsu.edu) and/or by telephone at (936) 294-4008.

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### UNIVERSITY POLICY ON ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:

The Faculty Handbook states that 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.

### PROPER CLASSROOM DEMEANOR/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. **Please turn off or mute your cellular phone and/or pager before class begins.** Students are prohibited from eating in class, using tobacco products, making offensive remarks, reading newspapers, sleeping, talking among each other at inappropriate times, wearing inappropriate clothing, or engaging in any other form of distraction. Inappropriate behavior in the classroom shall result in a, minimally, a directive to leave class or being reported to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action in accordance with university policy.

### AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT:

Sam Houston State University adheres to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulation, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. If you have a disability that may affect you work in this class, then I encourage you to register with the SHSU Counseling Center and talk with me about how I can best help you. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. NOTE: No accommodations can be made until you register with the Counseling Center.

### RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS:

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 examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence.