

Date: March 2006

**I. Course Name:** Music Theory I  
**Prefix and Number:** MUS 106  
**Credit Hours and Contact Hours:** 3 credit hours – 3 contact hours  
**Catalog Description**

An introductory course designed for the general student and for individuals concentrating in Music or Music Recording. Students learn the fundamentals of harmony, music reading, part writing in root position, simple chorale analysis, keyboard skills, and sight singing. Attendance at two hours of aural dictation and one hour of keyboard lab weekly is required in addition to the lectures. Lecture and lab will be graded separately. Prerequisite: A score of 13 or higher on theory placement exam or a grade of C or better in MUS 105. Co-requisite: MUS 106L.

### **Goals and Objectives**

The purpose of this course is to improve the student's skills in aural, theoretical, practical, and applied music.

### **Learning Outcomes**

A four-credit course, the purposes of which are to:

- Acquaint the student with the fundamentals of music notation, intervals, rhythm, meter, scales, modes, and chord structure.
- Impart basic rules of part writing.
- Enable the student to analyze easier Bach and Bach-style chorales for harmonic function, non-chord tones, and cadences.
- Train the student to be able to identify aurally all intervals played ascending, descending, and harmonically within an octave; recognize aurally the major and three forms of the minor scale; be able to write, from dictation, melodies involving steps and leaps in the tonic triads and dominant triads in both simple and compound meters.

In keyboard lab as much time as is needed is spent on learning what the different key signatures look like on the keyboard. Students must be able to state what they are playing to avoid solely playing "by ear". A variety of different short exercises is assigned to be transposed into all keys to achieve as much familiarity with all key signatures as possible. Exercises stressing the different intervals are assigned to give the student a visual and physical reference to which he or she can refer in theory class or in carrying out written theory assignments.

## **II. Relationship to Academic programs and curriculum:**

This course serves to advance the fundamental knowledge and skills required of those who practice the art of music directly and indirectly.

### **College competencies addressed by the course:**

Oral communication  
Reading

Professional Competency  
Problem Solving & Critical Thinking

## **III. Methods of Instruction**

### **Types of Course materials:**

Kostka, Stephen; Dorothy Payne – “Tonal Harmony”, textbook and workbook, 5<sup>th</sup> ed. McGraw-Hill, 2004.

**Methods of Instruction:**

Lecture is the primary method of instruction. Students are given frequent short homework assignments to reinforce what was learned in class. Considerable class time is spent on analysis and part-writing. In keyboard lab the emphasis is on practical application of the theoretical concepts on the keyboard.

**Assessment measures/Methods of Evaluation:**

Students are graded on homework assignments and quizzes throughout the semester. There are two major exams (mid-term and final). Regular attendance and attention during in-class activities are of course expected from each class member.

**IV. General Outline of Topics covered**

- A. Basic music nomenclature, principles of melodic and rhythmic notation.
- B. Construction of major and minor scales, modes, intervals.
- C. Key signatures, the circle of fifths.
- D. Non-chord tones, cadences.
- E. Principles of part writing triads in root position.
- F. Analysis of simple Christmas carols and Bach chorales.

Because mastery of each new skill requires comprehension of material already assigned, students receive continuing “review” of course content.