

Music Theory I

Class Meeting Times:

Friday, 5:00 MSH 221, M. Henry

Saturday, 10:30 ESM 305, L. Wieringa

Saturday, 12:30 MSH 221, M. Henry

Extra Help Hour: Saturday, 1:30 MSH221

Instructors:

Margaret Henry: (585) 274-1962, mahenry@esm.rochester.edu

Lynnnann Wieringa: (585) 438-1036, lwieringa@esm.rochester.edu

Course Overview:

Music Theory I is the first course in a sequence of courses for high school students and adults leading to an ECMS Diploma. In Music Theory I, students will learn the basic elements or building blocks of music – clefs, pitch alteration, rhythm and meter, scales and modes, intervals and triads – through written work, ear training and sight singing – and through this work, gain some insight as to how these elements are used to enhance their music making.

Assignments:

After each class there will be an assignment, which will be due at the beginning of the following class. If a student does not know how to tackle an assignment, he/she should contact the teacher and get help before the following class. If a student does poorly on an assignment, they may re-do the assignment for a better grade one time.

Assignments that are more than four weeks late will NOT be graded.

Attendance:

Students must attend class regularly in order to keep up with the material and achieve a good grade for the course. If a student cannot attend a class, he/she should let the teacher know before the class and attend the another section of the same course that week, if possible.

Grades:

Grades will be given at the end of each semester.

Grades are based on the following factors:

Attendance and Participation 10%

Quizzes: 20%

Weekly Assignments and In-Class Tests 70%

Course Supplies:

Pencil and Eraser, Three-Ring Binder to organize notes, Notes are provided in class - a \$25 fee is added to the student's bill to cover curriculum

Resources:

NoteWorks app (Available for tablets and smart phones - a note naming game)

www.teoria.com (excellent website for extra practice)

Theory I Outline

Unit 1: Notation

1. Pitch: Treble and Bass clef, Grand Staff, register numbers
2. Pitch: C clefs
3. Writing: notes, rests, clefs... legible notation
4. Pitch: Accidentals, Enharmonic, WT, ST
5. Friendly Little Check-Up Test 1 and Ear Training

Unit 2: Rhythm

6. Meter: Simple, Compound, 2,3,4; Conducting patterns
7. Simple Meter: meter by ear, grouping in Simple Meter
8. Compound Meter: meter by ear, grouping in Compound Meter
9. Rhythm Performance
10. Rhythm in Literature
11. FLCT 2 and Ear Training

Unit 3: Scales

12. The Major Mode: Tetrachords, Key Signatures, Circle of Fifths
13. Literature: determining the major key
14. Ear Training: singing the major sound (last class before Christmas break)
15. The Minor Mode: Three types of Minor Scales
16. Literature: determining the minor key
17. Ear Training: singing the minor sound
18. FLCT 3 and Ear Training

Unit 4: Intervals

19. Intervals: Generic (emphasis on sight)
20. Intervals: Perfect, Major, Minor (reference scale and half steps)
21. Intervals: Augmented, diminished, Inversion
22. Intervals: Ear Training (sing all the intervals)
23. Intervals: Ear Training (singing all the intervals and inversions)
24. FLCT 4 and Ear Training

Unit 5: Chords

25. Chords: "Generic" chords - the contents, shape and inversion
26. Chords: Major/minor
27. Chords: Augmented/diminished
28. Chords: Literature
29. FLCT 5 and Ear Training

Unit 6: Other Scales

30. Modes: Church Modes in the literature – Ionian, Mixolydian, Lydian
31. Modes: Church Modes in the literature – Dorian, Phrygian, Aeolian, Locrian
32. Modes: Other modes - Pentatonic, Whole Tone, Chromatic, Octatonic
33. Analysis of Literature
34. FLCT 6 and Analysis of Literature

FAQ's

How do I know if I should be taking Music Theory I?

There are no prerequisites for this course but, in general, students should be in eighth grade or older in order that they have the maturity to complete the amount of material in a single year.

Students eighth grade and younger *must* take the placement exam.

Students should be able to attend class regularly.

Students should have time to devote one hour or two hours a week to assignments.

What academic requirements does Music Theory I fulfill?

It is the first required theory course for an ECMS Diploma but please note that students must receive the grade of B or better to be eligible for a diploma.

How can I pass out of Music Theory I?

Students must successfully pass a Placement Test in Music Theory I. (This exam is available in MSH221 and on the ECMS website)

Can I receive credit for Music Theory I by taking an Introductory Theory course at my high school?

Because we tend to cover more topics and in more detail than an Introductory high school theory course, we generally do not give credit for these courses.

If a student receives the grade of "4" or "5" on the Advanced Placement Examination in Music Theory at their high school, we would give credit for both Music Theory I and Music Theory II.