



Course Syllabus

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MUS 25, Music Fundamentals

Fall 2015, University of California, Irvine

Course meets: Tues/Thurs, 12:30pm-1:50pm in [AITR 190A \(https://eee.uci.edu/toolbox/roomfinder/class.php?ccode=04067&quarter=F15\)](https://eee.uci.edu/toolbox/roomfinder/class.php?ccode=04067&quarter=F15)

Instructor: Michael Dessen

Email: [mdessen@uci.edu \(mailto:mdessen@uci.edu\)](mailto:mdessen@uci.edu)

Office/hours: Tuesdays 2pm-3pm in MM 307, and by appointment

Course information

This course covers fundamental concepts in Western music systems, including major and minor scales, intervals, key signatures, diatonic chords in root position and inversion, and elements of rhythm and meter. The material in this course must be mastered before students can begin the four-quarter music theory sequence (MUS 16ABCD) that is required for music majors.

Required materials

The required textbook for this course is *Elements of Music*, Third Edition, by Joseph N. Straus. You can [purchase the digital textbook version online here \(http://www.coursesmart.com/elements-of-music-third-edition/joseph-n-straus/dp/9780205213269#extendedisbn\)](http://www.coursesmart.com/elements-of-music-third-edition/joseph-n-straus/dp/9780205213269#extendedisbn) for \$56.99. (It is not available through the UCI bookstore.) You will also need staff paper and pencils for notes and assignments, and should bring both to class each day.

Homework and study

Because immediate feedback on your work is important, we will use the first part of each class to correct assignments. All homework assignments will be graded pass/fail. The homework assignments are drills to help you internalize the material, and the skills in this course are cumulative, so it is critical that you complete all homework assignments on time. I expect you to spend roughly 7 to 9 hours per week outside of class doing homework and studying for this course. If you find that you are spending more than 9 hours per week working outside of class and still do poorly on the tests, please see me immediately and I will try to help you develop more efficient study techniques.

Tests

Tests will be given in class every two weeks, as listed on the schedule. The tests will be weighted more as we go through the quarter (60, 70, 80, 90 and 100 points), to reflect the cumulative nature of the information and to ensure that your final grade reflects your overall level of mastery of the materials. Note that the final test (#5) will be given during the scheduled time in exam week, Friday, Dec. 11, from 10:30-12:30pm.

Late/absence policies

All assignments must be completed by the beginning of class on the due date to receive a passing grade. No late assignments will be accepted. You must also be present to take all tests on the day they are given, and no makeup tests will be given. Exceptions to these policies will only be made in cases of significant illness or severe emergencies, and any such exception requires that you provide written documentation and also contact the instructor by email on the day in question. For example, if you are too sick to attend a class, you must see a doctor that day and email the instructor a copy of the doctor's note. If you miss class on a test day and cannot provide documentation of a genuine illness or emergency, you will receive a grade of 30% the first time it happens, and a grade of 0% all subsequent times.

Grades

Homework (pass/fail as described above): 30%

Tests (5 total, weighted differently as described above): 70%

Academic Honesty

All work you submit for this class via homework assignments and tests must be entirely your own. Studying together with other students is encouraged, but you may not collaborate on the written homework assignments. UCI's policies on academic honesty are detailed at honesty.uci.edu (<http://honesty.uci.edu>) and any violation of these policies will be reported and taken seriously.

Special needs

If you have a disability that affects your performance in this course, you must document it through the [Disabilities Services Office](http://www.disability.uci.edu) (<http://www.disability.uci.edu>) and have them contact me at the beginning of the quarter to establish the necessary arrangements.

Office hours and getting help

If you have any trouble with the course, it is important to seek help early. If you cannot make my office hours, please [email me](mailto:mdessen@uci.edu) (<mailto:mdessen@uci.edu>) and list the times you are free.

Date	Details	
Thu Sep 24, 2015	First class meeting (https://canvas.eee.uci.edu/calendar?event_id=5789&include_contexts=course_498)	12:20pm to 1:50pm
Tue Sep 29, 2015	Homework 9.29 (https://canvas.eee.uci.edu/courses/498/assignments/10813)	due by 12:30pm
Thu Oct 1, 2015	No class meeting today (https://canvas.eee.uci.edu/calendar?event_id=5786&include_contexts=course_498)	12:30pm to 1:50pm
Tue Oct 6, 2015	Homework 10.6 (https://canvas.eee.uci.edu/courses/498/assignments/11481)	due by 12:30pm
Thu Oct 8, 2015	Homework 10.8 (https://canvas.eee.uci.edu/courses/498/assignments/11482)	due by 12:30pm
	Test 1 (https://canvas.eee.uci.edu/courses/498/assignments/11469)	due by 12:30pm
Tue Oct 13, 2015	Homework 10.13 (https://canvas.eee.uci.edu/courses/498/assignments/11483)	due by 12:30pm
Thu Oct 15, 2015	Homework 10.15 (https://canvas.eee.uci.edu/courses/498/assignments/11484)	due by 12:30pm
Tue Oct 20, 2015	Homework 10.20 (https://canvas.eee.uci.edu/courses/498/assignments/11485)	due by 12:30pm
Thu Oct 22, 2015	Test 2 (https://canvas.eee.uci.edu/courses/498/assignments/11472)	due by 12:30pm

Tue Oct 27, 2015	Homework 10.27 (https://canvas.eee.uci.edu/courses/498/assignments/11486)	due by 12:30pm
Thu Oct 29, 2015	Homework 10.29 (https://canvas.eee.uci.edu/courses/498/assignments/11487)	due by 12:30pm
Tue Nov 3, 2015	Homework 11.3 (https://canvas.eee.uci.edu/courses/498/assignments/11488)	due by 12:30pm
Thu Nov 5, 2015	Test 3 (https://canvas.eee.uci.edu/courses/498/assignments/11473)	due by 12:30pm
Tue Nov 10, 2015	Homework 11.10 (https://canvas.eee.uci.edu/courses/498/assignments/11490)	due by 12:30pm
Thu Nov 12, 2015	Homework 11.12 (https://canvas.eee.uci.edu/courses/498/assignments/11491)	due by 12:30pm
Tue Nov 17, 2015	Homework 11.17 (https://canvas.eee.uci.edu/courses/498/assignments/11492)	due by 12:30pm
Thu Nov 19, 2015	Test 4 (https://canvas.eee.uci.edu/courses/498/assignments/11474)	due by 12:30pm
Tue Nov 24, 2015	Homework 11.24 (https://canvas.eee.uci.edu/courses/498/assignments/11494)	due by 12:30pm
Thu Nov 26, 2015	No class (Thanksgiving holiday) (https://canvas.eee.uci.edu/calendar?event_id=5788&include_contexts=course_498)	12:30pm to 1:50pm
Tue Dec 1, 2015	Homework 12.1 (https://canvas.eee.uci.edu/courses/498/assignments/11495)	due by 12:30pm
Fri Dec 11, 2015	Test 5 (Final exam) (https://canvas.eee.uci.edu/courses/498/assignments/11475)	due by 10:30am