

**MUSC 1503 Section 101 Basic Music
Spring 2025 Syllabus
Midwestern State University**

	Instructor Course Information
Instructor	Dr. Susan Harvey
Time	WMF 2:00 pm – 2:50 pm
Place	Fain Fine Arts Center C117C
Email	susan.harvey@msutexas.edu
Office	C117O
Office Hours	TBA posted outside office door Plus 5 hours for appointments
Phone	930-397-4916

Course Description

A study of the basic elements of music theory, including the reading of musical notation on treble and bass staves, key signatures, scales, and chords.

This course is designed to develop your understanding of the basic elements of music theory. This includes the reading of musical notation on treble and bass staves, key signatures, scales, chords, and chord progressions. Aural skills are also incorporated in this class.

Course Objectives

1. To develop musicianship skills (reading and aural)
2. To read music in treble and bass clefs
3. To understand and use a rhythm system for both duple and triple
4. To understand key signatures
5. To construct triads
6. To recognize visually and aurally major and minor scales
7. To recognize visually and aurally cadences
8. To sight-sing simple melodies in simple and compound meters

Course Assignments and Deadlines:

Course assignments are based on learning in class.

Attendance

Students participate in daily group and individual activities. Activities are cumulative in organization, building on previously learned concepts. Therefore, attendance is crucial to personal development. Students may miss class three times without a final grade reduction. Each absence that exceeds the allotted absences reduces the final grade by one letter grade. Tardies count toward absences. Students who arrive ten minutes late will be marked absent from class. **Nonparticipation in class equals one absence for each occurrence.** Class participation includes all classroom activities (singing, moving, rhythm activities, improvisation, chording, etc.).

Weather Statement

This course follows MSU Guidelines for inclement weather. Classes will not meet if campus is closed during the time of class. The class will NOT meet online if campus is closed. If assessment deadlines coincide with university closure, an extension will be stated the next class meeting.

Students Expectations/Conduct

Students are required to participate in all class activities. Students are to practice assigned material in preparation for each class.

Students are to conduct themselves in a professional manner so that all students may learn without distraction or disruption. This includes cell phones turned off and no texting.

College students are adults and are expected to behave accordingly. Classroom behavior that interferes with either the instructor's ability to conduct class or the ability of the other students to benefit from instruction will result in the instructor's removing the disruptive student(s) from class, either temporarily or permanently (instructor drop), and receive a final lower grade, up to and including an F. Additionally and depending on the nature of the behavior or conduct, the student(s) may be subject to further disciplinary actions as per MSU policies.

Cell Phones and Other Recording Devices

The use of cell phones and other recording or electronic devices is strictly prohibited during class. The instructor may have student, from time to time, use cell phones for legitimate class reasons. Recording the class is prohibited, unless it is part of a reasonable accommodation under ADA, or by obtaining written consent by the instructor.

Grading Scale

%	Letter Grade
90-100	A
80-89	B
70-79	C
60-60	D
59-below	F

Course Evaluation

%	Assignments
60	Homework and In-Class Assignments
40	Quizzes

Academic Changes:

The instructor reserves the right to adjust or cancel grading ranges, assignments, reports, projects, exams, assignments dates, due dates, and other as the course progresses; and to modify, extend, or correct the present syllabus by providing students with a three days'

notice, or shorter in case of emergencies.

Covid-19: Vaccines and Face Coverings:

Scientific data shows that being fully vaccinated is the most effective way to prevent and slow the spread of COVID-19 and has the greatest probability of avoiding serious illness if infected in all age groups. Although MSU Texas is not mandating vaccinations in compliance with Governor Abbott's executive orders, we highly encourage eligible members of our community to get a vaccination. If you have questions or concerns about the vaccine, please contact your primary care physician or health care professional. Given the recent rise in cases, individuals are also strongly encouraged to wear facial coverings when indoors among groups of people, regardless of vaccination status. Although MSU Texas is not currently requiring facial coverings, they have been an effective strategy in slowing the spread.

Classroom Cleaning Protocols

Each classroom on campus has cleaning protocols. Students in the Department of Music are encouraged to follow cleaning protocol before and after class. Students will be taught cleaning protocols and will have time allotted to clean their area at the end of class.

D2L

D2L houses the syllabus for class. However, all assignments, quizzes, midterm, and final exam are embedded in the textbook. All assignments will be submitted in the textbook.

All handouts and other information will be available through the MSU D2L system, the gradebook in D2L will be enabled. Students are expected to understand how to navigate D2L.

If you experience problems with D2L, please let me know as soon as possible. In addition, the D2L page has a "Report A Problem" function on the top navigation bar as well as a FAQ function in the middle of the page on the right.

Office Hours:

Dr. Harvey has five schedule office hours to meet with her. Requesting a meeting during office hours is preferred to ensure she is available. If you are unavailable during those times, she has five flexible hours to coordinate a meeting. Meetings can be in-person, via phone, zoom, or facetime. You may call her office during scheduled office hours. However, she may not answer if she is meeting with a student.

Special Needs

If a student needs class accommodation(s) because of a documented disability, (2) has an emergency medical condition that may interfere with class performance, or (3) requires special handling in case the building must be evacuated, he/she is encouraged to contact the office of Disability Support Services in room 168 Clark Student Center 940(397-4140) and make an appointment with the professor as soon as possible

Privacy Statement

Midwestern State University adheres to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA). Federal law prohibits the instructor from releasing information about students to parties outside the university without the signed consent of the student. Thus, in almost all cases the instructor will not discuss a student's academic progress or other matters with his/her parents without the proper release from students.

Academic Dishonesty

Academic dishonesty including plagiarism and giving or receiving unauthorized assistance is prohibited. Plagiarism is (1) the use of source material of other persons (either published or unpublished, including the Internet) without following the accepted techniques of giving credit or (2) the submission for credit of work not the individual's to whom credit is given. If a student in the class plagiarizes material, appropriate disciplinary action will be taken. The Student Honor Creed developed and adopted by the MSU Student Government reinforces the discouragement of plagiarism and other unethical behaviors. The first statement of the creed reads, "As an MSU student, I pledge not to lie, cheat, steal, or help anyone else do so." Plagiarism is lying, cheating, and stealing.

Social Justice

Social justice is one of Midwestern State University's stated core values, and the professor considers the classroom a place where students are treated with respect as human beings, regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, national origin, religious affiliation, sexual orientation, political beliefs, age, or ability. Moreover, diversity of thought is appreciated and encouraged, provided the students can agree to disagree. The professor's expectation is that ALL students consider the classroom a safe environment.

Campus Carry

Senate Bill 11 passed by the 84th Texas Legislature allows licensed handgun holders to carry concealed handguns on campus, effective August 1, 2016. Areas excluded from concealed carry are appropriately marked, in accordance with state law. For more information regarding campus carry, please refer to the University's webpage at [MSU Campus Carry Rules](#).

Weekly Topics

Week 1 January 22

Counting System
Solfeg – do-la
Reading from staff s-m-l

Week 2 January 29

The Keyboard I: Introduction
The Keyboard II: Pitch
The Keyboard III: Letter Names and Key Groups
Keyboard IV: Half and Whole Steps
The Keyboard V: Accidentals
The Keyboard VI: Other Accidentals and Enharmonics
The Keyboard VII: The Octave
Quiz: Pitch
Quiz: Keyboard
Section 2: The Staff
Selection Overview
Outlines and Objectives
Note Placement
The Staff I: Introduction
The Staff II: Note Placement
The Staff III: Notation Practice

Week 3 February 3

Clefs I: Introduction
Clefs II: The Treble Clef
Clefs III: The Bass Clef
Clefs: IV: The C Clef
Clefs: The Grand Staff
Quiz: Clefs and Ledger Lines

Week 4 February 10

Rhythm I: Introduction
Rhythm II: Pulse and Tempo
Rhythm III: Note Values
Rhythm IV: Rests
Rhythm V: Dots
Rhythm VI: Ties
Rhythm VII: Dotted Rhythms
Quiz: Rhythm

Week 5 February 17

Meter I: Introduction
Meter II: Barlines and Measures

Meter III: Time Signatures
Meter IV: Beaming
Meter V: Incomplete Measures
Quiz: Meter
Scales I: Introduction
Scales II: Diatonic and Chromatic Scales
Quiz: Whole and Half Steps
Scales III: The Major Scale
Scales IV: Transposing the Major Scale

Week 6 February 24

Scales V: Building Major Scales
Scales VI: Scale Degree Names
Quiz: Scales Degrees
Scales VII: The Major Scale Pattern
Scales VIII: Functions of the Key Signature
Scales IX: Building Major Scales II
Scales X: The Circle of Fifths
Quiz Major Scales
Key Signatures I: Introduction
Key Signatures II: Sharp Keys
Key Signatures III: Flat Keys

Week 8 March 3

Key Signatures IV: Transposing Keys
Key Signatures V: The Circle of Fifths
Quiz: Major Scales
Quiz: Major Key Signatures

Midterm

March 10 Spring Break

Week 9 March 17

Meter Types I: Introduction
Meter Types II: Simple Duple Meter
Meter Types III: Simple Triple Meter
Meter Types IV: Simple Quadruple Meter
Meter Types V: Compound Meter
Meter Types VI: Compound Duple Meter
Meter Types VII: Compound Triple Meter
Meter Types VIII: Compound Quadruple Meter
Meter Types IX: Triplets and Duplets
Meter Types X: Irregular and Mixed Meter
Quiz: Meter Types

Week 10 March 24

Intervals I: Introduction
Intervals II: Interval Size
Quiz: Interval Numeric Size
Intervals III: Interval Quality
Intervals IV: Perfect Intervals
Intervals VI: Major/Minor Intervals
Intervals VII: Spelling and Identifying Major/Minor Intervals
Quiz: Interval Quality
Intervals VIII: Hearing Intervals
Intervals IX: Interval Inversions

Week 12 March 31

Intervals X: Compound Intervals
Intervals XI: Intervals in the Major Scale
Quiz: Interval Quality
Quiz: Intervals
Minor Scales I: Introduction
Minor Scales II: The Natural Minor Scales
Minor Scales III: Building Minor Scales
Quiz: minor Scales
Minor Scales IV: Minor Key Signatures

Week 11 April 7

Minor Scales V: Relative Keys
Minor Scales VI: Parallel Keys
Minor Scales VII: Harmonic and Melodic Minor
Minor Scales VIII: Circle of Fifths
Quiz Minor Scales
Quiz Minor Key Signatures

Week 12 April 14

Triads I: Triad Basics
Triads II: Triad Qualities
Triads III: White Key Triads
Triads IV: Spelling Triads
Triads V: Identifying Triads

Week 13 April 21

Triads VI: Triad Spacing and Doubling
Quiz: Triad Identification
Triads VII: Triad Inversions
Quiz: Triad Inversions
Quiz Triads
Harmony I: Triads in a major Key
Harmony II: Triads in a Minor Key

Week 14 April 28

Harmony III: Harmonic Analysis

Harmony IV: Harmonic Progressions

Harmony V: Summary

Week 15 May 5

Sevenths I: The Dominant Seventh Chord

Sevenths II: Other Seventh Chords

Sevenths: Seventh Inversions

Cadences I: Authentic Cadence

Cadences II: Half Cadences

Cadences III: Other Cadences

Quiz: Harmony, Dominant Sevenths, and Cadences

Week 16 Final Exam

Wednesday, May 14 5:45-7:45 pm