

Syllabus: Music 5
Introduction to Music Theory
Dartmouth College, Spring, 2008
Instructor: Larry Polansky

Teaching assistant (ear training, keyboard): Jordana Kier

Course Overview

This course will provide the student with some of the necessary skills for the further study of music in various genres. In many fields of music — classical, popular, jazz, musics from other cultures besides one's own— a grounding in certain common ideas can be important and often essential.

This course will teach music fundamentals including: notation, intervals, scales, chords and harmony; basic piano keyboard skills; the relationships of notation to sound (simple melodic, rhythmic and harmonic dictation; sight-singing; rhythmic reading and performance). The class will culminate in each student writing a short composition to be performed in class. In addition, each student will be asked to write a "round" during the class (we will try to sing all of them).

This course is a prerequisite for the Music Major and for upper division courses in the Music Department.

Schedule of Meetings

- Lab (ear training TA session) meets in the x-hour for this class (Thursday at 1 p.m). Required. We might try and schedule an extra, optional lab for ear training with the TA (TBA).
- Individual keyboard sessions, TBA with the TA, will begin soon into the term. Students may be exempt from this requirement depending on pre-existing keyboard skills.

Assignments

There will be no specific homework in the class other than studying for quizzes, tests, and writing the final composition. However, students are requested to complete all the exercises in the Zinn and Hogenson text associated with the chapter(s) we cover. This is the best way of learning and studying the material. Completed versions of these exercises will be placed on reserve in Paddock Music Library. Additionally, students can show their exercises to me at any time for feedback, questions, and so on.

Students must also practice ear training on their own, or preferably, with a partner. This should be done at a piano or keyboard. 15 minutes to ½ hour a day will be more than enough to keep up with the class. But it is essential that each student work on intervals, chord recognition, simple melodic dictation, and simple rhythmic dictation on their own. We will do some of this in class every day, and students can simply use what we do in class as a model for what to practice independently. I will provide practice materials as the course progresses, and Paddock Music library (and the internet) are full of resources. One of the best

ways to practice is to start paying attention to intervals, rhythms, chord qualities, and simple melodies in the music you hear daily.

The final assignment will be a short composition, in the style, form and instrumentation of the student's choice, which will be performed in class.

Quizzes

There will be two quizzes in addition to the midterm and final. Each will include ear training (dictation) and theory. The quizzes will be scheduled more or less evenly over the course of the term. Near the end of the term, the TA will give a short keyboard proficiency exam to each student (around 5 minutes), the successful completion of which will be counted as part of the final grade.

I will also, perhaps, occasionally, give short pop quizzes at the beginning of classes.

Final and Midterm Exams

The midterm and final exam for the class will consist of a written and ear training portion. The final will be in-class, we will use the final exam period for performances of student compositions (mandatory attendance!). That day is: Friday, May 30, 3:00-6:00

Grading

Grades are based on the quizzes (20%), midterm (25%), final exam (25%), and final composition (and round) (20%). The final 10% is based on attendance, effort and class participation.

Text

Zinn and Hogenson, *Basics of Music, Opus 1* (students should purchase this if possible, but there is a copy in the Paddock Music Library).

Individual Keyboard Lessons and Keyboard Proficiency

Students who require basic keyboard instruction will meet over the course of the term with the TA for short keyboard lessons. The times for these are TBA, and students can arrange these in the first week or so of class. By the end of the term, students must be able to play: all major and minor scales in both hands simultaneously; any triad (major, minor, diminished, augmented); simple harmonic progressions (involving I, IV, and V chords) in all major and minor keys; and sight-read simple melodies.

Statement on Physically and Learning Disabled Students

Students with disabilities enrolled in this course who may need disability-related classroom accommodations are encouraged to make an appointment to see me before the second week of the term. All discussions will remain confidential, although the Student Accessibility Services office may be consulted to discuss appropriate implementation of an accommodation requested.

Student Religious Observances

Some students may wish to take part in religious observances that occur during this academic term. If you have a religious observance that conflicts with your participation in the course, please meet with me before the end of the second week of the term to discuss appropriate accommodations.

Important message regarding Blitzmail

Please send the following message to me over Blitzmail as soon as you possibly can: "Hello, I am in your Music 5 class." I will not be giving out hardcopy assignments. I will use the Blitzmail list to send things to the class (class notes, answering questions, scheduling updates, and so on). You must join my actual blitzmail class list as soon as possible. I don't use Blackboard.

The website for the class is

http://eamusic.dartmouth.edu/~larry/music5_2008/index.html

Office Hours

TBA (probably MWF 3-4). I'm available pretty much all the time for appointment, just blitz me. My office is in the bottom floor of Hallgarten Hall. Ring the bell outside (it's locked). Hallgarten is between New Hampshire and Topliff dorms. Please contact me Rebecca Fawcett (on blitzmail) if you need help finding the building.