

Fundamentals of Music (MUT1004)

Spring 2020

Instructor Contact

Instructor	Bob Thornton
Office	PAC-M231
Office Hours	Tuesday and Thursday (1:30-3:30pm) Wednesday and Friday (10:30-11:30am) Or by appointment
Office Phone	407-823-3377 (E-mail will be checked more frequently than phone messages.)
E-mail	Please use the Inbox link within the webcourse.

Course Information

Course Name	Fundamentals of Music
Course ID & Section	MUT1004
Credit Hours	3
Semester/Year	Spring 2020
Location	W Course (online)

Course Description

This course is designed to provide a thorough introduction to basic music reading and notational skills. You will become familiar with the terms, symbols, and common practices that provide the foundation for the musical language. No previous musical knowledge is assumed. Successful completion of this course will allow you to register for MUT1121 (Music Theory and Musicianship I).

Course Objectives

By the end of the course, students will have a working knowledge of:

- Rhythmic notation
- Pitch notation
- Keyboard layout
- Simple Meters
- Compound Meters
- Major scales and key signatures
- Minor scales and key signatures

Key relationships
Intervals
Triad qualities, inversions, and functions
Dominant seventh chords and inversions
Musical terms used to convey tempo, dynamics, and expression

In our Fundamentals of Music course, we'll focus on reading and understanding written music. In later music theory courses, however, an aural skills (ear training) component will be added. Aural skills focus on hearing and understanding musical sound. It is impossible to be a strong musician if you possess "bad ears". With that in mind, I encourage you to explore the ear training exercises that are available throughout your textbook and on the accompanying audio files. The answers for the exercises can be found in Appendix D. Even though you won't be tested on your musical hearing skills in this course, many of you will benefit from the practice, especially if you have plans to continue in the theory sequence.

Course Textbook

Henry, Earl. *Fundamentals of Music: Rudiments, Musicianship and Composition (7th edition)*. New York, NY: Pearson Education, Inc., 2019.

ISBN-13: 9780134491387

The hardcopy textbook is available in the UCF bookstore and at online retailers. If you prefer, access to an e-book version can be purchased [here \(Links to an external site.\)](#).

The audio files can be downloaded [here \(Links to an external site.\)](#). Alternatively, many of the audio files are also available on a Spotify playlist [here \(Links to an external site.\)](#).

We won't cover all the textbook chapters in this course. Some of the later chapters go beyond the scope of a music fundamentals course, especially considering our online format.

Unfortunately, an ideal textbook for a purely online music fundamentals course does not exist. As you'll notice, some of the skill-building exercises in your textbook are intended for face-to-face classes where the instructor can go over the answers. Since we're unable to do that with an online course, answer keys (that can be used as study aids) are provided in each module for the "Building Skills" exercises and the "Analysis in Context" section at the end of each chapter.

Recommended Downloads

You can download a free version of [Finale NotePad \(Links to an external site.\)](#) to view certain components of the course. Finale Notepad is free music notation program that will allow you to see and hear certain files in the course. Many of you will probably also enjoy playing around with the program and creating scores for you own compositions. **UPDATE: Finale recently stopped offering the free download for Macs since it has compatibility issues with the latest operating system.** If you're a student with a Mac who is unable to download Finale Notepad, don't worry. The handful of Finale files scattered throughout the modules simply serve to

provide additional review to the material that is already covered in both the textbook and module review pages. In other words, Finale Notepad is not a requirement.

In addition, download the following plug-ins, if you don't already have them installed on your computer:

[Adobe PDF Reader \(Links to an external site.\)](#)

[Adobe Macromedia Flash Player \(Links to an external site.\)](#)

Visit the [Learning Online - Computer Setup](#) page to learn more about the proper computer setup for Webcourses@UCF.

Technical Issues

Technical issues can be extremely frustrating. If you experience any technical issues with this course, try to find a solution by using the resources available to online students at UCF **before** contacting the instructor about the issue. In nine out of every ten cases, students are able to resolve the issues themselves.

For specific problems in any of the areas below or for further information, go to the corresponding link for assistance.

[UCF Home Page](#) will help find UCF resources

[UCF Computer Service Desk](#) - You can also call the Service Desk at 407-823-5117.

[Learning Online](#) This site answers frequently asked questions for online students and provides information on study skills for distance learners, the library, and the writing center.

Buying a new computer or upgrading your current equipment -

<http://www.cstore.ucf.edu/>

[Hardware/Software Requirements](#)

If equipment problems prevent you from using e-mail or completing work from home, there are many computer labs on campus and virtually every public library offers Internet access.

Course Communication (E-mail)

To contact me, please use the Inbox link within Webcourses. I'll be checking e-mail daily on weekdays (not as often on weekends) and will try to respond as quickly and efficiently as possible. Phone messages will be checked less frequently. If you find yourself really struggling with the material, and live in the vicinity of the main UCF campus, please come see me during office hours or set an appointment.

Course Format

As mentioned in the welcome message, Fundamentals of Music was intended to be a self-paced review course for incoming music majors and minors. If you are not a music major or minor, please feel free to click around BEFORE the drop deadline so you can decide if this course is something you can handle. The course consists of 11 modules that cover various topics. There is a link to the modules right on the course homepage. For each module, follow these simple steps:

1. Read the Intro, Objectives, and Activities page for a summary of the module topic(s) and activities. The Activities section will always specify the appropriate chapter/pages to study in your textbook. (For some of the later modules, the module number will differ from the chapter number.)
2. After studying the appropriate chapter/pages in your textbook, read the Synopsis and Review page to make sure you understand some of the key concepts.
3. Next, according to your experience and/or needs, use the Drills and Exercises page for online practice with the module topic. PDF answer keys for the textbook's "Building Skills" and "Analysis in Context" sections are also available on this page.
4. After you feel comfortable with the material, read the directions in the module for completing the practice assignment. (See the Evaluation and Grading section below for more details.)
5. After completing the practice assignment, you should feel prepared for the module quiz. Read the directions in the module for completing the quiz. (See the Evaluation and Grading section below for more details.)

Evaluation and Grading

Your grade for this course will be determined entirely by your performance on the practice assignments, quizzes, and final exam.

Each module contains a practice assignment worth 5 points. The assignment serves as a "practice quiz" of sorts and will allow you to test your knowledge of the module's content. The types of questions you'll encounter in the practice assignment will be similar to those in the actual quiz. You'll have UNLIMITED ATTEMPTS to take each practice assignment and only your highest score will count.

At the end of each module, you will take a short timed quiz on the material introduced in that module. You will have 2 ATTEMPTS to take each quiz, if needed. The question types and format will remain the same for each attempt, but specific questions might vary. The higher of the two scores will count as your quiz grade.

You will also have 2 chances to take the final exam. If you perform well on the quizzes, you should also do well on the final since the content for the final will come from the quizzes.

The point value for each assessment is listed below.

Assessment	Points
Syllabus/Schedule Quiz	9

Notating Rhythm Practice Assignment	5
Notating Rhythm Quiz	12
Notating Pitch Practice Assignment	5
Notating Pitch Quiz	12
Keyboard Practice Assignment	5
Keyboard Quiz	12
Simple Meters Practice Assignment	5
Simple Meters Quiz	12
Major Scales and Keys Practice Assignment	5
Major Scales Quiz	12
Major Keys Quiz	12
Intervals Practice Assignment	5
Intervals Quiz	12
Compound Meters Practice Assignment	5
Compound Meters Quiz	12
Minor Scales and Keys Practice Assignment	5
Minor Scales Quiz	12
Minor Keys Quiz	12
Triads Practice Assignment	5
Triads Quiz	12
Chords and Symbols Practice Assignment	5
Chords and Symbols Quiz	12
Intro to Seventh Chords Practice Assignment	5
Intro to Seventh Chords Quiz	12
Final Exam	40
TOTAL POINTS POSSIBLE	260

Missed Assessments

Make sure you complete all the assessments by the deadlines listed in the course schedule. Since you can log in anytime, day or night, there should be no reason why you can't complete the assessments by the deadlines. In *EXTREMELY* rare cases, due to medical or family emergencies, a student might not be able to take an assessment in the required time frame. If this should occur, please contact me immediately and inform me of your situation. Proper documentation will be necessary to excuse a missed assessment.

Your final grade for the course will be based on the chart below.

Final Letter Grade	Points
A	238 - 260
A-	234 - 237
B+	230 - 233
B	212 - 229
B-	208 - 211
C+	204 - 207
C	186 - 203
C-	182 - 185
D+	178 - 181
D	160 - 177
D-	156 - 159
F	155 and below

Student Responsibilities

Obviously, since this is an online course, no face-to-face attendance is required. However, students are expected to complete the necessary readings, activities, and drills in order to prepare for each assessment and the final exam.

Depending on your previous knowledge and experience, some of you might need to spend a great deal of time studying for the assessments. Others might need minimal review. **In any case, it's crucial that you stay organized and keep up with the assessments. Don't procrastinate . . . please.** You really have to be incredibly disorganized to miss a quiz deadline since the window for taking each quiz is rather large.

Anyone who becomes overwhelmed or confused by any of the course content is welcome to drop by during my office hours or make an appointment. It would be nice to meet in person anyway.

Academic Honesty

Students should conduct themselves at all times in accordance with the [UCF Golden Rule](#). I will assume for this course that you will adhere to the academic creed of this University and will maintain the highest standards of academic integrity. In other words, don't cheat by giving answers to others or taking them from anyone else. Please do not ask me to change (or expect me to change) your grade illegitimately or to bend or break rules for one person that will not apply to everyone.

Discussion Posts

Some online courses mandate a certain amount of discussion posts throughout the semester. Due to the introductory nature of this course, however, there is very little need for requiring discussion posts. Our primary goal is to simply learn the basics, not to force you to engage in philosophical discussions about the meaning of music or debate which band is the greatest of all time. As a result, you will not be required to post. If, however, you choose to post a discussion topic or reply to one, please adhere to the following guidelines:

1. Be courteous and considerate. It is important to be honest and to express yourself freely, but being considerate of others is just as important and expected online as it is in the classroom. Disrespectful or rude comments will not be tolerated.
2. If you have a personal message/question for the instructor, please use the e-mail tab rather than a discussion posting.

Disability Statement

The University of Central Florida is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities. This syllabus is available in alternate formats upon request. Students with disabilities who need accommodations in this course must contact the professor at the beginning of the semester to discuss needed accommodations. No accommodations will be provided until the student has met with the professor to request accommodations. Students who need accommodations must be registered with [Student Disability Services](#), Student Resource Center Room 132, phone (407) 823-2371, TTY/TDD only phone (407) 823-2116, before requesting accommodations from the professor.

Copyright

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Third-Party Software and FERPA

During this course you might have the opportunity to use public online services and/or software applications sometimes called third-party software such as a blog or wiki. While some of these could be required assignments, you need **not** make any personally identifying information on a public site. Do not post or provide any private information about yourself or your classmates. Where appropriate you may use a pseudonym or nickname. Some written assignments posted publicly may require personal reflection/comments, but the assignments will not require you to disclose any personally identity-sensitive information. If you have any concerns about this, please contact your instructor.