

**New Mexico State University
College of Arts and Sciences
Department of Music**

COURSE SYLLABUS - FALL 2023

MUSIC THEORY I - MUSC 1460

INSTRUCTOR

Lon W. Chaffin, Ph.D.

lchaffin@nmsu.edu

(off campus)

575-646-2421

Since the instructor will not be on campus for the majority of the semester, most of the communication outside of class will be through email (note the email address above).

The phone number above is to the main Music Office. Messages can be left there, if necessary. (An email is preferable.)

Office hours will be posted on the course website (noted below) with a Zoom link. The students will have the opportunity to connect with the instructor between classes through Zoom during these posted times.

MATERIALS

Required Textbook - [Chords and Calculators: The Metaphor of Math and Music Theory](#)
(available on the course website - see address below)

<http://www.lcsproductions.net/MUSC1460/MUSC-1460.html>



An electronic device capable of viewing and interacting with websites and web forms, such as a laptop or tablet (a cell phone might work, but it is discouraged). The student will need to have this device available during every class session and for homework between classes.

DESCRIPTION

This course introduces the compositional vocabulary and construction of music from the common practice period of music history. It includes intervals, scales, keys, note values, meter, and chord construction.

COURSE ORGANIZATION

- Each week a new topic will be introduced and presented in class
- The student will have worksheets related to the material to complete in class as well as for homework
- Sometime during each week the student will have an opportunity to demonstrate his/her comprehension of the material on a quiz

SCHEDULE OF TOPICS

Aug. 16-18	INTRODUCTION
Aug. 21-25	Sections 1 & 2: MOD 7 & MOD 12 (pgs 5-11)
Aug. 28 - Sept. 1	Section 6: DIATONIC INTERVALS (pgs 25-28)
Sept. 4	LABOR DAY (no class)
Sept. 6-8	Section 3: INTERVALS - ASCENDING (pgs 12-17)
Sept. 11-15	Section 4: INTERVALS - DESCENDING (pgs 18-21)
Sept. 18-22	Section 5: INTERVALS - INVERSIONS (pgs 22-24)
Sept. 25-29	Section 7: INTERVALS - AUGMENTED & DIMINISHED (pgs 29-36)
Oct. 2-6	Section 8: DIATONIC SCALES - MAJOR (pgs 37-41)
Oct. 9-13	Section 9: DIATONIC SCALES - MINOR (pgs 42-46)
Oct. 16-20	Section 10: KEYS - MAJOR (pgs 47-53)
Oct. 23-27	Section 11: KEYS - MINOR (pgs 54-56)
Oct. 30-Nov. 3	Section 12: RHYTHM - NOTE VALUES (pgs 57-61)
Nov. 6-10	Section 13: RHYTHM - SIMPLE METER (pgs 62-64)
Nov. 13-17	Section 14: RHYTHM - COMPOUND METER (pgs 65-67)
Nov. 20-24	THANKSGIVING BREAK
Nov. 27-Dec. 1	Section 15: RHYTHM - ASYMMETRICAL METER (pgs 68-70)

FINAL EXAMS

Dec. 4 - 8:00-10:00 - Section M04

Dec. 8 - 8:00-10:00 - Section M03

Students arriving late to an exam is an unnecessary disruption to the testing process. Therefore, the Final Exam will begin promptly at 8:00 and the classroom doors will be locked at that time. Any student arriving after that point will not be allowed to take the Final Exam and will receive the grade of 0 (zero). The students are strongly encouraged to arrive early to the exam and not run the risk of jeopardizing their semester grade.

GRADING

Class Participation - 10% of the semester grade
Weekly Quizzes - 50% of the semester grade
Final Exam - 40% of the semester grade

Class attendance and appropriate interaction with the instructor and classmates is expected. A student who is frequently absent or not engaged in the classroom discussion or activities will run the risk of having a 10% reduction in his/her semester grade. (Come to class. Pay attention. Be engaged.)

The textbook includes worksheets that the student will be expected to complete. Since the textbook is in PDF format, the student will either need to print the worksheets and complete them on paper with a pencil, or have a way to complete them on his/her electronic device. Most of the weekly quiz material will come from these worksheets.

Each of the weekly quizzes will be given during the class session. The quiz will begin promptly at the beginning of the class period. The quiz will be projected onto the screen in the classroom and the student will submit his/her answers through an online form linked on the course website. No paper quizzes will be available. (Don't forget your laptop or tablet!)

Academic Misconduct

Academic and non-academic misconduct: The Student Code of Conduct defines academic misconduct, non-academic misconduct and the consequences or penalties for each. The Student Code of Conduct is available in the NMSU Student Handbook online:

<http://studenthandbook.nmsu.edu/>

Academic misconduct is explained here:

<https://studenthandbook.nmsu.edu/#sc3>

Discrimination

New Mexico State University, in compliance with applicable laws and in furtherance of its commitment to fostering an environment that welcomes and embraces diversity, does not discriminate on the basis of age, ancestry, color, disability, gender identity, genetic information, national origin, race, religion, retaliation, serious medical condition, sex (including pregnancy), sexual orientation, spousal affiliation, or protected veteran status in its programs and activities, including employment, admissions, and educational programs and activities.

Title IX prohibits sex harassment, sexual assault, intimate partner violence, stalking and retaliation. For more information on discrimination or Title IX, or to file a complaint contact:

Executive Director
Office of Institutional Equity
P.O. Box 30001, E. 1130 University Avenue
Las Cruces, NM 88003
575.646.3635; 575-646-7802 (TTY)
equity@nmsu.edu

Other NMSU Resources:

NMSU Police Department	575-646-3311	www.nmsupolice.com
Aggie Health & Wellness (Medical and Counseling Services)	575-646-1512	www.wellness.nmsu.edu
NMSU Dean of Students	575-646-1722	
For Emergencies		911

Stay informed about COVID-19 at NMSU

More information about the NMSU system's COVID-19 response can be found at now.nmsu.edu. In addition, updates are available to students and their families through many communication channels.

Other health-related resources

Aggie Health & Wellness Center
<https://wellness.nmsu.edu/>

Disability Access Services at NMSU
<https://studentlife.nmsu.edu/disability-access-services1/index.html>

Aggie Cupboard
<https://aggiecupboard.nmsu.edu/>

Academic Calendar — Fall 2023

<https://records.nmsu.edu/faculty-and-staff/academic-calendar.html>