MUSI 1301.43200 – Foundations of Music I
TR 11:00 AM - 12:20 PM (3 credit hours)
Room F-114
Dates: 1/27/15 - 3/5/15

Instructor: Rachel Loss-Cutler-Hull
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Office hours: _____________________
Division Telephone: 972-391-1047

Course Description (from Eastfield Catalogue):
Course prerequisites: None.
Introduction to the basic elements of music theory for non-music majors: scales, intervals, keys, triads, elementary ear training, keyboard harmony, notation, meter, and rhythm. (3 Lec.)

Course Objectives:
Music is a language! Learning to read and write music and to understand basic music terminology can be challenging. The successful student will have mastered the majority of these challenges after completion of the course. This will 1) provide the student with a deeper understanding of music, 2) provide the student with greater facility when performing written music (or when composing), and 3) enable the student to go on to music theory courses, if desired, with confidence.

Required course materials and textbook: 1) Rudiments of Music, 4th Edition by Robert Ottman and Frank Mainous, ISBN 0131826557. You must bring this book to class every class period. We will often use it for in-class exercises. 2) Students are required to have blank staff paper to aid in note-taking and in-class exercises. This is available online for free (if you have printer access), or may be bought in the Eastfield campus bookstore (or in most music shops, and probably a number of other places as well).

Grading:
Homework: 40% (400 total points possible)
Participation: 25% (240 total points possible)
Attendance: 10% (100 total points possible)
Final exam: 25% (250 total points possible)

Grading Scale:
90% and above A
80% to 89.94% B
70% to 79.94% C
60% to 69.94% D
59.94% and below F

Scheduling:

Section 1: Basics
January 27th - Welcome, introductions, syllabus, and the basics of reading pitches on the staff (and relating them to the piano keyboard). Intervals (specifically the half-step and whole step) will also be briefly discussed. Helpful chapters: 1 and 2.

January 29th - An introduction to rhythm, which includes how to read and perform different durations, and understanding how they relate to one another. A brief discussion of time signatures will also be included. Helpful chapters: 3, 7, and 8.

February 3rd - More on intervals, including the basic concept of intervals from the 2nd
through the 8ve. Helpful chapter: 18.

Section 2: Major Keys
February 5th - Listening to music in major keys. How to write and play any major scale. The difference between a scale and a key. Key signatures. Helpful chapters: 5, 6, 10, 11.
February 10th - How we name scale degrees. The circle of fifths. Drills on building major scales. First major scale due (piano).
February 12th - Drills: various. Second major scale due (piano).

Section 3: Minor keys
February 17th - Minor scales and minor keys. Helpful chapters: 14-16.
February 19th - Drills on writing scales. More information on intervals. First minor scale due (piano), Helpful chapters: 18 and 19.
February 24th - Intervals completed. Second minor scale due (piano). How to build basic chords.

Section 4: Chords and Harmonic Analysis.
March 3rd - Chords and harmonic analysis. Second set of chords due (piano).
March 5th - Chords and harmonic analysis. Final exam due.
Any changes to the schedule will be announced in class.

General notes:
1) All of the assignments you are given are useful; none of them are make-work.
2) This is an accelerated class. On the bright side, it means you will learn the material quickly--and that you will have one less final exam to study for in May. However, you will need to study hard to learn the material. The way not to feel lost is to take every step seriously--because this class will present a lot of information that builds on what you learned in previous weeks.
3) I will post office hours based on a poll taken on the first day. If you want some extra class time--come and ask as many questions as time permits, or come work through the material with me. Additional office hours may be available by appointment.
4) In music, most people learn best by thinking, hearing, and doing. If you don't put these ideas into practice, you will not come out of the course with the information you went into it for, and no one wants that. By the way: if you have little prior experience with reading music or thinking about music theory, this course may be a challenge at first; there will be many new ideas presented. Don't worry if you find the course challenging--that's normal. If you study hard, it will all make sense.
5) I love questions that come from a desire to learn. If you have difficulty understanding something, whether from the lectures or from the textbook (or on closely-related topics, for that matter), I am happy to assist. If you're curious about something, ask! Please don't feel shy about asking questions; answering them is a large part of my job.
6) Some of our class work will need to be done on a piano. There are several pianos available in the practice rooms in F-building; take advantage of them. I am assigning this work because music is auditory; the more you can hear, the more sense it makes. Don't worry—you don't need to already know how to play piano to take this course. We will cover everything you need to know.
7) E-mail is the best way to reach me outside of class hours. I probably won't receive telephone messages in a timely fashion.
**Attendance:**

This is an accelerated course, so don't miss if you can help it (of course, if you're sick, please stay home and get well). However, because emergencies do occur, you will be allowed two absences during the semester, no questions asked. Absences for illness are excused at my discretion; these will not affect your grade. Additional absences will lower your final course grade by 5% each, to a maximum of 10%. This means that if you miss class four times (for reasons other than illness, or religious holidays you have applied for with the procedures given below), the highest course grade you can make is a 90.

Students are responsible for anything that occurs in their absence, which includes covered material and assignments. Please note that class participation is part of your grade—and you will not be able to participate if you are not prepared. I will be posting all homework in a course folder on eCampus, but beyond that, feel free to e-mail me and ask for any assignments.

If you are not present at roll-call, you will be marked as tardy. Three tardies count as one absence. Exceptions can be made, but they must be discussed with me ahead of time. If you are tardy, it is your responsibility to check with me that class and make certain you are not counted as absent.

**Class Conduct:**

For detailed information on Eastfield's standards of conduct, please consult the current edition of the Eastfield Student Handbook. The short of it is this: I will treat all of my students with courtesy, and expect courtesy from you in return.

Cell-phones, laptops, MP3 players, and their kin must be turned off so they will not detract from the class. I understand if there is an emergency and you need to be available—but this needs to be a rare occasion, and I must be notified ahead of time.

Eating, drinking, and use of tobacco products are not allowed during the class period.

**Religious Holidays:**

Absences for observance of a religious holy day are excused, and do not count as one of your two allowed absences. Notification of your impending absence must be given to the instructor more than two weeks prior to the holy day for the absence to be excused. A student whose absence is excused to observe a religious holy day is allowed to contract with the instructor to take a make-up examination or complete an assignment within a reasonable time after the absence.

**Emergencies and Inclement Weather Conditions:**

In case of emergency or inclement weather conditions, Eastfield students should listen to KEOM-FM Radio Station (88.5) as the primary media source. In partnership with the Mesquite Independent School District, Eastfield College Administration will notify KEOM immediately after a decision is made to cancel classes on any given day of inclement weather or for emergency purposes. The earliest an announcement may be broadcast on KEOM Radio is 6 AM.

Students may also refer to the Eastfield College webpage (www.eastfieldcollege.com) for the Inclement Weather announcement under News/Features. You may also call the college for information: 972-860-7100.

**Academic Dishonesty:**

Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Academic dishonesty includes passing the work of others off as your work (plagiarism), and various methods of cheating on tests (sneaking a look at the book or at another student's test, writing notes on your hand, et cetera). For more information about academic dishonesty, please consult the Eastfield student handbook. If you are wondering whether something is academically dishonest, you can always ask me. Please note that academic dishonesty will result in the minimum of a grade of F on the assignment in question.
Students with Learning or Physical Disabilities:
Students requesting accommodations due to the presence of a disability must identify themselves in a timely fashion and demonstrate/document the need for accommodation through the Disability Services Office (DSO). For information regarding the rights and responsibilities of students with disabilities contact DSO at 972-860-8348 voice/TDD.

STOP BEFORE YOU DROP
For students who enrolled in college level courses for the first time in the fall of 2007, Texas Education Code 51.907 limits the number of courses a student may drop. You may drop no more than 6 courses during your entire undergraduate career unless the drop qualifies as an exception. Your campus counseling/advising center will give you more information on the allowable exceptions. Remember that once you have accumulated 6 non-exempt drops, you cannot drop any other courses with a “W”. Therefore, please exercise caution when dropping courses in any Texas public institution of higher learning, including all seven of the Dallas County Community Colleges. For more information, you may access: https://www1.dcccd.edu/coursedrops

Withdrawal Policy:
The instructor will not initiate withdrawing from the class. To drop a class, first inform the instructor and then contact the Admissions Office or the Counseling Center. If a student needs to withdraw from the class due to excessive absences, unacceptable grade average, or personal reasons, it is the student’s responsibility to initiate withdrawal. If a student ceases to participate in the class by failing to attend, do assigned homework or complete exams, he or she must withdraw from the class. The last day to withdraw with a letter grade of “W” is Tuesday, February 24th. Failure to officially drop or withdraw from a course will result in your receiving a performance grade, usually a grade of F.

Financial Aid Statement:
Students who are receiving any form of financial aid should check with the Financial Aid Office prior to withdrawing from classes. Withdrawals may affect your eligibility to receive further aid and could cause you to be in a position of repayment for the current semester. Students who fail to attend or participate after the drop date are also subject to this policy.

Obtaining Final Course Grades Using eConnect:
Final Grade Reports are no longer mailed. Access is available online at www.econnect.dcccd.edu. Use your identification number when you log onto eConnect. Your grades will also be printed on your Student Advising Report, which is available in the Admissions Office.

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA)
In compliance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA), the College may release information classified as “directory information” to the general public without the written consent of the student. Directory information includes: (1) student name, (2) student address, (3) telephone numbers, (4) date and place of birth, (5) weight and height of members of athletic teams, (6) participation in officially recognized activities and sports, (7) dates of attendance, (8) educational institution most recently attended, and (9) other similar information, including major field of student and degrees and awards received. Students may protect their directory information at any time during the academic year. If no request is filed, directory information is released upon written inquiry. No telephone inquiries are acknowledged. No transcript or academic record is released without written consent from the student, except as specified by law.

The instructor reserves the right to amend this syllabus as necessary.
Syllabus Certification

I certify that I, (print name) _________________________________, have read the syllabus for Foundations of Music (MUSI 1301.43200) in its entirety and that I understand all of the provisions in it. The syllabus contains the rules, procedures, and requirements of the class; I understand how important it is to read this document carefully.

Print name:

Sign name:

Date signed: