

**Course Syllabus**  
**MUS-1A: Music Theory I**  
**Fall 2023**

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**Instructor:** Christine Keenan  
**Office Location:** MUS 175/Zoom ID: 952 9011 5343  
**Office Hours:** MW 12:00-1:00pm  
TTh 11:00am-12:00pm  
Fridays on Zoom/by appointment  
**Phone number:** (559) 494-3000 x3280  
**Email:** [christine.keenan@reedleycollege.edu](mailto:christine.keenan@reedleycollege.edu)



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**Schedule:**  
MW, 9:00 - 10:15 a.m.  
3 units

**Location:**  
MUS 170  
HUM 64 (TBA)

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**Important Dates**

August 18 : Last day to drop for full a refund  
August 27 : Last day to add/Last day to drop without a “W”  
October 6: Final drop deadline (letter grades assigned after this date)

Class will not meet: September 4 (Labor Day)

If class is canceled other than these stated dates, there will either be advance notice given by the instructor, or an official announcement placed on the classroom door.

Final exam: Monday, December 4, 9:00-10:50 a.m.

**Course Description**

This course will study music notation in treble and bass clefs; intervals, scales, key signatures, triads, seventh chords, non-harmonic tones, analysis. Required of all music majors and minors. ADVISORIES: Music 3, English 1A or 1AH and Mathematics 3A or 45. (A, CSU, UC) (C-ID MUS 120: MUS 1A MUS 1B MUS 7A) *Music majors must be concurrently enrolled in MUS-7A (Ear Training I), a major performing ensemble, and private lessons.*

**Course Objectives**

*In the process of completing this course, students will:*

1. learn the structure of the 12 major and minor diatonic scales, and the chromatic scale.
2. study the harmonic system and apply it to chordal analysis of tonal music.
3. recognize and reproduce key signatures for all 12 major and minor diatonic keys.

4. learn the different types of non-chord tones.
5. study and extensively drill on all basic musical intervals, triads, and the dominant seventh chord.
6. transpose from one key to another.
7. read and notate pitch correctly in treble and bass clefs.

### **Student Learning Outcomes**

*Upon completion of the course, students will:*

1. demonstrate comprehension of how pitch is notated on a staff using treble and bass clefs.
2. recognize and reproduce all major and minor key signatures and the scales, intervals, and chords contained within them.

### **Required Materials**

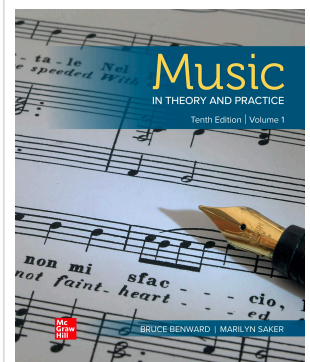
Text: *Music in Theory and Practice Volume 1*, 10th edition  
 Bruce Benward & Marilyn Saker, McGraw Hill  
 ISBN-13: 978-1260493450/ISBN-10: 1260493458

Access to websites: [www.musictheory.net](http://www.musictheory.net); [www.teoria.com](http://www.teoria.com)

3-ring binder

8.5 x 11 manuscript paper

pencil and eraser



### **Course Expectations**

- Attend all classes. Contact the instructor in advance if you need to miss class for any reason.
- Be on time to class. Three tardies are equivalent to one absence.
- Complete all assignments that require work outside of class time. Submit the assignments on time to avoid a buildup of incomplete work and a deduction in your grade.
- Check Canvas page and school email regularly to see if there are announcements and to know what assignments are upcoming or due.
- No food, drinks, or gum are allowed in class. Only bottled water is permitted.

### **Course Grading**

In-class Assignments - 10%

Homework - 40%

Unit Exams - 20%

Final Exam - 10%

Theory Standards - 20%

During the semester, you will need to pass 8 standards with 90% accuracy. Once you pass all 8 standards, you will receive 100% for standards. You must pass all standards to receive these points.

***Detailed information about assignments and grading will be presented in class and/or available on the course Canvas shell.***

## **Grading Scale**

- A = 90-100%
- B = 80-89%
- C = 70-79%
- D = 60-69%
- F = 0-59%

## **Makeup Work/Late Assignments**

Homework will be assigned daily. Late assignments will receive only 70% credit. No credit will be given for assignments that are more than one week late. There will be no make-ups for missed exams without prior arrangements with the instructor. The final exam is required.

## **Attendance and Participation**

Attendance and participation at all class sessions is required. Absences will be reflected in your In-class Assignments grade. Three tardies constitute an absence. A tardy in excess of 20 minutes is considered an absence. Students must notify the instructor in advance and provide documentation of a valid reason to excuse an absence.

## **Students with Disabilities**

If you have a verified need for an academic accommodation or materials in alternate media (i.e., Braille, large print, electronic text, etc.) per the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, please contact the instructor as soon as possible.

## **Academic Honesty and Disruption**

For detailed information regarding Academic Dishonesty, Plagiarism, and Disruption, please see pages 46-47 of the Reedley College Catalogue. Consequences for plagiarism include receiving a zero on the assignment for the first offense or an F in the class for repeated offenses, at the instructor's discretion.

Please turn off and stow all cell phones and other electronic devices during class. Students may be dismissed from class and counted as absent for creating excessive disruptions.

## **Changes to the Syllabus**

This syllabus is subject to change, at the discretion of the instructor. Changes will be made in writing and distributed to all members of the class, either in person or electronically.

## **COURSE CONTENT OUTLINE**

Weeks 1-2: Musical Notation of Pitch (Ch. 1)

1. G, F, and C clefs
2. Octave designation
3. The Grand Staff
4. Keyboard orientation
5. Rhythmic notation

Weeks 3-4: Scales (Ch. 2)

1. Names of scale degrees
2. Major diatonic scale
3. Chromatic and whole tone scales

Week 5: Major Key Signatures (Ch. 2)

1. Rules for recognizing and creating major key signatures
2. Circle of Fifths

Weeks 6-7: Intervals (Ch. 3)

1. Visual and numerical identification of intervals
2. Number and quality
3. Inversions
4. Consonance and dissonance
5. Compound intervals

Week 8: Transposition (Ch. 3)

1. Rules for general transposition
2. Transposing instruments and their notation

Weeks 9-11: Minor Diatonic Scales and Their Key Signatures (Ch. 2)

1. Natural minor, harmonic and melodic forms
2. Parallel and relative scales

Weeks 12-13: Triads (Ch. 4)

1. Quality (major, minor, augmented, diminished)
2. Triads in major and minor keys
3. Inversions
4. Functional chord and figured bass symbols

Weeks 14-15: Seventh Chords (Ch. 4)

1. Quality (major, minor, dominant, half-diminished, fully diminished)
2. Seventh chords in major and minor keys
3. Inversions
4. Functional chord and figured bass symbols

Week 16-17: The Harmonic System (Ch. 4-5)

1. Non-harmonic tones
2. Functional chord symbols
3. Harmonic analysis