

Central Washington University
Department of Music

MUS 144 | Theory 1

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MUS 144.01
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Meeting Times: MWF 8:00-8:50am

MUS 144.02
Instructor: Dr. Kirsten Boldt-Neurohr
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MUS 144.03
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Meeting Times: MWF 9:00-9:50am

Prerequisites: Satisfactory completion of the on-line diagnostic evaluation (and on-line fundamental review course, if recommended). Any student entering a standard college music curriculum needs to be able to read treble and bass clef fluently, have a basic understanding of notation, have a basic understanding of scales and key signatures, and are expected to be proficient on one of the standard instruments or voice. This course must be taken concurrently with 144A (Aural Skills 1) and 152A (Piano Class I) unless these classes have been waived by the appropriate faculty, coordinator of music theory and piano class supervisor, respectively.

Required Texts and Materials:

Coursebooks

Tonal Harmony, 7th ed. by Stefan Kostka and Dorothy Payne - 2009, McGraw Hill

Music for Sight Singing, 9th ed. by Robert W. Ottman and Nancy Rogers – 2012, New Jersey

Online Resources:

Canvas — <http://canvas.cwu.edu>

Other Readings:

Gries P. *The Solfege System*. <http://www.cwu.edu/music/music-theory-solfege-system>

Gries P. *Sightsinging*. <http://www.cwu.edu/music/music-theory-pitch-perception-sightsinging>

Gries P. *Counterpoint*. <http://www.cwu.edu/music/counterpoint>

Students should print the following from course contents on Canvas and have them available at all times:

Calendar

Daily Assignment List

All homework assignments and handouts for each week

1 inch three ring binder

Manuscript paper and pencils

Course Content: This course introduces basic theoretical concepts dealing with common-practice melody, harmony, and voice leading, and demonstrates their analytical and compositional uses.

Course Purpose: The purpose of this course is to enable you to read, write, and comprehend the fundamental elements of common-practice harmony. These skills are essential to the aspiring performer, composer, and teacher. MUS 144 lays the groundwork for the subsequent five courses in the harmony sequence. This course is required for all undergraduate music majors.

Expected Learning Outcomes:

Upon completion of MUS 144, you should be able to:

- Apply fundamental concepts through written comprehension of clefs, scales, key signatures, intervals, triads, and seventh chords
- Demonstrate the fundamentals of harmonic function and progression.
- Identify a variety of written rhythmic patterns
- Write major and minor scales, intervals, triads, seventh chords, and apply written solfège to short tonal excerpts.
- Demonstrate any of the above on the piano
- Compose short pieces in first-species counterpoint

Assessment of Learning Outcomes:

The following methods will be used to assess your progress towards the learning outcomes given above:

- Homework assignments
- Written/Dictation/Aural skills quizzes
- Singing/Rhythm assessments
- Basic Keyboard applications
- A variety of in-class activities
- Midterm and final examination (both written and aural components)

Grading scale: The final grade is determined based on the following percentage allocation:

94–100 = A	87 – 89 = B+	77 – 79 = C+	67 – 69 = D+
90 – 93 = A-	83 – 86 = B	73 – 76 = C	64 – 66 = D
	80 – 82 = B-	70 – 72 = C-	0 – 63 = F

NOTE: You must receive a C or better in both 144 & 144A to move forward in the theory sequence to MUS 145 & 145B.

Criteria for Grading: The final grade will be determined as follows:

Standard Evaluation of all course components:

Daily Written Assignments	30%
Written Quizzes	20%
Midterm Exam	25%
Final Exam	25%

Attendance: Attendance is required and expected. If you are unable to attend class, please leave an email or phone message for the instructor indicating the reason for your absence. If you anticipate missing class, you should inform the instructor in advance, otherwise the absence will be unexcused. Acceptable excuses are a personal illness, a death in the family, or a university-sponsored trip. More than two unexcused absences will result in a grade by 1/3: for example, 3 unexcused absences will reduce an A to A- and 3 unexcused absences will reduce an A to B+. More than 4 total absences of any kind will result in an automatic F in the course. Two tardies will equal an absence. (Be on time!!!!).

Assignment due dates: Assignments are due at the beginning of the class session. All written assignments must be submitted on time, in pencil, use correct notation, and be completely finished to receive credit. Late assignments will not be accepted without an acceptable excuse supported by documentation. Failure to attend class does not excuse late assignments (leave them in your instructor's mailbox BEFORE class if unable to attend). Assignments must be on time. Please plan ahead and pace yourself accordingly.

Written Assignments: Written assignments should be preceded by the reading assignments. Required reading is indicated in the daily class assignment list. All written assignments must be submitted on time, in pencil, use correct notation, and be completely finished to receive credit.

Supplemental Keyboard Assignments: Keyboard skills reinforce: aural skills, concepts of voice-leading, structural understanding, and enhance any musician's practicality and marketability. It is recommended that students use the piano as often as possible to further develop their musicianship skills. In addition, to recommended supplemental keyboard exercises, there is a keyboard component on all skills tests for 144A.

Quizzes: Scheduled written quizzes are included in the class schedule. The lowest quiz score will be dropped. An absence on the day of a quiz will result in a zero and that score will be dropped. If two quizzes are missed, both due to excused absences, one may be made up at the instructor's convenience. The individual instructor may alter the day of the week the quiz is given and may on occasion give an unscheduled "pop" quiz.

Students should strive to achieve a high level in all six areas incorporated in the midterm exam, final exam, and skills tests: Written Skills, Ear Training Exercises, Melodic/Harmonic/Rhythmic Dictation, Singing Assessments, Practical Keyboard Applications, 1 & 2-part Rhythmic Skills

Make-up Exams and Quizzes:

Exams will not be given outside of the scheduled exam hour unless arrangements are made with the instructor prior to the exam. A student with an acceptable excuse supported by documentation (see above) will be allowed a makeup quiz. A student with an unexcused absence should not ask for a make-up quiz/test.

Incompletes: The grade of incomplete is granted only in cases of documented emergencies or illness, and then only when permission has been obtained from the instructor, no later than one week before the final class meeting.

Daily drill work: Students need to make the strongest possible effort to master new concepts and skills and to maintain the knowledge/skills already acquired. To achieve maximum success, allocate at least two hours of preparation for each theory class.

Academic Integrity: A student responsible for scholastic dishonesty may be assigned an automatic grade of an “F” for the course. Students may certainly work together on homework assignments. However, copying assignments is unacceptable and may require action according to the CWU guidelines. Central Washington University maintains a strong stance on academic dishonesty: “If you engage in academic dishonesty related to this class, you will receive a failing grade on the test or assignment, and a failing grade in the course. In addition, the case will be referred to the Dean of Students for appropriate disciplinary action.”

Disabilities: Students with disabilities who wish to set up academic adjustments in this class should give me a copy of their “Confirmation of Eligibility for Academic Adjustments” form from the Center for Disability Services Office as soon as possible so we can meet to discuss how the approved adjustments will be implemented in this class. Students with disabilities without this form should contact the Center for Disability Services Office, Bouillon 205 or cdsrecept@cwu.edu or 963-2171 immediately.

SUPPLEMENTAL KEYBOARD EXERCISES

Scales (Ascending and Descending):

- First two weeks: May play one tetra-chord with each hand
- Midterm: Major and all forms of minor to three accidentals with correct fingerings
- After Midterm: Major and all forms of minor (All Scales)
- Up to three accidentals: Must use correct fingerings - both hands together, if possible

Intervals:

Play any interval from any given note on the keyboard

Triads:

- Play major, minor, augmented, and diminished triads from any given note
- Play major and minor triads in 1st and 2nd inversions (ex. E Major6 [1st inversion])

Seventh Chords:

- Play Mm7 (dominant) from any given note – Resolve the tritone correctly
- Play the other four common seventh chords (MM7, mm7, ø7, o7) from any given note

Ex.: Mm7 in G Major with triton resolution



Figured Bass #1 (Keyboard Voicing):

- Play Bass in left hand, and three note chords in right hand
- Play in all major keys – up to three sharps or flats

Right Hand:	8	8	7	8
(scale degrees)	5	6	5	5
	3	4	2	3
Left Hand	1	4	5	1
(scale degrees)				
progression:	I	IV	V	I

(numbers are fingering)

this interval should be a tenth

Start practicing today!