

MUSI 201 Introduction to Music Fundamentals
Year and term
Dates and times of course
Building & room, OR, mode of course delivery
Prof.
Prof's email

Course description from Concordia Undergraduate Calendar (available in pdf sections here: <http://www.concordia.ca/academics/undergraduate/calendar.html> choose Fine Arts, Music)

MUSI 201 Introduction to Music Fundamentals (3 credits) An intensive introductory course in basic music theory materials, with integrated practice in aural training and keyboard skills.

NOTE: Students in a major, minor, or specialization program in the Department of Music (excluding students enrolled in an Electroacoustic program) may not take this course for credit.

NOTE: Students who have received credit for this topic under INMS 499 or MUSI 200 may not take this course for credit.

As MUSI 201 happens remotely online this term, this course outline is quite long. Read all sections carefully. Send any questions to the prof at email above.

Sections of this Course Outline:

- Texts & the MOODLE site
- A word about Plagiarism
- What you will need at home
- Expectations of students
- Course description in detail (more info than what's in the Calendar)
- How-to-do-homework instructions
- When to contact the professor
- How you will be graded
- Percentage mark to Concordia Letter Grade equivalencies
- Final disclaimer

Texts: You don't have to buy a text for this course. Materials will be attached to the MUSI 201 site on Moodle. You may also use free online websites (as announced/discussed in class & more info sent). At the rudiments level, there is no one single perfect text. For those who like to have a book at hand:

Clendinning, Marvin, & Philips. (2018). *The Musician's Guide to Fundamentals*. Norton.

Website. Very American: *moveable doh* syllables for singing, which we DO NOT use. Otherwise good, used at Eastman, thorough, has creative exercises, etc.

Takesue, S. (2017). *Music Fundamentals: A Balanced Approach*, 3rd ed. Routledge.

Website. American. Less creative than Clendinning et al. Covers guitar tab.

Wharram, Barbara. (2010). *Elementary Rudiments of Music*. Toronto: Frederick Harris.

No website. Very Canadian, somewhat influenced by British conservatory terminology.

And: <https://opentextbooks.concordia.ca/oerbydiscipline/chapter/music/> for a free online music **text** made available through Concordia.

Compared to any one text book (including those above), some of what the prof teaches will vary slightly in some details. This is normal, don't worry about it. For class, use the method the prof teaches. In general, keep your minds open. Learning many approaches = understanding relationships.

Moodle site: To access your course Moodle website, log in to your MyConcordia student portal, and select Moodle. Look for MUSI 201 and the correct year and term. If you can't view the course website, tell the prof. Though prepared in advance, Moodle is also always a work-in-progress. Items can get attached to the Moodle during a current week because they arise during class discussion. **Always check the week to come in advance, especially homework files.** Check again during the duration of each week, for additions.

Plagiarism: Plagiarism is the act of *presenting* someone else's work, in any form, as your own. It is a form of theft and the most serious academic offence possible. Penalties are severe. Plagiarism occurs whenever you do not **cite** or **give credit** to your sources.

What you *present* could be in the form of written or spoken words; quotes from unidentified sources; music, visual artwork including film, video, etc.; *anything at all* that you did not originally create but someone else did, and then you took it, presented it, and didn't identify the real source. A paraphrase, if too close to the original and not attributed, is plagiarism. You must acknowledge your sources at all times. This includes when giving an oral presentation: state your sources verbally **and** write them on your slides.

Penalties for plagiarism include failing a course and/or expulsion from the university. The following "Read about" is your first assignment in MUSI 201:

Read about Academic Integrity at: <https://www.concordia.ca/conduct/academic-integrity.html>
about plagiarism in particular at: <https://www.concordia.ca/conduct/academic-integrity/plagiarism.html> &
follow the link on that plagiarism page to the **Concordia Code of Conduct**:
<https://www.concordia.ca/content/dam/concordia/offices/provost/docs/Academic-Code-Conduct-2015.pdf>

IN SUMMARY:

DO NOT WRITE, SAY, PLAY, SING, REPRODUCE, PARAPHRASE, OR IN ANY OTHER WAY PRESENT FOR COURSEWORK, OR IN PUBLIC, ANYTHING THAT YOU GOT FROM SOMEONE or SOMEWHERE ELSE, WITHOUT ACKNOWLEDGING FORMALLY FROM WHERE AND WHOM YOU GOT IT.

The prof thanks Prof. G. Dimitrov, on whose work the above paragraphs are modelled.

What you will need at home for a remote-delivery (Zoom) MUSI 201 course:

- A keyboard (KB):
 - real piano is best; but,
 - an electric full-88 weighted touch-sensitive KB is just as good;
 - electric with shorter KB is okay;
 - soundless cardboard KB acceptable if the only thing possible—you can make it yourself
- Internet connection, highest speed possible, for Concordia's chosen connection platform Zoom (and we'll use free online sites, YouTube, etc.). You'll be asked to go to YouTube often.
- The required online meeting platform Zoom. A free download from zoom.us
- TELL THE PROF YOUR CORRECT EMAIL ADDRESS FOR ZOOM. If your email changes at any time during term, year, or your entire stay at Concordia, you must inform the university so it can update its Student Information System and the email links on class rosters for profs/admin.
- A large screen device for participating & listening (*not* your phone unless it is truly the only thing you can get—be aware a phone might not work well for some activities)
- Capacity to record yourself singing, & playing, including on KB; create sound-files, send to prof
- Capacity to receive files, download, print out, scan new materials, upload, send back
- The ability to create files of *your own new written music* to send to prof; for instance via
 - Music paper on which you write in pencil, then **scan** and send as pdf
 - Music paper as above that you **take a clear picture** of & send as email attachment
 - Music notation software (Sibelius, Dorico, Finale, or the like) from which you can send in **pdf format** (not original program file)
- Other instruments if possible (we won't be able to play these together online on Zoom, but you'll have variety available, and the pleasure of not doing everything on KB or voice...)
 - guitar or other plucked string instruments (uke, mandolin, etc.); recorders; winds and brass instruments such as flute, oboe, clarinet, bassoon; trumpet, trombone, horn, tuba, euphonium; bowed strings like violin, viola, cello, bass; percussion instruments including small sound-making devices such as finger cymbals, tambourines; etc;
 - homemade instruments encouraged !! ☺
- Yourself: your voice, ears, hands, brain, soul, and biggest smile!

Expectations of students:

Attend every class in the manner possible to you. This should go without saying, but it still needs saying. I hope most of you can make it to the Zoom classes in real time. Recorded classes will go to Moodle site for everyone. If you can't make it to the W-F 10:30 am MTL time sessions, contact the prof RIGHT NOW to explain the reasons why, and to discuss and agree upon arrangements (and read below).

Be on time. Class starts at 10:30 sharp MONTREAL TIME, on Zoom.

If you must miss class: Go to the course Moodle site and watch the recording; for questions arising, email the prof.

Participate actively in every class. If you can only view/hear recordings on Zoom, maintain constant lively contact with prof. You **must** send feedback to the prof, and questions by email. You can also network with fellow students, join in discussion Forums, etc.

Behave professionally and respectfully to all in the “Zoom room”, students and prof alike.

Do not share the Zoom meeting links with anyone. They are for class members only.

Work your hardest, to the highest standards of artistic achievement and creativity, at all times.

Consult the prof by email at the address in the top header if you are concerned about your progress, your grades, or anything. Always include your student number when consulting.

Course description in more detail:

The course is on rudiments & basic theory of (mostly) classical, (mostly) euro-western music, i.e., structures and notation.

Structures:

- time, rhythm, time signatures, note values, durations...
- sound/pitch, the harmonic series
- tonal system, scales, key signatures, cycle of fifths
- basic modes
- intervals
- melody, in 1 part and in 2 parts (duets)
- harmony (triads and seventh chords, singly and in progressions)
- formal structures as we go along such as motifs, phrases, forms...

Notation: i.e., how to:

write standard music notation (rhythmic symbols, clefs, scales, melodies, chords, and more)

take dictation, do short transcriptions from rich music

read standard music notation

sing prepared exercises and at sight

play keyboard, prepared items or simple materials at sight

play keyboard and sing at the same time, prepared items only

create/compose/notate rhythms, melodies, chords and their inversions

analyze rhythmic, melodic, harmonic, and basic formal content of a piece

By the end of the course, you should be able to: understand basic theory and pass a basic theory test with 100% or close; notate your own short pieces (songs, pieces for KB or other instruments); write down things you hear (dictation, transcription); sing and/or play melodies and scores you see for the first time (sight reading); perform (voice, KB, or other instrument) other exercises assigned as prepared items.

As mentioned above, the course is mostly about euro-western materials, and mostly about “classical” theory basics. These basics actually underlie, or are found to some extent, in many other genres such as pop, rock, jazz, folksong, the Broadway tradition, and so on. Therefore, other genres will be seen/heard.

How to do homework:

Homework will show as a file on the Moodle, "MUSI 201 Week X Homework" every week. Read it *early* every week, before the first class of that week (say on Sun or Mon) to know what will be coming on Wed and Fri of the coming week. Errors, typos—tell the prof; questions, confusions—ask the prof.

The homework includes written assignments (theory, dictation), performance assignments, and often a list of suggestions for free listening, to explore for fun. Open to suggestions from students for those lists.

There is sometimes a tiny assignment from Wed to Fri before class. Usually, assignments are substantial and are to be done over the weekend, submitted by email by Mon noon of the following week.

For written homework (this will include theory exercises, creative things, online dictations, etc.):

- Download each file, or go to the URL
- Answer questions in writing—by yourself; do your own work alone from your own knowledge.
- If this means printing out and writing on paper, fine.
- If you have a way of working directly on a pdf or other type of file, that's fine too.
- Save in a file format you can email to the prof as an attachment (pdf, word docx)
- File name & subject line of the email = YOURFAMILYNAMEweekXclassXassignmentMUSI201
- Example: **FAMILYNAMEweek1class1rhythmMUSI201** (SMITHweek1class1rhythmMUSI201)

For performing homework (this will include singing, playing KB, "Sing-&-play", etc.):

- Read the Homework file for the week. The singing and playing exercises are described in that file and made available in other files labelled Melodies, Rhythms, Keyboard (KB), etc.
- Practice the melodies, rhythms, and KB materials that are assigned to be prepared
- Don't sing or play fast!!!!!! Choose a slow to moderate, manageable, tempo. Goals are:
 - accuracy
 - integration of skills (e.g.: sing, in tune & rhythm, use right syllables, **and** conduct!); and,
 - fluency, with musical expressivity
- Only when you can do something perfectly, with expression and flow, then try other tempi.
- You **will** be called to perform alone in class; you may even be asked to read something entirely new in class, i.e., sight work as opposed to prep work. The prep items are to build skills for sight.
- Send sound-files (or videos if that's what you create) as email attachments. Same format, file name & subject line show your name, assignment info, MUSI 201:
SMITHwk3singmelodiesMUSI201
- **Every week, practice ALL assigned prep items; then choose 2 contrasting rhythm exercises, & 2 contrasting melodies; record them, and send them by email to the prof**

When to contact the professor:

- if **ill** for a long time
- when you are **confused**
- when you **need extra tutoring**
- when you need **course advising** (include student number)
- other vexing or protracted situations.

If in doubt, err on the side of caution, contact the prof. Include your student number.

How you will be graded: Every week something will happen that is worth a few marks.

Homework: 30 marks for homeworks prior to midterm tests, in weeks 1 – 6 inclusive; and 30 marks for homeworks after midterm in weeks 8 – 12 inclusive, for a total of **60 marks for homework**.

Midterm tests: Wk 7 is a test of written theory; an online dictation; in wk 7/8 solo performance: prepped rhythm & melody; and keyboard. Each test = 2.5 marks, for a total of **10 marks for midterm testing**.

Final tests: End of term tests are: written theory (2 separate tests); prep & sight performance (melody, rhythm); keyboard skills; and dictation. Theory tests are worth 2 + 2, in Week 13. One is multiple choice, closely based on the Basic Theory Test used by the Department of Music on its online application site. The other theory test requires the student to productively write answers—not multiple choice. Other tests, after the end of classes, are worth 2 each (performance, KB, dictation), for a total of **10 marks for end of term tests**.

Final creative assignment: The prof will set the parameters for a short written creative assignment (such as a song, a short instrumental piece, etc.) due after the end of classes on a date set by prof. **10 marks**.

Class mark: For presence, progress, feedback. “*Presence*” does not necessarily mean attendance at the Zoom classes at scheduled class times. If you are in a situation that makes it difficult to attend in real time (such as a far time-zone), you must watch and hear the recording of the class as attached to the Moodle. This lets you send questions and feedback to the prof, and lets the prof monitor your progress closely and individually. YOU must make it clear to the prof that you are “present”. Progress and your feedback must be made obvious to the prof. **10 marks for class mark**.

Summary of Grading:

Homework:	60
Midterms:	10
Finals:	10
Creative assignment:	10
Class mark:	<u>10</u>
Total:	100 %

Percentage to Letter-Grade Conversion:

A +	95 – 100	A	85 – 94.9	A –	80 – 84.9
B +	77 – 79.9	B	73 – 76.9	B –	70 – 72.9
C +	67 – 69.9	C	63 – 66.9	C –	60 – 62.9
D	50 – 59 (note, D’s are exquisitely rare...)				

Lower than 50% = FNS (**F**ailed, **N**o **S**upplementary exam).

No INCs except for serious emergencies with written documentation (medical note, death certificate), and with the assured fore-knowledge that you will be able to make up the missing work within ONE TERM.

Final disclaimer: In the event of circumstances beyond the control of the professor or the university, this course outline is subject to modification. Changes will be given in writing via Moodle site and/or by notification from SIS class roster.