

Chaminade University

School of Humanities, Arts, and Design

PAR208/MU208: Fundamentals of Music (3 Credits)

TUES - THURS. 1:00pm-2:20pm, Henry Hall 102

Instructor: Susan Purnell

Phone: (808) 781-6516

Email: susan.purnell@chaminade.edu

My goal is to guide you in learning the course material, while creating an enjoyable and interesting learning environment in which you will gain an understanding of music notation and begin building on your musicianship and basic keyboard skills.

Course Description:

An introduction to basic music theory, the fundamentals of western staff notation, and basic keyboard skills. This course is geared toward building a practical foundation of knowledge in music and prepares the student for further musical pursuits, such as individual instrumental lessons, choral singing, musical theatre, classroom teaching, developing an appreciation of music, and building compositional skills. Topics include rhythm, meter, melody, harmony, musical terms, clefs and staff notation. This course satisfies the Fine Arts/Performing Arts general education requirement. This course includes the General Education Learning Outcomes for "Knowledge of Beauty and Creativity." Students will build skill sets and explore creative methods of discovering, discerning and/or expressing beauty through art forms and fields of inquiry.

By the end of our course, students will be able to:

Know names of notes in treble and bass clef

Be able to construct Major and Minor scales

Be able to identify and construct major, minor, augmented and diminished intervals

Be able to construct and identify major, minor, augmented and diminished triads and chords

Be able to play scales, triads, and chords on piano

Be able to play 2 piano pieces using left and right hands, treble and bass clefs

Marianist Values:

- Education for formation in faith
- Provide an integral, quality education
- Educate in family spirit
- Educate for service, justice and peace
- Educate for adaptation and change

**Textbook: A Creative Approach to Music Fundamentals 11th edition,
William Duckworth ISBN-13 978-1-285-44620-2**

1. MU 208 students will demonstrate an understanding of music fundamentals and musicianship skills.

- Students will develop this understanding by attending each class and participating in class activities. (20% of grade)

- During the course of the class, students will complete 2 short keyboard exercises. These will give you a practical understanding of keyboard notation as well as reinforce concepts of rhythm, intervals, chords, scales and keys. (10% of grade)

- By the end of the class, students will complete Seven Focus on Skills sections found in the text and submit them by due dates stated in class. (10% of grade)

- Students will create a final project consisting of a 16-bar song or instrumental composition (10% of grade)

2. MU 208 students will demonstrate ability to identify concepts of music theory and standard musical notation. Students will demonstrate this ability on their midterm and final exams by correctly answering short answer items on a teacher-constructed test. (50% of grade)

Weekly Activities

Each class will consist of instructor lecture and textbook exercises, supported by class participation and discussion. Students will be given opportunities for individual musical skill building, which will be used to facilitate class discussion. Group piano sessions will be scheduled to supplement students' understanding of concepts from lecture and exercises.

Instructor's Expectations

I expect students to attend and participate in all classes. Students should be reasonably prepared for each class by reviewing all assigned readings and and completing all assignments. Students should bring their textbook to each class for reference and in-class excercises.

Classroom Expectations

Any acts of classroom disruption that go beyond the normal rights of students to question and discuss with instructors will not be tolerated, in accordance with the CUH Student Handbook. No food is allowed in the classroom.

Attendance Requirements

It is essential that you attend each class session. It is your responsibility to inform your instructor if you will miss class for any emergency reason. The syllabus lists material to be covered and it is your responsibility to complete all assignments, whether or not you may be absent. Please call or email me before you are absent, or right afterwards.

Withdrawal Procedures

If you feel that circumstances beyond your control are interfering with your ability to attend class or complete the course of study, you can request an Incomplete (I). Remember, you only have 90 days to complete course requirements, or the I will default to an F. You may withdraw, but you should check with CUH officials to determine how this action might affect your grade point average or financial assistance.

Grading Procedures

Below you will find the percentages necessary to earn various grades.

A = 90 – 100%

80 – 89%

B = 70 – 79%

C = 60 – 69%

D = < 60%

F = < 50%

Tests and Expectations

There are two announced examinations; mid-term and final. I expect all students to prepare for examinations, attend lectures, and read the assigned chapters. If you are absent, you are responsible for getting the course notes, handouts, and assignments you missed. MidTerm and Final Exams can not be made up.