

Syllabus

Music Fundamentals: Music 101

Instructor: Kurt Festinger

Email: professorimprov@sbcglobal.net

Office hours: Online, 7:30-8:30 pm, Tuesday, via ETUDES Private Messages system.

Textbook: All class material, our text, is incorporated into this website, accessed via the Modules link at the left hand side of the ETUDES screen. The text is divided into chapters, which ETUDES refers to as "modules".

Students with disabilities who believe they may need accommodations in this class are encouraged to contact Disabled Students Programs and Services located in HRLC 119, phone number 310-287-4450 as soon as possible to better ensure such accommodations are implemented in a timely fashion.

Our course objective is to cover the following concepts: staff, clefs, note names, note types, rests, piano keyboard, sharps, flats, naturals, intervals, durations, meter, major scales, circle of fifths, double sharps, double flats, minor scales, and triads. Although there are sound files throughout the text, and they are critical to your understanding, ear training is not required for music fundamentals, and there will be no sound files on graded tests.

SLO Statement

West LA College, like all California Community Colleges, is engaged in the Student Learning Outcome, or SLO, process, which is designed to assist you in achieving your educational goals here at West, and even beyond, in your further schooling and career. The SLO's will also help you reflect on your own learning process as it is occurring. The overall, or institutional SLO goal in our class, as stated by West, is as follows:

Critical Thinking: Analyze problems by differentiating fact from opinions, using evidence, and using sound reasoning to specify multiple solutions and their consequences.

Our music class also has a specific course level SLO, specified by the music department, which is as follows:

Be able to write out all major and minor scales through the circle of 5ths.

This is in fact one of our final assignments, and your ability to achieve this SLO will depend on a scaffolded learning experience in our class. This means that each individual class assignment will test a specific concept, which will in turn be necessary in order to progress to the next concept. Your understanding of these particular concepts will be facilitated by a written assignment, followed by a multiple choice assessment.

VoiceThread: This class will require participation in VoiceThread assignments. VoiceThread is an online medium in which students can comment on education content using text, audio, or video. You will be required at times to make audio comments, which may require purchase of an external microphone for your computer. Audio comments can also be made via cellphone. Video comments are strongly encouraged, but not required.

Teacher response time: I correct assignments, and respond to Etudes Private Messages and Discussion posts, within 24-48 hours. I teach 6 days a week, taking Sunday off.

Grading policy:

45% Assignments

45% Chapter tests, midterm, and final

10% Forum participation

Assignments are worth 100 points each. Each week's assignment will be available on Monday morning, and will be due the following Sunday night. If your completed assignment is inadequate, I'll assign a grade, and ask you to resubmit it. There is no penalty for resubmission. If you make the necessary corrections, you'll earn full marks. You'll have 1 additional week after the due date to turn in the assignment. ETUDES will mark the assignment as late, but there is no penalty for late submissions. After 2 weeks time you will no longer be able to submit the assignment.

Each week's tests will be made available on Monday morning. They will be due the following Sunday night. You will have 1 additional week to take the test after the due date. There is no penalty for late submission. After 2 weeks, you will no longer be able to access the test. Chapter tests are worth 50 to 100 points each. The midterm and final are worth 200 points each. The midterm will be cumulative, inclusive of the *Key and Key Signature module*. The final exam will be available during the final week of the class, and will also be cumulative. Tests will be timed. You will have 2 hours for chapter tests, and 3 hours for the midterm and final. You'll be allowed 2 submissions on module tests. ETUDES will record your highest score. You'll be allowed only one submission on the midterm and final exam.

Note that assignments and tests scheduled for the final week of class will be due on the last day of class, without the additional week's grace period.

Your base final grade will be determined by adding all assignment and test scores. I'll add points for discussion group participation onto this total. These points are based on my subjective determination of your involvement in the discussions. Did you have the courage to ask questions? Did you thoughtfully respond to fellow students' questions? Did you join in class discussions? Did you offer to help other students who posted with ETUDES nuts and bolts problems, or share items of interest such as an interesting music website? These are all examples of what I would call **meaningful** participation. The points I assign here could be as much as 10% of your base final grade. If your base final grade is near a cutoff point, your discussion participation could easily put you into the next grade bracket. For instance, if you earn 2900 total points on assignments and tests, and earn full credit for discussion participation (10% of that

total, or 290 points), your final grade total would be 3190 points, moving you from a B to an A. Cutoff points for each letter grade are as follows:

Total possible points = 3675

3000 and up = A

2500 to 2999 = B

2000 to 2499 = C

1500 to 1999 = D

Below 1500 = F

Important note: all assignments must be completed! You cannot accumulate 3000 points and cease your course work. I will deduct any assignments left unsubmitted subsequent to accruing 3000 points.

Extra Credit: extra credit opportunities will be made available in the discussion groups as the class progresses.

Academic honesty: While it is perfectly reasonable to study the module material with other students, I expect you to do your own work on assignments and tests. Should I receive an assignment that is beyond any reasonable doubt a duplicate of another student's assignment, I will give 0 points for both submissions, and require a resubmission reflecting individual work. Should the pattern continue, after the third copied assignment I will drop the involved students from the class .

Contact the instructor for confidential concerns via the Private Messages system, accessed via the Discussions and Private Messages link at the left hand side of the ETUDES screen. Most communication with me, though, should happen in the discussion groups.