**Music Theory – Course 1 Session 1**

**Syllabus**

**Instructor Information:**

Sean M. Davis

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**Texts:**

No Required text, although Jane Piper Clendinning’s *The Musician’s Guide to Fundamentals* is a fantastic supplementary text for the student who needs extra material.

All other class material will be provided online.

I will frequently reference these online resources: [www.musictheory.net](http://www.musictheory.net); [www.teoria.com](http://www.teoria.com); [www.musictheoryexamples.com](http://www.musictheoryexamples.com)

**Course Description:**

This course serves as an introduction to basic musical theory. We will study basic scales, clefs, intervals, rhythm and chord structures, simple harmonization, and rudimentary aural theory. Some previous training is helpful, but not necessary.

**Learning Outcomes:**

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Identify scales, intervals, and chords both on a musical score, and by ear.
2. Transcribe simple melodies and chord progressions by ear
3. Harmonize a melody and/or bass line with stylistic competency
4. Compose a basic chord progression that culminates in a cadence
5. Accurately perform written music from any clef

**Course Work:**

There will be weekly homework assignments (total of 8) that reinforce each week’s specific lesson, a composition project (melody harmonization). Additionally, there will be two assessments (week 4 and week 8) to ensure each student adequately learned the material.

Classes will be discussion and participation based, focusing on practical skills (singing, aural transcription, part-writing, counterpoint exercises, etc.)

**Course Fee: $450.00**

**Tentative Course Schedule:**

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| **Week 1** | Clefs/Whole vs. half steps/Octave Designations |
| **Week 2** | Simple Meters |
| **Week 3** | Beat Subdivisions and Syncopation |
| **Week 4** | Compound and Other Meters  ***Assessment 1*** |
| **Week 5** | Major Scales and Keys |
| **Week 6** | Minor Scales and Keys |
| **Week 7** | Intervals and Triads |
| **Week 8** | Melody Harmonization and Cadences  ***Assessment 2***  ***Composition Project Due*** |