**MUS 1117 Introduction to Musical Language**

***Description:***

The course is designed for students with little or no background in music education. Through listening to a variety of musics, the students will be introduced to the language, which will be used when referring to music, musical instruments and musical types. It will offer the basic knowledge required to be able to understand the fundamentals of music notation allowing students to be able to read and write music. Emphasis will be placed upon the development of elementary musical skills in hearing, reading and writing music through participation and listening.

***Objectives:***

1. To acquire a common vocabulary, which will allow students to examine music from the musician’s perspective
2. To acquire elementary skills of hearing, reading and writing musical sound
3. To offer knowledge about the basic fundamentals of music

*Course Outline*

Topic 1: Elements of Music

* What Are Music Symbols?
* Rhythmic Notation
* What is a Musical Staff?
* Pitch Notation
* Piano Keyboard Introduction

Topic 2: Pitch

* The stave
* Clefs
* Note Names
* Ledger Lines
* Accidentals: Flats, Sharps, Naturals

Topic 3: Note Values

* Beat
* Bar Lines
* Time Signature
* Note Values
* Rest Values

Topic 4: Rhythm

* Grouping of Notes
* Common Time
* AllaBreve
* Dotted Notes
* Tied Notes
* Simple Duple, Triple, Quadruple

Topic 5: Major Scale and Intervals

* Tones
* Semi Tones
* Basic Intervals
* Tone-Tone-Semi-tone-Tone-Tone-Semi-tone

Topic 6: Key Signatures Overview

* Major Keys
* Minor Keys
* Relative Major and Minor
* Identifying Key Signatures

Topic 7: Types of Intervals

* Major
* Minor
* Diminished and Doubly Diminished
* Augmented and Doubly Augmented

Topic 8: Inversions of Intervals

* First
* Second
* Third

Topic 9: Chord Construction

* Major Chord
* Minor Chord
* Major Seventh Chord
* Minor Seventh Chord
* Minor 7th
* Chord Symbols

Topic 10: Chord Inversions

* 1st Inversions
* 2nd Inversions
* 3rd Inversions

Topic 11: Score Reading

* Music Concepts
* Codes and Conventions
* Orchestral Reading
* Musical Terms

Topic 12: Sight Singing

Topic 13: Music Terminology

*Learning Outcomes*

1. Ability to identify notes on a stave
2. Ability to understand music notation principles
3. Ability to understand key concepts in music notation
4. Ability to read a simple score
5. Ability to sight sing a simple melody

*Methods of Teaching/Delivery*

Lectures, demonstrations, singing exercises, tutorials, Individual readings

*Modes of Assessment*

Course Work:

* Attendance and Participation in Class Discussion: 5%
* Weekly Assignments: 20%
* Mid-Semester Test: 15%

Final Examination

* Written: 60%

*Selected Readings*

Lidov, David. 2004. *Is Language a Music? Writing on Music Form and Signification (Musical Meaning and Interpretation.* Bloomington: Indiana University Press.

Charters, Samuel Barclay. 2009. *A Language of Song: Journeys in the Musical World of the African Diaspora.* Durham and London: Duke University Press.

Harnum, Jonathan. *Basic Music Theory: How to Read, Write, and Understand Written Music.*Volume 2. N.C: Solut Press.

# Swain, Joseph P. 1997. *Musical Languages.*New York and London: W. W. Norton and Company.