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MUS 162.01: Language of Music II

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Language of Music II, Mus. 162 01: Chords and Beyond

Time: 11:10-12:00 M, W, Fr; Mus 103

Text: White, Gary C. *Music First*. Boston: McGraw Hill, 2007--**REQUIRED**

Spencer, Peter. *The Practice of Harmony*, Fifth Ed.. Upsaddle River, NJ:

Pearson/Prentice Hall, 2004.—*Recommended*.

Levine, Mark. *The Jazz Theory Book*. Petaluma, CA: Sher Music Co., 1995.—

Recommended.

Instructor: Josh Mietz, Graduate Teaching Assistant

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Mus 108

Office Hours: TBA

Grading System: The easiest system for everyone is that of straight numbers. There will be no curves or weights involved. We will have a midterm, final, weekly assignments, and yes, attendance does count. You will always know your up to the minute grades by keeping a record of your scores on tests and homework. I advise you to keep all your assignments and tests in a binder. To find your score, simply add all the points you have earned and divide them by the total points including your attendance. Statistically, those who arrive with a great attitude and come to class prepared receive very high marks while those who do not usually struggle.

A rough break down of the grades would look like this:

| | Frequency x value | Points |
|---------------------|-------------------|--------------|
| Weekly Assignments: | 16x10 | =160 |
| Daily Attendance: | 36x5 | =180 |
| Mid Term: | 1x100 | =100 |
| Final: | 1x200 | = <u>200</u> |
| Total | | 640 |

As we move at the speed of the class, assignments will be given at the end of our Thursday session and due Tuesday.

Students are encouraged to share any appropriate and relevant musical items they may have come across or on which they may be working (Subject to instructor approval prior to class).

Class format: We will start each class with a brief review of the previous class followed by questions. We will then move on to new material. Fridays will typically be a "Rhythm Day." Students are welcome and encouraged to bring percussion instruments (i.e. bongo/drum/rhythm sticks) or clap.

Tutoring: Some of you will find it helpful to seek outside assistance in the form of tutoring. I am available during my office hours or by appointment. There are also a large

number of very qualified tutors and music students who may be available to assist you for a fee. I will be happy to help you find one if you feel this is necessary.

Private Lessons: While not required all students should seek out a qualified tutor to help them improve their piano skills. Talking about the language of music does little good if one is not able to speak that language. It is expected that students know at least the names of the notes on a keyboard and are able to find them without too much trouble. As the class progresses, the expectation will be to play examples and voice chords. There are pianos in the practice rooms located on the ground floor of the music building. There is also a lab that is on the top floor and has hours posted outside the door. Make it a habit to practice and play through the examples in the book as well as any handouts distributed in class.

Extra Credit: There will be a number of extra credit opportunities worth 10 points each. These will be announced in class prior to the event. **Please do not ask for further opportunities.** These events, usually concerts, will be in the Missoula community and usually on campus at either the University Theatre or the Recital Hall.

The most important to point is to remember to have fun with it. Every musical note you ever experience--playing or hearing--is a gift. Enjoy every one of them.

Class Schedule

| | | | |
|------|---|----|---|
| 2007 | 1 | 22 | Introduction, Review Major and Minor Scales |
| | | 24 | Naming and using Scale Degrees |
| | | 26 | No Class (Come hear the MSO at 11, 1, or 7) |
| | | 29 | Modes |
| | | 31 | Primary Triads in First Inversion |
| | 2 | 2 | Rhythm |
| | | 5 | Primary Triads and Inversions |
| | | 7 | Secondary Triads and Inversions |
| | | 9 | Rhythm |
| | | 12 | Seventh Chords and Inversions |
| | | 14 | Roman Numeral Analysis |
| | | 16 | Seventh Chords and Their Usage |
| | | 19 | No Class |
| | | 21 | From Scales to Music |
| | | 23 | Rhythm |
| | | 26 | Secondary Dominants |
| | | 28 | Dominant 7th Chords |
| | | 2 | Rhythm |
| | 3 | 5 | Diminished 7th Chords |
| | | 7 | Augmented 7th Chords |
| | | 9 | Rhythm |
| | | 12 | Borrowed Chords and Notes (suspensions) |
| | | 14 | More on Borrowed Chords |
| | | 16 | Review |
| | | 19 | No Class |
| | | 21 | No Class |
| | | 23 | Mid Term Exam |

| | | | |
|---|-------|--------------|-------------------------------------|
| | 26-30 | Spring Break | |
| 4 | 2 | | Intro to Jazz/Rock |
| | 4 | | Reading a Lead Sheet and Fake Books |
| | 6 | | Rhythm |
| | 9 | | Analyzing a Lead Sheet |
| | 11 | | More on Lead Sheets |
| | 13 | | Rhythm |
| | 16 | | Blues |
| | 18 | | More on Blues |
| | 20 | | Rhythm |
| | 23 | | Latin/Salsa Music |
| | 25 | | More on Latin/Salsa |
| | 27 | | Rhythm |
| | 30 | | Intro to Improvisation |
| 5 | 2 | | Review |
| | 4 | Final Exam | |
| | 7 | Finals Week | |
| | 9 | | |
| | 11 | | |