

Introduction to Music Theory

Course Information

Fall 2014

Wednesdays 5:30-6:15p (August 20-December 3), Room 113

Instructor: Dan Kreider (danielk@gibcjupiter.org)

Course Fee: \$50

Course Materials

Elements of Music, 2nd edition by Joseph Straus (out of print, available used online)

Note: Accompanying CD is *not required*, but make sure you purchase a copy of the text that hasn't been so marked up as to be unusable.

Course Description

This 16-week course is designed to introduce the student to the basics of music theory. No previous knowledge of music is required. The course will cover the following topics:

- Staves, clefs, and notes
- Rhythm and meter
- Major and minor scales
- Intervals
- Triads and seventh chords and their basic functions
- Introduction to functional harmony: the predominant, dominant, and tonic; phrases and cadences

The purpose of the course is to better equip those who serve in the music ministry at Grace Immanuel Bible Church, although enrollment is open to all regular attenders. The majority of the 45-minute class time will be lecture format with time for questions. There will be weekly assignments posted online. There will also be supplemental resources available online and in print, both for written exercises and listening examples.

Evaluation

For those taking the class for pre-college credit, grades will be calculated as follows:

- Homework (completion only, not graded): 40%
- Attendance: 40%
- Exam: 20%

Letter grades will be assigned on a ten-point scale.

NOTE: All class lectures will be recorded and posted online. Enrollment in this class is voluntary, but you will be best served by regularly attending lectures and completing the written assignments.

Weekly Schedule (subject to change)

Aug 20: Lesson 1-5: Staves, clefs, note names

Aug 27: L6-9: Notes and rests, dots and ties

Sept 3: L14-16: Major scales and major key signatures

Sept 10: L17-19: Minor scales and key signatures

Sept 17: L20 (w/ supplemental): alternate scales and modes

Sept 24: L10-13: Simple and compound meter; syncopation

Oct 1: L21-24: Generic intervals

Oct 8: L25-26: Intervals within a key

Oct 15: L27: Triads

Oct 22: L28: Inversions

Oct 29: L29-30: Triads within a key

Nov 5: L31: Seventh chords

Nov 12: L32-33: Tonic and dominant function

Nov 19: L34: Predominant

Nov 26: Thanksgiving Eve (no class)

Dec 3: : Review/Exam