

Common Course Outline

MUSC 113

Music Theory I

3 Semester Hours

The Community College of Baltimore County

Description

Provides thorough training in rhythmic, melodic and harmonic elements of music. Practical application includes analyzing and writing music.

Prerequisite: MUSC 101 or qualifying exam.

Overall Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course students will be able to:

1. Apply all aspects of music fundamentals, including but not limited to:
 - a) Note Reading
 - b) Rhythm reading
 - c) Writing all major and minor scales
 - d) Identifying and writing intervals
 - e) Identifying and writing chords
2. Analyze and write melodies in various major and minor keys.
3. Harmonize melodies.
4. Write harmonic progressions using all basic inversions of triads using proper voice leading.
5. Write and identify all of the various non-chord tones.
6. Analyze diatonic music using non-chord tones.
7. Determine harmonic progressions of chorales composed from 1700-1800.
8. Assess the value of a chorale according to its adherence to “common practice” techniques.

Major Topics

1. Review of Music Fundamentals:
 - a) Rhythm
 - b) Pitch
 - c) Key Signatures
 - d) Scales (major and minor)
 - e) Intervals
 - f) Triads
2. Writing and analyzing simple melodies
3. The principals of voice leading
4. Harmonic progressions
5. Cadences
6. Non-chord tones
7. Dominant seventh chords

Course Requirements

1. Regular and punctual class attendance and active participation in class
2. Writing four-part chorales with adherence to the principles of voice leading

3. Adding non-chord tones to chorales with adherence to the principles of voice leading
4. Harmonic analysis of diatonic four-part chorales
5. Discussing phrases and cadences in four-part choral examples from the literature
6. Written assignments and evaluations on items 2-6
7. Listening assignments of works being studied and analyzed.

Other Course Information

This course may make use of a Music Lab and computer programs to assist student learning.
This course is the first in a series of four music theory courses required of all Music Majors.