



# HOUSATONIC COMMUNITY COLLEGE

**COURSE NAME** Music Theory I

**COURSE NUMBER** MUS\*115

**CREDITS** 3

## **CATALOG DESCRIPTION**

A survey of the fundamentals of musical language (notation, rhythm, scales, keys, melodies, and chords), including writing and analysis of music in standard notation. Although music theory is most often studied by students with prior experience in music, this course is intended as a beginning point for students with little or no experience reading music.

**PREREQUISITE** None

## **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

### **General Education Competencies Satisfied:**

**HCC General Education Requirement Designated Competency Attribute Code(s):**

None

**Additional CSCU General Education Requirements for CSCU Transfer Degree Programs:**

None

**Embedded Competency(ies):**

None

**Discipline-Specific Attribute Code(s):**

FINA Fine Arts elective

### **Course objectives:**

**General Education Goals and Outcomes:**

None

**Course-Specific Outcomes:**

1. Demonstrate competency in the system of relationships that form the basis of tonal music.
2. Understand, identify and notate the basic elements of music.
3. Become familiar with the foundation concepts of scales, chords, intervals, keys, roman numerals, basic harmonic function, cadences, meters and rhythms.

4. Demonstrate speed and fluency in these basic concepts.
5. Demonstrate an ability to both identify and construct examples of the concepts covered.
6. Develop musicianship through participation and/or testing in sight-singing drills.

### OPTIONAL

1. Participate in aural dictation exercises of melodic, rhythmic and harmonic materials.
2. Begin to develop one's own composed music to see the concepts in practice.
3. Study the mathematical underpinnings of musical concepts such as the harmonic overtone series.
4. Become familiar with church modes, pentatonic scales and non-western scales.

### COURSE CONTENT

- 1 Recognizing treble and bass clef notes in standard notation – Sight-singing (weeks 1-3): introduction to sol fege in simple meter
- 2 Chromatic and diatonic motion of whole steps and half steps
- 3 Elements of Musical Duration and Basic Rhythm
- 4 Major Scales - Sight-singing (weeks 4-6): Stepwise scale line melodies in simple meter
- 5 Minor, Chromatic, and Whole-Tone Scales
- 6 Major and minor scale relationships: relative and parallel; scale degree names (*tonic, supertonic* etc.)
- 7 Perfect intervals – Sight-singing (weeks 7-10): Intervals from the tonic triad, major keys in simple meter
- 8 Major & minor intervals
- 9 Identification of learned intervals between scales degrees
- 10 Major & Minor Key Signatures
- 11 All qualities of triads – Sight-singing (weeks 10-14): Intervals from the tonic triad, major keys/compound meter
- 12 Triad Inversions
- 13 Diatonic Triads (introduction to roman numerals); Primary and Secondary functions of triads within keys
- 14 Basic stock cadence types; identifying and choosing cadences as implied by melodies

Last Reviewed Fall 2011