



Department of Music  
MUT1000—Basic Music Theory  
3 Units

Fall 2024

Meeting days:	MWF	Instructor	Dr. Bill Clemmons
Meeting times:	730—820a	Phone:	x2326
Meeting location:	CMC116	E-mail:	billclemmons@pointloma.edu
Final Exam:	Wed, 18 Dec, 730a	Office hours:	CMC212 MWF 100—300p

### PLNU Mission

#### To Teach ~ To Shape ~ To Send

Point Loma Nazarene University exists to provide higher education in a vital Christian community where minds are engaged and challenged, character is modeled and formed, and service becomes an expression of faith. Being of Wesleyan heritage, we aspire to be a learning community where grace is foundational, truth is pursued, and holiness is a way of life.

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

---

Basic Music Theory is the first in a set of five courses dealing with a broad set of topics that are usually subsumed under the general heading of “music theory.” We will cover two topics in particular: harmony and ear training.

No prior experience is assumed in this course. We will work from the most basic towards more complex ideas. Many of you will be taking this course as a prerequisite for Theory I. Others are simply taking the course as an elective because you want to increase your musical knowledge. Either way, I hope that you will find the course to be helpful and accessible.

### COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

---

The material in this course forms part of the Program Outcomes for the PLNU Department of Music under the heading of “essential competencies in musicianship skills.” I am going to assess the growth of your musicianship skills through a number of activities in and out of class, but a

one of these assignments, the entrance exam and the final exam, are “signature assignments,” that form a part of your portfolio.

- You will demonstrate your initial knowledge of music materials by taking an entrance exam at the beginning of the semester, and
- Demonstrate your mastery of musical materials by retaking the exam at the end of the semester as the Final Exam. I am looking for significant improvement on this test, specifically a grade of 80% or higher.
- Demonstrate the ability to hear intervals and chords by scoring a passing grade on the dictation quizzes.
- Demonstrate that you are reading both bass and treble clefs by reading simple pieces of music with a few minutes preparation, conducting and saying the note names in rhythm.
- Demonstrate that you are engaging pitch by singing a simple piece in numbers

#### **COURSE OBJECTIVES—WHAT I WANT TO ACCOMPLISH**

---

My goal for this semester is to introduce you to all of the basic elements of tonal music. These elements are:

- Reading notation
- keys and key signatures
- scales
- intervals
- triads and seventh chords
- rhythm and meter
- basic part writing
- beginning sight singing
- beginning ear training of intervals, triads and rhythm

#### **COURSE CREDIT HOUR INFORMATION**

---

In the interest of providing sufficient time to accomplish the stated Course Learning Outcomes, this class meets the PLNU credit hour policy for a 3-unit class delivered over 15 weeks. Specific details about how the class meets the credit hour requirement can be provided upon request.

## **COURSE SCHEDULE AND ASSIGNMENTS**

---

Course assignments and a timeline are posted on our Canvas website. Look for the “Syllabus” tab on the left-hand navigation pane.

## **REQUIRED TEXTS AND RECOMMENDED STUDY RESOURCES**

---

We have several texts this semester. None of them are expensive.

Bona, Pasquale. *Rhythmical Articulation*. Boston: Carl Fischer. 1900.

There are many, many editions of this work, I believe that the one in the bookstore is actually published by Schirmer. This entire text is available for download from our Canvas site. You are welcome to download it to a tablet or laptop. You may not use a cellphone to read this copy as music reading is not possible on the tiny screen of a phone. You are not required to purchase but you may find it helpful. It is not expensive at about \$10 if you prefer a hard copy.

Ottman, Robert. *Music for Sight Singing*. Upper Saddle Riv. NJ: Prentice Hall. 8th ed. 2010.

This text is also downloadable from our Canvas website as an etext. If you prefer a hard copy, make sure that you are buying the 8<sup>th</sup> edition. The publisher will move the examples around for the other editions and you will be lost.

There are also 12 copies of the Ottman text available for rent for \$10 in the music office. These are first-come first served. Drop by the front office window and Susie will help you to get a copy.

The Naz hymnal. *Sing to the Lord*. Kansas City: Lillenas Pub. Co. 1993.

I realize that there are other hymnals out there but we need to all be using this one and be working from the same edition. Once again, you can download this from Canvas. If you prefer to buy your own copy it should run about \$12.

## ASSESSMENT AND GRADING

---

We will be involved in a series of projects and exercises that have the following weight in determining your grade.

- |                              |     |
|------------------------------|-----|
| • Homework                   | 15% |
| • Quizzes (in class)         | 10% |
| • 3 Bonathon Exams           | 20% |
| • 4 Chapter Tests (in class) | 25% |
| • Ear Training quizzes       | 5%  |
| • Final Exam (in class)      | 25% |

## INCOMPLETES AND LATE ASSIGNMENTS

---

All assignments are to be submitted/turned in by the beginning of the class session when they are due—including assignments posted in Canvas. Incompletes will only be assigned in extremely unusual circumstances. We never make up quizzes or homework. Tests can always be retaken for a higher grade.

## FINAL EXAMINATION POLICY

---

There are two final exams for this class. The written final exam is scheduled for Dec 11 at 730a. The aural portion (Bonathon portion) is also scheduled for that week. Successful completion of this class requires taking the final examination **on its scheduled day**. The final examination schedule is posted on the Class Schedules site. No requests for early examinations or alternative days will be approved.

## Attendance Policy

---

I do maintain a strict attendance policy for this class. I take roll and keep a cumulative list of attendance. If you arrive late you will be listed as tardy. More than fifteen minutes late for a class is counted as an absence. Two tardies count as an absence.

The College maintains a fairly tough stance concerning attendance. I quote: “any student whose number of absences in a class, for any reason, exceeds the equivalent of one and one half weeks of class” may be de-enrolled from the class with a failing grade.” This means three classes, or six tardies.

A rule of thumb for any class is that your total absences for the semester should never be greater than the total class meetings per week, and these absences should never be concurrent. No absences will be excused on the day of a major test.

I do not make up quizzes, nor will I accept late homework. Tests missed for a valid reason can be made up.

#### **PLNU COPYRIGHT POLICY**

---

Point Loma Nazarene University, as a non-profit educational institution, is entitled by law to use materials protected by the US Copyright Act for classroom education. Any use of those materials outside the class may violate the law.

#### **PLNU ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY**

---

Students should demonstrate academic honesty by doing original work and by giving appropriate credit to the ideas of others. Academic dishonesty is the act of presenting information, ideas, and/or concepts as one's own when in reality they are the results of another person's creativity and effort. A faculty member who believes a situation involving academic dishonesty has been detected may assign a failing grade for that assignment or examination, or, depending on the seriousness of the offense, for the course. Faculty should follow and students may appeal using the procedure in the university Catalog. See Academic Policies for definitions of kinds of academic dishonesty and for further policy information.

#### **PLNU ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS POLICY**

---

If you have a diagnosed disability, please contact PLNU's Disability Resource Center (DRC) within the first two weeks of class to demonstrate need and to register for accommodation by phone at 619-849-2486 or by e-mail at [DRC@pointloma.edu](mailto:DRC@pointloma.edu). See Disability Resource Center for additional information.

#### **PLNU ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION POLICY**

---

Regular and punctual attendance at all classes is considered essential to optimum academic achievement. If the student is absent from more than 10 percent of class meetings, the faculty member can file a written report which may result in de-enrollment. If the absences exceed 20 percent, the student may be de-enrolled without notice until the university drop date or, after that date, receive the appropriate grade for their work and participation. See Academic Policies in the Undergraduate Academic Catalog.