

MUS: Courses in Music

MUS 109 Musicianship I 3 Cr

Introduction to music reading and keyboard playing. Emphasis on the elements of music through the study of keyboard technique and performance, solo and ensemble repertoire, music theory, harmonization, transposition, and composition. No previous musical background is required. Each semester.

MUS 119 Sight Singing and Aural Skills 3 Cr

An introduction to aural skills with an emphasis on sight singing, rhythmic and melodic identification, analysis and creation of melody, and simple part-singing designed for aural development. Materials will focus on rhythm and meter, basic conducting patterns, diatonic melodies, and use of solfege. This course emphasizes the aural component of musicianship and is highly recommended for anyone interested in music performance of all kinds. No previous musical background is required. Each semester.

MUS 125-225 Voice I and II 3 Cr Ea

A series of courses beginning with the production of sound and from there, depending on individual talent and interest, building a varied repertoire that may include folk, musical theatre, classical and operatic selections.

Voice I explores the production of sound and prepares the student for performance. Emphasis is on the individual's voice, breathing, bringing sound to the mask of the face, strengthening and expanding the range, acoustics and care of the voice. Students explore toning, Gregorian chant, technical and interpretational aspects of music and monologue. Students present staged selections for an on-campus-by-invitation-only performance final at the end of the semester. Voice I is open to all students and is a prerequisite for Voice II.

Voice II emphasizes sight-reading, ear training, blending voices into multiple harmonies, exploring the musical genre, expansion of a varied repertoire and working with a professional accompanist. The staged performance final is developed by students and performed off campus, providing practical application of communication skills learned in Voice I. Prerequisite: Voice I.

MUS 119 Sight Singing and Aural Skills I 3 Cr

An introduction to aural skills with an emphasis on sight singing, rhythmic and melodic identification, analysis and creation of melody, and simple part-singing designed for aural development. Materials will focus on rhythm and meter, basic conducting patterns, diatonic melodies, and use of solfege. This course emphasizes the aural component of musicianship and is highly recommended for anyone interested in music performance of all kinds. No previous musical background is required. Each semester.

MUS 129 Vocal Ensemble 1 Cr

Open to qualified singers by audition. The group performs a diverse repertoire and performs for special events on and off campus. Optional credit. Pass/Fail grading. Prerequisite: Audition with instructor. Each semester. Does not satisfy CORE fine arts.

MUS 131-132 Pep Band 1 Cr

Pep band is open to qualified instrumentalists (saxophone, trumpet, trombone, piano, guitar, bass, or drums). One 2.5-hour rehearsal each week. Repertoire includes traditional and contemporary big band jazz and selected contemporary rock/pop material. Performances at special events on and off campus. One credit may be earned for each semester of participation. Optional pass/fail grading. Prerequisite: Interview/audition with instructor. Each semester. Does not satisfy CORE fine arts.

MUS 165 Pop, Rock, and All That Jazz 3 Cr

Examination of the development and use of all types of music in the United States, covering folk traditions, church music, popular and commercial music, the musical stage, and the fine-art tradition. Special emphasis on current phenomena of commercial and media music. Guided listening to recording. No previous musical background is required. Fall semester.

MUS 209 Musicianship II 3 Cr

Further development of musicianship, with emphasis on keyboard repertoire, harmonization, accompanying, score reading, analysis of diatonic materials, composition, transpositions of instruments, and improvisation. Topics include further study in meter and rhythm, major and minor scales, intervals, diatonic triads and seventh chords, chord inversion, non-chord tones, melodic variation, phrase structure and form. Prerequisite: MUS 109 or consent of instructor. Fall semester.

MUS 261 Music Appreciation 3 Cr

An introduction to the fine-art music tradition of Western civilization. Intended to acquaint the listener and non-musician with the basic repertoire of concert music. Emphasis on guided listening; concert attendance required. No background in music is required. Each semester.

MUS 303 Music of the 20th Century 3 Cr

Investigation of style developments in music since Stravinsky and Schönberg (c. 1900) and in art since the Impressionists and Post-Impressionists (c. 1800). Guided listening, slide lectures, discussion, compositional projects in real and stored-time music, as well as projects in the visual and plastic arts. No background in music is required. Two (2) 90-minute classes per week. Spring semester.

MUS 309 Musicianship III 3 Cr

The study of chromatic harmony and 20th century compositional techniques through analysis, composition, arranging for instruments, keyboard harmony, and improvisation. Continued work on keyboard repertoire and performance. Topics include secondary dominants, modulation, large forms, extended tertian chords, jazz harmony, set theory, and 12-tone serialism. Prerequisite: MUS 209. Spring semester.

MUS 475 Applied Music 1-3 Cr

Private study in instrument or voice with a local private teacher approved by the music program faculty. Students are personally responsible for financial arrangements with the private teacher. Credit for participation in the Helena Symphony (subject to openings) is possible under this heading. Evaluation of each semester of work is conducted by music program faculty in consultation with each private teacher. Course may be repeated each semester. Does not satisfy CORE fine arts.