I. Title

Theory I

II. Catalog Description

The fundamentals of music through part-writing and analysis. Course content includes key signatures, scales, intervals, triads and an introduction to figured bass. Taken concurrently with MUS 171 and MUS 172.

III. Purpose

To develop musicianship through instruction of the basic elements of music theory and initiate a study of tonal harmony as presented in the works of composers of the Common Practice Period (ca. 1600-1900.)

IV. Course Objectives

The course will focus on basic elements of music: pitch, rhythm and harmony. Students will be expected to complete part-writing and analysis exercises.

V. Content Outline

The course will include a review of music fundamentals as well as the study of scales, key signatures, intervals, triads and seventh chords, inversions of chords. In addition the course will introduce students to basic principals of part-writing, voice leading and harmonic progressions.

VI. Instructional Activities

Assignments: There will be 10-12 homework assignments during the semester. Assignments must be submitted on time and be complete in order to receive full credit. Assignments are due at the beginning of the class on the specified date in order to receive full credit. Assignments turned in late will be given half credit (at the most) if they are complete. Students may opt to re-do problem assignments and in that case the resulting grade will be the average of the two grades received for that assignment.

Quizzes and Exams: There will be three (3) exams for the course, including the final exam. Make-up exams will be given only for illnesses or extenuating circumstances. Any illness will have to be documented by a doctor or health services. Oversleeping is neither an illness nor an extenuating circumstance and no make-up quiz or exam will be given. During the semester there will be a series of four (4) quizzes on fundamentals of music. This set of quizzes is 20% of the final grade. Students will be given three opportunities to pass each of the quizzes. NOTE: For these four quizzes 80% is considered a passing grade.

VII. Field, Clinical And/or Laboratory Experience

MUS 171 and 172 are the “lab” courses for Theory I. It is important to listen to music, not just study about it. Students should avail themselves of the music resources of Waterfield Library and the computer laboratories. Concerts are important opportunities for students to hear the application of theoretical concepts in live performances.
VIII. Resources
Students are expected to have staff paper and a pencil at each class session. Assignments are to be turned in on the pages from the workbook and all work should be done in pencil. The computer lab is located on the third floor of the Fine Arts Building and hours of operation are posted by the door. Students will utilize FINALE 2004 in this class.

IX. Grading Procedures
Three exams (including final exam) 60%
Fundamentals Quizzes 20%
Assignments 20%

Attendance may affect the final grade (see Attendance Policy below).

NOTE: a grade of “C” or better is required in the course to count for any music degree and to progress to MUS 173.

X. Attendance
Policy
Attendance is mandatory. Three (3) unexcused absences are allowed. For each unexcused absence exceeding this limit, the student’s final percentage grade will be lowered 2 points. Excused absences are allowed only according to the Policy on Attendance on page 10 of the 2006-2007 Undergraduate Bulletin. It is the student’s responsibility to produce the proper documentation if required.

NOTE: Students are responsible for all work missed.

XI. Academic Honesty
Policy
Dishonesty will not be tolerated. See the Policy on Academic Honesty on page 10 of the 2005-2007 Undergraduate Bulletin. An occurrence of academic dishonesty will result in loss of credit for the work, and can at the discretion of the professor include notification of department or college administration, and/or failure for the course.

XII. Text
Tonal Harmony: With an Introduction to Twentieth Century Music, 5th edition by Stefan Kostka and Dorothy Payne, and its accompanying workbook and CDs.

XIII. Prerequisites
Taken concurrently with MUS 171 and MUS 172.