

MUSI1260: Introduction to Music Theory

Newcastle City Precinct

Semester 1 - 2024



THE UNIVERSITY OF
NEWCASTLE
AUSTRALIA

The School of Humanities, Creative Industries and Social Sciences is committed to providing an inclusive environment in which all cultures are accorded respect and all students and staff are expected to act with honesty, fairness, trustworthiness and accountability in dealings with others. The School recognises and respects the unique histories and cultures of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, their unbroken relationship with the lands and the waters of Australia over millennia, and the validity of Aboriginal ways of knowing. We are dedicated to reconciliation and to offering opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to access and succeed in higher education.

OVERVIEW

Course Description	Students create short works based on each concept introduced. The course enables students to gain practical strategies for independent and self-directed learning easily adaptable to the study of musicianship. Cloud-based music production and aural/theory software is also used to develop students' listening and musicianship skills.
Academic Progress Requirements	Nil
Requisites	This course is similar to MUSI1160. If you have completed MUSI1160 you cannot enrol in this course.
Contact Hours	Newcastle City Precinct Lectorial Face to Face On Campus 1 hour(s) per week(s) for 8 week(s) starting Week 1 Tutorial Face to Face On Campus 1 hour(s) per week(s) for 8 week(s) starting Week 1 Workshop Face to Face On Campus 2 hour(s) per week(s) for 5 week(s) starting Week 9
Unit Weighting	10
Workload	Students are required to spend on average 120-140 hours of effort (contact and non-contact) including assessments per 10 unit course.

COURSE OUTLINE

CONTACTS

Course Coordinator	Newcastle City Precinct Mr Nathan Scott Nathan.Scott@newcastle.edu.au 0249218922 Consultation: Via email, phone, zoom and face-to-face (by arrangement)
Teaching Staff	Other teaching staff will be advised on the course Canvas site.
School Office	School of Humanities Creative Industries and Social Sciences NU Space, Level 4 409 Hunter Street Newcastle HCISS@newcastle.edu.au +61 4985 4500

SYLLABUS

Course Content	Topics will include (but are not limited to): <ul style="list-style-type: none">- pitch and simple rhythmic notation- scales and key signatures- intervals- triads and extended chords- common chord progressions
Course Learning Outcomes	On successful completion of this course, students will be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Create chord charts using common practice notation.2. Create short studies exploring course content topics.3. Practice basic rhythmic, melodic and harmonic principles including chord patterns and sequences.4. Identify chord qualities, intervals and basic scales.
Course Materials	Required Text: Students are required to purchase a subscription to Auralia/Musition 7 Cloud software (available from Rising Software) from the start of semester. This software will be used as a reference resource and is required to complete the tutorial tasks and some assessment material. Further details will be provided in Canvas about how to purchase and integrate it with Canvas.

SCHEDULE

Week	Week Begins	Topic	Learning Activity	Assessment Due
1	26 Feb	Working with music: Can you hear it, see it, play it	Activities to develop aural and written recognition of music and break down musical principles	-
2	4 Mar	Understanding music theory (includes rhythm and pitch)	Activities to develop understanding and recognition of rhythm and pitch	-
3	11 Mar	Understanding music theory (includes intervals and tonality)	Activities to develop understanding and recognition of intervals and tonality	-
4	18 Mar	Understanding music theory (includes keys)	Activities to develop understanding and recognition of keys	-
5	25 Mar	Understanding music theory (including scales/modes)	Assessment 1 (Component A)	Assessment 1 (Component A) - conducted during tutorial time in week 5
6	1 Apr	Understanding music theory (including triads and chord progressions). Explanation of Assessment 2. [Note: Online lectorial]	Activities to develop understanding and recognition of triads and chord progressions (Assessment 2 workshop)	-
7	8 Apr	Understanding basic harmony and music structure	Activities to develop understanding and recognition of basic harmony and music structure (Assessment 2 workshop)	-
Mid-Semester Recess				
Mid-Semester Recess				
8	29 Apr	Creating music notation excerpts (Assessment 2 guidance)	Activities to develop understanding and recognition of basic harmony and music structure (Assessment 2 workshop)	Assessment 2 - Thursday 2 May 2024 (5pm)
9	6 May	Scoring music for different musical instruments	Activities to help with writing for different musical instruments (clefs, percussion, etc)	-
10	13 May	Working with melodies	Activities to help develop and notate effective melodies	-
11	20 May	Compositional devices in music	Activities to help improve written compositions	-
12	27 May	Assessment 1 (Component B)	Assessment 1 (Component B)	Assessment 1 (Component B) - conducted during workshop time in week 12
13	3 Jun	Assessment 3 workshop	Assessment 3 workshop	Assessment 3 - Thursday 6 June 2024 (5pm)
Examination Period				-
Examination Period				-

ASSESSMENTS

This course has 3 assessments. Each assessment is described in more detail in the sections below.

	Assessment Name	Due Date	Involvement	Weighting	Learning Outcomes
1	Music Theory Written Assignment	Assessment 1 (Component A) - conducted during tutorial time in week 5 Assessment 1 (Component B) - conducted during workshop time in week 12	Individual	40% (2x20%)	3, 4
2	Music Notation Tasks	Thursday 2 May 2024 (5pm)	Individual	35%	1, 2, 3
3	Written Assignment	Thursday 6 June 2024 (5pm)	Individual	25%	3, 4

Late Submissions

The mark for an assessment item submitted after the designated time on the due date, without an approved extension of time, will be reduced by 10% of the possible maximum mark for that assessment item for each day or part day that the assessment item is late. Note: this applies equally to week and weekend days.

Assessment 1 - Music Theory Written Assignment

Assessment Type	Written Assignment
Purpose	This assessment will evaluate proficiency in fundamental areas of musicianship.
Description	This task will take the form of two online components using Auralia/Musition Cloud software. Each assessment component (1A and 1B) are of equal weighting and each contribute 20% to the overall grade for the course. It will assess aural ability and musicianship skills covering material from throughout the semester.
Weighting	40% (2x20%)
Length	2 hours total (1 hour for each component)
Due Date	Assessment 1 (Component A) - conducted during tutorial time in week 5 Assessment 1 (Component B) - conducted during workshop time in week 12
Submission Method	Online via Canvas website
Assessment Criteria	Refer to Canvas for details of the assessment components and grading guide.
Return Method	Online via Canvas website
Feedback Provided	Online via Canvas website

Assessment 2 - Music Notation Tasks

Assessment Type	Portfolio
Purpose	This assessment item assesses the ability of creating and notating music.
Description	Students will complete a number of smaller music writing tasks addressing various elements of music using notation software.
Weighting	35%
Length	2-3 minutes (approx.)
Due Date	Thursday 2 May 2024 (5pm)
Submission Method	Online via Canvas website
Assessment Criteria	Refer to Canvas for details of the assessment components and grading guide.
Return Method	Online via Canvas website
Feedback Provided	Online via Canvas website

Assessment 3 - Written Assignment

Assessment Type	Written Assignment
Purpose	This assessment evaluates students ability to create a music project that utilises the music theory skills learned throughout the course.
Description	This task requires the student to create a musically intelligent work demonstrating specific musical criteria. It is to be accompanied by appropriate documentation and media files.
Weighting	25%
Length	2-3 minutes (approximately)
Due Date	Thursday 6 June 2024 (5pm)
Submission Method	Online via Canvas website

Assessment Criteria	Refer to Canvas for details of the assessment components and grading guide.
Return Method	Online via Canvas website
Feedback Provided	Online via Canvas website

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Grading Scheme This course is graded as follows:

Range of Marks	Grade	Description
85-100	High Distinction (HD)	Outstanding standard indicating comprehensive knowledge and understanding of the relevant materials; demonstration of an outstanding level of academic achievement; mastery of skills*; and achievement of all assessment objectives.
75-84	Distinction (D)	Excellent standard indicating a very high level of knowledge and understanding of the relevant materials; demonstration of a very high level of academic ability; sound development of skills*; and achievement of all assessment objectives.
65-74	Credit (C)	Good standard indicating a high level of knowledge and understanding of the relevant materials; demonstration of a high level of academic achievement; reasonable development of skills*; and achievement of all learning outcomes.
50-64	Pass (P)	Satisfactory standard indicating an adequate knowledge and understanding of the relevant materials; demonstration of an adequate level of academic achievement; satisfactory development of skills*; and achievement of all learning outcomes.
0-49	Fail (FF)	Failure to satisfactorily achieve learning outcomes. If all compulsory course components are not completed the mark will be zero. A fail grade may also be awarded following disciplinary action.

*Skills are those identified for the purposes of assessment task(s).

Communication Methods

Communication methods used in this course include:

- Canvas Course Site: Students will receive communications via the posting of content or announcements on the Canvas course site.
- Email: Students will receive communications via their student email account.
- Face to Face: Communication will be provided via face to face meetings or supervision

Course Evaluation

Each year feedback is sought from students and other stakeholders about the courses offered in the University for the purposes of identifying areas of excellence and potential improvement.

Oral Interviews (Vivas)

As part of the evaluation process of any assessment item in this course an oral examination (viva) may be conducted. The purpose of the oral examination is to verify the authorship of the material submitted in response to the assessment task. The oral examination will be conducted in accordance with the principles set out in the [Oral Examination \(viva\) Procedure](#). In cases where the oral examination reveals the assessment item may not be the student's own work the case will be dealt with under the [Student Conduct Rule](#).

Academic Misconduct

All students are required to meet the academic integrity standards of the University. These standards reinforce the importance of integrity and honesty in an academic environment. Academic Integrity policies apply to all students of the University in all modes of study and in all locations. For the Student Academic Integrity Policy, refer to <https://policies.newcastle.edu.au/document/view-current.php?id=35>.

Adverse Circumstances

The University acknowledges the right of students to seek consideration for the impact of allowable adverse circumstances that may affect their performance in assessment item(s).

Applications for special consideration due to adverse circumstances will be made using the online Adverse Circumstances system where:

1. the assessment item is a major assessment item; or
2. the assessment item is a minor assessment item and the Course Co-ordinator has specified in the Course Outline that students may apply the online Adverse Circumstances system;
3. you are requesting a change of placement; or
4. the course has a compulsory attendance requirement.

Before applying you must refer to the Adverse Circumstance Affecting Assessment Items Procedure available at:

<https://policies.newcastle.edu.au/document/view-current.php?id=236>

Important Policy Information

The Help button in the Canvas Navigation menu contains helpful information for using the Learning Management System. Students should familiarise themselves with the policies and procedures at <https://www.newcastle.edu.au/current-students/respect-at-uni/policies-and-procedures> that support a safe and respectful environment at the University.

This course outline was approved by the Head of School. No alteration of this course outline is permitted without Head of School approval. If a change is approved, students will be notified and an amended course outline will be provided in the same manner as the original.

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