Course Syllabus

Department: VAPA

Date: Spring 2014

I. Course Prefix and Number: MUS 106

Course Name: Music Theory I

Credit Hours and Contact Hours: 3 credit hours and 3 contact hours

Catalog Description including pre- and co-requisites:

An introductory course designed for the general student and for individuals majoring in Music or Music Recording. Students learn the fundamentals of harmony, music reading, part-writing in root position, simple chorale analysis, keyboard skills, and sight singing. Attendance at two hours of aural dictation and one hour of keyboard lab weekly is required in addition to the lectures. Prerequisite: A score of 13 or higher on theory placement exam, or a grade of ‘C-’ or better in MUS 105. Co-requisite: MUS 106L

II. Course Outcomes and Objective

Student Learning Outcomes:

Upon completion of the course, the student will be able to:

• Demonstrate an understanding of the fundamentals of music notation, intervals, rhythm, meter, scales, modes, and chord structure.

• Analyze simple chorales for harmonic function, non-chord tones, and cadences.

• Write short chord progressions with root position triads in 4-part chorale style.

• Compose and critique simple melodies in vocal style.

• Apply theoretical concepts by performing scales, triads, melodies with accompaniments, and transpositions on the piano.

• Demonstrate a command of the knowledge base, practices, skills, and integrity required of a music professional.

• Demonstrate comprehension of computer-based audio, visual, and/or written materials.

Relationship to Academic Programs and Curriculum:

Required for A.S. Music and the A.S. in Music Recording.

Course meets SUNY General Education Requirement/Humanities
College Learning Outcomes Addressed by the Course:

- Writing
- Oral communications
- Reading
- Mathematics
- Critical thinking
- Computer literacy
- Ethics/values
- Citizenship
- Global concerns
- Information resources

III. Instructional Materials and Methods

Types of Course Materials:

Textbook, workbook, CD’s, musical scores, and instructional websites.

Methods of Instruction (e.g. Lecture, Lab, Seminar …):

Lecture, discussion, listening, demonstration, composition, and keyboard lab.

IV. Assessment Measures (Summarize how the college and student learning outcomes will be assessed):

- Quizzes and exams will assess reading, critical thinking, and computer literacy.
- Keyboard labs will assess reading and critical thinking.
- Written assignments will assess reading and critical thinking.
- Evaluation of the student’s skill and integrity as reflected in attendance, class participation, timely completion of assignments, and performance in keyboard labs will assess ethics/values.

V. General Outline of Topics Covered:

Basic music nomenclature, principles of melodic and rhythmic notation.

Key signature, the circle of fifths.

Construction and identification of major and minor scales, modes, intervals, triads, and 7th chords.

Non-chord tones, cadences.

Principles of voice-leading and part-writing triads in root position.

Analysis of chorale–style works.