**Music 20A:**

**Basic Musicianship**

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2:00 p.m.—3:30 p.m.

Morrison Hall 250

Dr. David H. Miller

Office: Morrison Hall 226

Office hours (1/18–1/28): by appointment

Office hours (rest of semester): Mondays 12–1:30, Tuesdays 3:30–5, or by appointment

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**Course description:**

Fundamentals of music, including notation, sight singing, ear training and beginning linear analysis. This course will provide a strong foundation for the practice of music, with emphasis on listening, singing, and playing at the keyboard. Topics will include basics of musical time and space such as meter, rhythm, and pitch, as well as major and minor scales, keys, and intervals.

**Learning objectives:**

Students successfully completing this course will demonstrate the ability to:

* Performer diatonic melodies in simple meters, both by singing (using moveable-do solfege) and at the keyboard.
* Recognize, notate, and contextualize pitch intervals up to an octave.
* Identify and notate major and minor key signatures.
* Recognize, notate, and perform major and minor scales, both by singing (using moveable-do solfege) and at the keyboard.

**Texts:**

You do not need to purchase any materials for this course. Our main texts will be Joseph Straus’ *Elements of Music*, excerpts of which will be made available on bCourses, and the Music 20A Anthology, which will be made available on bCourses and distributed as a hard copy at our first in-person meeting.

**Course outline:**

* Weeks 1 (Jan. 18–20): Introductions, assessments, and tools
* Weeks 2–3 (Jan. 25–Feb. 3): Unit 1—Rhythm and meter
* Weeks 4–6 (Feb. 8–24): Unit 2—Pitch
  + There will be no class on Thursday, February 17 (Dr. Miller is away).
* Week 7 (Mar. 1–3): Midterm review + exam
* Weeks 8–9 (Mar. 8–17): Unit 3—Major and minor scales
* Week 10: SPRING BREAK
* Weeks 11–12 (Mar. 29–Apr. 7): Unit 4—Intervals
* Weeks 13–14 (Apr. 12–21): Unit 5—Triads and seventh chords
* Week 15 (Apr. 26–28): Wrap up + review
* Reading/Review/Recitation week (May 3–5): Final exam (performance component)
* Monday, May 9, 11:30 a.m.—2:30 p.m.: Final exam (written component)

**Key dates:**

* Thursday, February 3: Quiz 1
* Thursday, February 24: Quiz 2
* Thursday, March 3: Midterm exam (written component)
* Thursday, March 17: Quiz 3
* Thursday, April 7: Quiz 4
* Thursday, April 21: Quiz 5
* Monday, May 9 at 11:30 a.m.: Final exam (written component)

**Course requirements and grading:**

1. Attendance: 20%
2. Participation and engagement: 20%
3. Quizzes (5): 20%
4. Midterm exam: 20%
5. Final exam: 20%

Please note that while there are no written homework assignments, there will be homework in the form of assigned readings and exercises.

**Attendance:**

In a skills-based course like this, consistent attendance is extremely important. Each student will be permitted 2 unexcused absences over the course of the semester. Further unexcused absences will result in the lowering of your final grade.

That being said, I tend to be generous with excused absences, especially when given advance notice. *If there is a legitimate reason you cannot attend class (including but not limited to illness, mental health challenges, family commitments, job interviews, and travel for work or sports), please let me know at least a few days in advance. I will very likely grant you an excused absence, and your grade will not suffer as a result.*

**Participation and engagement:**

Given the nature of this course, it is crucial that all of us are fully present and engaged during our time together. As such, “participation and engagement” refers not only to participating in class discussions, but also to your general level of attention during class, the degree to which you come to class prepared and having completed the assigned homework, and your communication with me outside of class (e.g. emails, attending office hours, etc.)

**Quizzes and exams:**

There will be 5 quizzes over the course of the semester, administered on the final day of each of the 5 units (so: Feb. 3, Feb. 24, Mar. 17, Apr. 7, and Apr. 21). The quizzes will cover only the material addressed in that unit, and your lowest quiz grade will be dropped.

Both the midterm exam and the final exam will include an individual performance component as well as a written component. Further details will be distributed later in the semester. The final exam will be cumulative.

**Technology policy:**

Laptops, tablets, and phones are not permitted during class sessions unless otherwise indicated. This is not a course that requires copious notetaking, but I do recommend bringing at least a few sheets of staff paper with you to each class. If you have that, something to write with, and your copy of the Anthology, you should be in good shape.

**Disability accommodations:**

Students with disabilities that affect their ability to participate fully in class or to meet all course requirements are encouraged to notify me so that appropriate accommodations can be arranged. Further information is available from the Disabled Students’ Program website at

<http://dsp.berkeley.edu>.

**Academic misconduct and plagiarism:**

Any instance of plagiarism or other academic dishonesty will result in a referral to the Office of Student Conduct. According to the Berkeley Campus Code of Conduct, “Plagiarism includes use of intellectual material produced by another person without acknowledging its source.” Furthermore, “All persons engaged in research at the University are responsible for adhering to the highest standards of intellectual honesty and integrity in research.” This statement is available at the website on official campus policies and procedures at <http://campuspol.chance.berkeley.edu/index.cfm>, under the keyword “plagiarism.”