Field-of Study Course Proposal

Proposed Field-of-Study: FSVP
Course Number: MUS 108
Course Title: Elementary Music Theory
Catalog Description: Basic music writing skills for majors and minors. Introduction to computerized notation (Finale), music literature and principles of voice-leading by means of species counterpoint.

Course Prerequisites: None
Number of Credit Hours: Three
Estimated Enrollment: 15-20
Instructor: Gene Anderson
When offered: annually in the fall
Staffing Implications: None
Adequacy of Library: Adequate
Adequacy of Technology: Adequate
Interdepartmental Implications: None
Interschool Implications: None
Contact Person: Gene Anderson

FSVP Fulfillment: MUS 108 is entirely an active-learning class. After studying the fundamentals of music theory (e.g., names of notes, key signatures, scales, intervals, rhythm notation, triad and seventh chord construction, etc.) in the first half of the course, students put their knowledge into practice through the study of species counterpoint—a method of learning the principles composition and the voice-leading in a series of exercises of increasing complexity: first species (note-to-note), second species (two to one); third species (four to one); fourth species (temporal displacement); and fifth species (mixture of species). The study of counterpoint concludes with the composition of a canon and the semester concludes with an extensive composition as a final project.

MUS 108 is a prerequisite for all upper-level music theory courses and is designed primarily for music majors and minors but is also open to interested non-majors. The course was first offered fall 2005.
MUSIC 108
Syllabus

Instructor: Gene Anderson, B117, Booker Hall of Music, ganderso@richmond.edu

Texts: The Musician’s Guide to Theory and Analysis with accompanying workbook Practica Musica

Meetings: 11:30-12:20 (MWF), W202

Grading: MUS 108–daily assignments and quizzes, 45%; midterm exam 20%; final exam, 30%, final project, 5%. Competencies are not graded but must be completed satisfactorily to avoid receiving an incomplete for the course.

Purpose: MUS 108 is a competency-based course focusing on the development of basic musicianship and writing skills for music majors and minors. These skills are nurtured and developed by means of classroom drills, computerized drills (Practica Musica; see attached), a computerized notation program (Finale; see attached), and by a series of compositions–1-5 species counterpoint, canon, and final project (see attached).

Fall 2006 Schedule

Week 1 (Aug. 28-Sept. 1) Chapters 1-2, Notation Competency (PM 1.01-03, level 4), Introduction to Finale
Week 2 (Sept. 4-8) Chapter 2
Week 3 (Sept. 11-15) Chapter 3, Key Signature/Scale Competency (PM 2.01-03, all levels; 3:01-02, all levels)
Week 4 (Sept. 18-22) Chapter 4, Finale Assignment 1
Week 5 (Sept. 25-29) Chapter 5
Week 6 (Oct. 2-6) Chapter 6, Interval Competency (PM 4.01-07, highest level)
Week 7 (Oct 9-13) Chapter 7, Triad Competency (PM 5.01-03, level 1)
Week 8 (Oct. 18-20) Midterm exam
Week 9 (Oct. 23-27) Chapter 8, Finale Assignment 2; First and Second Species Counterpoint
Week 10 (Oct. 30- Nov. 3) Chapter 8, Seventh Chord Competency (PM 5.01-03, levels 2-4; 5.07-09, both levels); Third Species Counterpoint
Week 11 (Nov. 6 -10) Chapter 9, Finale Assignment 3; Fourth Species Counterpoint
Week 12 (Nov. 13-17) Chapters 9-10; Fifth Species Counterpoint
Week 13 (Nov. 20) Chapter 10; Canon
Week 14 (Nov. 27-Dec. 1) Chapter 11, Finale Assignment 4
Week 15 (Dec. 4-8) Chapter 11/Final Project

Monday, December 18 Final, 2-5 PM