



15800 Calvary Rd.  
Kansas City, MO 64147

# Syllabus

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Course: MU221-T, N/T Music Theory I  
Credit: 4 credit hours  
Semester: Spring 2026  
Time & T TH 3:30-5:30pm  
Location: CHORALE ROOM  
Instructor: Heather Wilson [heather.wilson@calvary.edu](mailto:heather.wilson@calvary.edu)

## I. DESCRIPTION

A course in the basic elements of music, including foundational studies in chords, progressions, cadences, part-writing, melodic and harmonic structure. In addition, approximately one-fourth of the course is devoted to the development of ear training and sight-singing. All music majors will be given a basic music theory placement test early in their first semester. Students deficient in basic music theory will be required to complete a guided independent study before being admitted into Music Theory I.

Non-music majors with a strong music background may substitute MU221 Music Theory I for MU110 by taking the basic music theory placement test. (See the Music Department for permission)

## II. OBJECTIVES

A. General competencies to be achieved. The student will:

1. Obtain a thorough and proficient knowledge of the fundamentals of music.
  - a. Program Objectives 3
  - b. Assignments A, B, C
2. Acquire a foundation for the integration of the following music skills:
  - A. Analysis
  - B. Historical Knowledge
  - C. Composition
  - D. Sight-Singing
  - E. Ear-Training
  - F. Performance
    - a. Program Objectives 3
    - b. Assignments A, B, C, D

*Our Mission: "...to prepare Christians to live and serve in the church and in the world according to the Biblical worldview."*

B. Specific competencies to be achieved. The student will:

1. Become aware of the structural elements of melody, rhythm, harmony, form, and sound in music by score examination and identification of these elements.
  - a. Program Objectives 3
  - b. Assignments A, B, C
2. Analyze representative selections from the Common Practice Period.
  - a. Program Objectives 3
  - b. Assignments A, C, D
3. Recognize and translate music from aural to visual and visual to aural by:
  - A. ear-training skill development in taking dictation, identifying intervals, chords, non-harmonic tones, and scale degrees.
    - a. Program Objectives 3
    - b. Assignments A, C, D
  - B. sight-singing skill development in singing intervals, chords and scales; singing melodies in solo and ensemble settings; clapping rhythm patterns.
    - a. Program Objectives 3
    - b. Assignments A, C, D

III. GRADING

A. Assignments (40%)

Assignments are assigned regularly over the course of the semester to review class materials. Assignment grades are all recorded, and will be averaged out at the end.

**Resubmission for a better grade** is possible for every assignment. From the return of assignments, you have one week to be able to work on the critiques, comments and errors, and make corrections, and resubmit the assignment. This new grade will be counted in place of the initial.

B. Midterm exam (30%)

Be able to demonstrate how you analyze and work out the given questions on the spot. Individual sessions will be arranged.

C. Final exam (30%)

Be able to demonstrate how you analyze and work out the given questions on the spot. Individual sessions will be arranged.

#### IV. METHODS

In-class methods include lecture, discussion, demonstration, sight-singing, and ear-training activities.

#### V. MATERIALS

- The Holy Bible
- Roig-Francoli, Miguel. *Harmony in Context*, 3rd edition. Dubuque, IA: McGrawHill, 2020. ISBN13: 9781260055764 \$105.12 (looseleaf purchase), \$72 (e-book purchase), \$50 (textbook rental from McGraw-Hill), \$62 (360-day e-book rental)
- Loose-leaf notebook for class notes, assignments, and projects. Include in it plenty of staff papers.

#### VI. OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

The Bible is a required textbook in every course at Calvary University. To facilitate academic level study, students are required to use for assignments and research an English translation or version of the Bible based on formal equivalence (*meaning that the translation is generally word-for-word from the original languages*), including any of the following: New American Standard (NASB, English Standard Version (ESV), New King James (NKJV), or King James (KJV). Other translations and versions based on dynamic equivalence (*paraphrases, and thought-for-thought translations like NLT and NIV*) may be used as supplemental sources. Please ask the professor if you have questions about a particular translation or version.

Students with disabilities have the responsibility of informing the Accommodations Support Coordinator ([aso@calvary.edu](mailto:aso@calvary.edu)) of any disabling condition that may require support.

Plagiarism is defined as copying any content without identifying the source. This also includes taking another person's or AI entity's ideas or constructs and presenting them as your own. Plagiarism of any kind will not be tolerated. Most assignments at Calvary require the student to produce original work. Therefore, unless specifically permitted by the instructor, the use of AI-generated content is prohibited (even if cited) as it does not represent original work created by the student and is an unreliable aggregate of ideas from other sources. AI, however, may be utilized in cases where the instructor has explicitly permitted its use to accomplish specific tasks. It is only in these cases that AI-generated (or modified) content may be submitted by the student. If there are any questions as to the permissibility of AI use for an assignment, please ask your instructor for clarification.

The Clark Academic Center ([learning@calvary.edu](mailto:learning@calvary.edu)) is dedicated to providing free academic assistance for Calvary University students. Student tutors aid with all facets of the writing process, tutor in various subject areas, prepare students for exams and facilitate tests. Please take advantage of this service.

In-class attendance and discussion is mandatory and is part of the student's overall final grade.

All class papers must follow the Turabian style according to *A Manual for Writers of Research*

MU221 Music Theory I  
Papers, Theses, and Dissertations, 8th edition and the Calvary Style Guide, 2019 update.

Grading Scale: See grading scale in the university catalog.

**Carnegie Units**

MU221 (Music Theory I)

| Assignments | Hours | Assigned        |
|-------------|-------|-----------------|
| Class time  | 60    | 60              |
| Reading     | 20    | 180 pages       |
| Homework    | 97    | 3 hrs. per week |
| Final Exam  | 3     | Avg.            |
| Total       | 180   |                 |