

THEA 271: Basic Musicianship II - Spring 2026
MWF: 9:00 – 9:50 AM/10:00 – 10:50 AM NQ292

Instructor Info:

Jim Rhinehart
Office: NQ 294
Email: jrhonehart@bsu.edu (USE THIS!)
Office Hours: By Appointment

Course Description:

The course is designed for beginning Music Theater students, and is a continuation of THEA 270: Basic Musicianship I. Students will gain a basic knowledge of musical concepts, sight-singing, ear training, and basic piano skills.

This course is worth 2 credit hours. It will require 150 minutes of in-class work, 50 minutes of piano lab and an expected 140 minutes of out-of-class work in the form of assignments, practice, etc.

Course Objectives:

To develop the skills needed to:

- Read music accurately at sight
- Approach learning of new music in a logical and systematic manner
- Understand and exhibit the high level of musicianship expected in the profession
- Develop a responsible and professional approach to the musical theatre field

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

- Identify and construct triads and inversions
- Identify and construct seventh chords and inversions
- Write and perform rhythmic counting
- Identify and construct major, minor, chromatic, pentatonic, whole tone scales
- Identify cadences
- Vocabulary
- Identify and construct modes (Dorian, Phrygian, Lydian, Mixolydian)
- Transposition
- Analyze hymns (Roman numerals, non-chord tones, cadences, etc.)

Required Textbooks & Materials:

- *Alfred's Group Piano for Adults*, Book I, 2nd ed.
- *Scales, Patterns, and Improvs*, Book 2, Hal Leonard Student Piano Series
- Music Manuscript (Staff) Paper (Available to print: www.blanksheetmusic.net)

Tests and Quizzes:

There will be weekly or bi-weekly quizzes which will factor into the final grade.

Worksheets and assignments will be given daily to complement the instruction in the textbook.

Two tests/exams will be administered during the semester: A Midterm Exam and a Final Exam.

Grading:

- Attendance, Participation = 10%
- Piano Lab = 20%
- Written Assignments, Quizzes = 20%
- Midterm Exam = 25%
- Final Exam = 25%

Attendance:

- Attendance is essential to success in this class. All concepts build upon each other.
- All work missed during an absence must be made up by the student.
- Students are responsible for inquiring about missed work.
- You must notify the instructor **in advance** of a planned absence, or in the event of an illness, via e-mail, text, or in person.
- The **Piano Lab** is also part of your grade for this class. All grades and absences from the **Piano Lab** portion will be factored into the final grade.
- Department policy states that a student may not miss more than one week of school.
Three days in this class will constitute one week.
 - **Three (3) tardies** = one (1) absence
 - **Two (2) absences** = 1 letter grade drop
 - **Three (3) absences** = 2 letter grade drop
 - **Four (4) absences** = Removal from the class (After the withdrawal period is over, the student missing class four (4) times will receive a grade of *incomplete*, and will be required to retake of the class next fall).

GENERAL EXPECTATIONS:

- Students are expected to be on time and fully prepared for every class.
- A professional and courteous attitude toward instructors, accompanists, and peers is expected at all times.
- Illness can and will happen, so it is up to the individual to take the proper precautions to maintain a healthy lifestyle.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:

Academic dishonesty involves intentional violations of procedures that protect the integrity of the coursework completed by a student. For more information about academic dishonesty, visit the Student Academic Ethics Policy website:

<http://cms.bsu.edu/About/AdministrativeOffices/StudentRights/PoliciesandProcedures/StudentCode/VIIEthicsPolicy.aspx>

CONDUCT:

Students will conduct themselves in a manner that is appropriate for class and in line with standards set forth by Ball State University and the Department of Theatre and Dance. Read more about Ball State's Code of Conduct at:

<http://cms.bsu.edu/About/AdministrativeOffices/StudentRights/PoliciesandProcedures/StudentCode/VCodeConduct.aspx>

DSD OFFICE:

The Office of Disabled Student Development (DSD) coordinates the university's efforts to accommodate students with disabilities. If you would like to discuss disability-related accommodations, contact DSD at 765-285-5293 (phone); 765-285-2206 (TDD); dsd@bsu.edu; or visit DSD's Web site at www.bsu.edu/dsd.

***If you need adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, if you have emergency medical information to share with me, or if you need special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible.*

Ball State University aspires to be a university that attracts and retains a diverse faculty, staff, and student body. We are committed to ensuring that all members of the community are welcome, through valuing the various experiences and worldviews represented at Ball State and among those we serve. We promote a culture of respect and civil discourse as expressed in our [Beneficence Pledge](#) and through university resources found at <http://cms.bsu.edu/campuslife/multiculturalcenter>.

INCLUSIVE EXCELLENCE:

Ball State University aspires to be a university that attracts and retains a diverse faculty, staff and student body. We are committed to ensuring that all members of the campus community are welcome through our practice of valuing the various experiences and world views of those we serve. We promote a culture of respect and civil discourse as evident in our Beneficence Pledge. For Bias Incident Response service information, go to bsu.edu/multiculturalcenter/bias or e-mail mc2@bsu.edu.

COURSE SCHEDULE (subject to change at the instructor's discretion):

<u>Week</u>	<u>Starts</u>		<u>Assessment</u>	<u>Notes</u>
1	Jan. 5	Review: triads and inversions	Quiz: Triads and inversions	
2	Jan. 12	Seventh chords	Quiz: Seventh chords	
3	Jan. 19	Seventh chords, cont.	Quiz: Seventh chords, cont.	No classes Monday
4	Jan. 26	Seventh chords AND inversions	Quiz: Seventh chords and inversions	
5	Feb. 2	Minor scales	Big Quiz: Vocabulary	
6	Feb. 9	Minor scales, cont.	Quiz: Minor scales	
7	Feb. 16	Other scales	Quiz: Other scales	
8	Feb. 23	Review for midterm	Midterm Exam	
	Mar. 2	SPRING BREAK		
9	Mar. 9	Secondary dominants	Quiz: Secondary dominants	
10	Mar. 16	Cadences, harmonic analysis	Quiz: Harmonic analysis I	
11	Mar. 23	More harmonic analysis	Quiz: Harmonic analysis II	
12	Mar. 30	Modes	Quiz: Modes	
13	Apr. 6	TBA		
14	Apr. 13	TBA		
15	Apr. 20		Final Exam part I (Friday)*	
16	Apr. 27		Final Exam part II (Monday)*	

*The Final Exam is given the last two days of class, April 24 and 27. Therefore, there is no Final Exam during Finals Week (Apr. 28-May 1).