

Liverpool John Moores University

Title: MUSIC THEORY AND COMPOSITION
Status: Definitive
Code: **4500MPSH** (116139)
Version Start Date: 01-08-2011

Owning School/Faculty: Liverpool School of Art & Design
Teaching School/Faculty: St Helens College

Team	Leader
Stuart Borthwick	Y

Academic Level: FHEQ4 **Credit Value:** 24.00 **Total Delivered Hours:** 87.00
Total Learning Hours: 240 **Private Study:** 153

Delivery Options

Course typically offered: Standard Year Long

Component	Contact Hours
Lecture	40.000
Tutorial	14.000
Workshop	30.000

Grading Basis: 40 %

Assessment Details

Category	Short Description	Description	Weighting (%)	Exam Duration
Technology	AS1	A written electronic score produced on an appropriate score editor	20.0	
Exam	AS2	Written music theory exam	10.0	3.00
Presentation	AS3	A prepared percussion performance and associated activities	10.0	
Essay	AS4	Semester 2 Essay of 2000 words	30.0	
Portfolio	AS5	A portfolio of 3 compositions of differing genres	30.0	

Aims

This Module is designed to explore music theory and compositional techniques.

Learning Outcomes

After completing the module the student should be able to:

- 1 Identify and describe the elements of a piece of music. A3
- 2 Apply knowledge of music notation and basic harmonic structures. A4
- 3 Apply rhythmic awareness in a percussion performance. A5
- 4 Identify a variety of popular musical styles and the specific techniques used in their performance, composition and arrangement. A6
- 5 Transcribe a musical composition to the staff, incorporating use of correct key and time signatures and instrumentation. C5
- 6 Compose music in different genres. C6

Learning Outcomes of Assessments

The assessment item list is assessed via the learning outcomes listed:

Written electronic score	1	2	5
EXAM	2		
Percussion Performance	3		
2000 words	4		
3 Compositions	6		

Outline Syllabus

A series of lectures will focus on score reading and writing, an awareness of appropriate clefs and their uses, note names and note values and rests, key signatures and uses of flats sharps and naturals.

There will be an introduction to circle of fifths, and an understanding of intervals and harmonic structure.

Learners will listen to, and analyse a variety of compositions and describe them using appropriate musical vocabulary.

Practical work in the first semester will focus on scoring a piece of music (4 parts).

All arrangements will be worked out part by part and can incorporate music scoring programs such as Cubase to help produce a score. The tutor will facilitate the interpretation of different elements of the composition to aid the scoring process and to help learners transcribe these individual parts appropriately.

Learners will develop percussion skills and perform as part of a percussion workshop to develop individual rhythm awareness and a sense of working as a realistic musical ensemble.

Practical work in the second semester will focus on composing three pieces of music in different genres as part of composition portfolio.

Learning Activities

Lectures, workshops, video-presentations, academic tutorials and practical work will be used for the delivery of the Module.

References

Course Material	Book
Author	Hewitt, M.
Publishing Year	2009
Title	Composition for Computer Musicians
Subtitle	
Edition	
Publisher	Delmar
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
Author	Josefs, J.
Publishing Year	1996
Title	Writing Music for Hit Songs
Subtitle	
Edition	
Publisher	Schirmer Books
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
Author	Miller, M.
Publishing Year	2005
Title	The Complete Idiots Guide to Music Theory
Subtitle	
Edition	
Publisher	Alpha Books
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
Author	Pinksterboer, H.
Publishing Year	2001
Title	The Rough Guide To reading Music And Basic Theory
Subtitle	
Edition	
Publisher	Rough Guide
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
Author	Snoman, R.
Publishing Year	2008
Title	Dance Music Manual
Subtitle	Tools, toys and Techniques
Edition	
Publisher	Focal Press
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
Author	Stewart, D.
Publishing Year	2000
Title	Inside the Music
Subtitle	The Musicians Guide to Composition, Improvisation and the Mechanics of Music
Edition	
Publisher	Backbeat Books
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
Author	Taylor, E.
Publishing Year	1989
Title	The AB guide to music theory part 1.
Subtitle	
Edition	
Publisher	London: Associated Board of the Royal School of Music
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
Author	Taylor, E.
Publishing Year	1989
Title	The AB guide to music theory part 2
Subtitle	
Edition	
Publisher	London: Associated Board of the Royal School of Music
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
Author	Taylor, E.
Publishing Year	2008
Title	Music Theory in Practice
Subtitle	Grade 1
Edition	
Publisher	London: Associated Board of the Royal School of Music
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
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Author	Taylor, E.
Publishing Year	1999
Title	First Steps in Music Theory
Subtitle	Grades 1 to 5
Edition	
Publisher	London: Associated Board of the Royal School of Music
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
Author	Wilkins, M.
Publishing Year	2006
Title	Creative Music Composition
Subtitle	
Edition	
Publisher	Oxford: Routledge
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
Author	Wyatt, K.
Publishing Year	1998
Title	Harmony and Theory
Subtitle	
Edition	
Publisher	Milwaukee: Hal Leonard
ISBN	

Notes

The first part of the Module will explore basic music theory and notation and will develop listening skills, aural awareness and compositional skills. The Module will also incorporate workshops that develop rhythmic awareness and includes a group percussion performance. In the second part of the Module different genre characteristics will be explored, including analysis of structure, stylistic elements and other genre-specific compositional characteristics. This analysis will then inform the individual compositional work of the students.