

**Nashville State Community College**  
**English, Humanities, & Creative Technologies**  
**Music Technology**

**Fall**

**2022 Master Course Syllabus**

**MST-1110 Fundamentals of Music**

The purpose of the syllabus is to tell you how the course is organized, what the expectations are, and how you will be graded. In addition, there is important information about how the college will operate during severe weather and how the college will communicate with you. The syllabus is not a contract. Instead, it is meant to help you succeed in this course. If any of the content changes during the semester, you will be notified.

**Course information:**

**Course Title:** MST-1110 Fundamentals of Music

**Credits:** 3

**Class Hours:** 3 Class Hours

**Course Description:**

An introduction to musical concepts as they apply to the commercial music production process. Students will master basic terminology, concepts, and theory, which will enable them to communicate and function effectively in the studio. Topics include genres of popular music, popular song forms, common instrumentation, scales, chords, intervals, and rhythms as they relate to MIDI, digital audio waveforms, and the Nashville Number System.

Not part of a Tennessee Transfer Pathway

**Instructor Information:**

**Name:**

**Email:**

**Office Phone:**

**Office Location:**

**Office Hours:**

**Instructor Zoom Room link:**

**Class Session Zoom Link Information (if virtual):**

**Password:**

**Required Textbook(s) & Other Materials:**

**Textbook(s):** Alfred's Essentials of Music Theory, Pap/Com Edition Alfred Publishing Company, (Andrew Surmani)

**ISBN:** 9780739036358

**Access Code:** To Be Determined Reference by Textbook Publisher

**Reference Materials:** Internet access outside of normal class hours may be required to complete some homework assignments and quiz activities. Students that do not have Internet access may need to schedule time in the college computer labs. Students will have access to digital copies of reference guides in the content section of the course shell or at manufacturer websites.

**Supplies:** Notebooks, pencils, staff paper, recording device

Once you have registered for your courses, you should make sure you have the correct textbook and materials for each course. Before courses begin, you can do this by looking up your courses on the bookstore's website ( <https://www.bkstr.com/nscctestore/shop/textbooks-and-course-materials> ) using your A# or by entering your course information. If you are registered with the Access Center and need an alternate format for the textbook and other course materials, please contact the Access Center at 615-353-3721, 615-353-3741, or [accesscenter@nsc.edu](mailto:accesscenter@nsc.edu)

**Digital Course Materials:** These ensure you pay less for your course materials and have easy access through D2L throughout the semester. When you registered for this course, the charge for these materials appeared on your account. If you decide you do not want to purchase the course materials embedded in NS Online, you can opt out of the program **until the end of the second week of classes**. If you opt out, you will be responsible for purchasing the required course materials on your own. For more information, please visit [www.nsc.edu/dcm](http://www.nsc.edu/dcm).

**Honors Option:** Honors credit is available in some classes. If you are interested in participating i

n the Honors Program, please see your instructor within the first four weeks of class.

**Course Outcomes:** At the end of the semester, this is what you should know and/or be able to do:

1. Identify, notate, and explain common musical symbols and Terminology
2. Identify and Construct Common Scales
3. Demonstrate Effective Use of the Nashville Number System
4. Demonstrate Basic Mastery of Aural Skills for Music Technology

**Course Competencies:**

The following are detailed course competencies, or specific skills or knowledge, intended to help you achieve the course outcomes:

1. Identify, notate, and explain common musical symbols and Terminology
  - a. Visually identify notes in treble and bass clef
  - b. Visually identify note and rest values
  - c. Describe a grand staff and its use

- d. Identify notes on a piano keyboard
  - e. Recognize descriptive musical terms and symbols and describe their effect.
  - f. Identify and articulate symbols used to direct musicians around a piece of music
  - g. Demonstrate an understanding of the effects of sharps and flats on pitch.
  - h. Identify and construct Key Signatures in all common Major/Minor keys
  - i. Notate and analyze common time signatures
  - j. Recognize and notate basic rhythm patterns
2. Identify and Construct Common Scales
    - a. Notate scales, intervals, and melodies
    - b. Visually recognize and analyze note relationships
    - c. Construct common musical scales
    - d. Demonstrate an understanding of relative major/minor
  3. Demonstrate Effective Use of the Nashville Number System
    - a. Identify and construct diatonic triads
    - b. Identify and construct diatonic 7th chords
    - c. Analyze and notate chord inversions
    - d. Describe the circle of 5ths and the circle of 4ths
    - e. Describe and notate chord relationships using Roman numerals
    - f. Identify diatonic chord progressions
    - g. Apply scales, chords, and key signatures to a diatonic chord matrix
    - h. Transcribe a standard song chart, using the Nashville Number System form of musical notation.
    - i. Recognize Nashville Number System symbols
    - j. Communicate verbally using Nashville Number System concepts and terminology
  4. Demonstrate Basic Mastery of Aural Skills for Music Technology
    - a. Analyze written or recorded music and determine its form
    - b. Visually and aurally identify different sections of popular songs (verse, chorus, etc.)
    - c. Aurally identify instrumentation on recordings
    - d. Aurally identify common chord progressions in popular music
    - e. Aurally identify common time signatures
    - f. Aurally identify stylistic differences between various genres of music.

The following are general education competencies intended to support the course outcomes:

1. Given a music theory topic, locate, evaluate, and use multiple sources of information to compare its use in various musical styles.
2. Use mathematical concepts to determine the musical intervals and rhythmic values of a music manuscript.
3. Demonstrate the effective use of multimedia music theory learning materials.

## Topics to Be Covered:

- Week 1
- A. Traditional Music Notation
  - B. Notes/Pitches in Treble Clef
  - C. Notes and Corresponding Frequencies/Wavelengths
  - D. Instrument Frequency Ranges
  - E. Instrument Dynamic Ranges
  - F. Ear Training
- Week 2
- A. Notes/Pitches in Bass Clef
  - B. Notes and Corresponding Frequencies/Wavelengths
  - C. Note/Rest Time Values
  - D. Measures, Bar Lines, and Double Bar Lines
  - E. Time Signatures
  - H. Ear Training
- Week 3
- A. Basic Rhythms
  - B. Identifying Rhythms in Music Notation, MIDI, and Audio Waveforms
  - C. Dynamic Signs
  - D. Tempo
  - E. Calculating Tempo and Delay Times
  - F. Note Articulations
  - G. Ear Training
- Week 4
- A. Accidentals (Sharps, Flats, and Naturals)
  - B. Whole Steps, Half Steps
  - C. Major Scales
  - D. Major Scale Matrix
  - E. Ear Training
- Week 5
- A. Major Key Signatures
  - B. Circle of 5ths/4ths
  - C. Chromatic Scale
  - D. Common Time, Cut Time
  - E. Bluegrass and Marches in Cut Time
  - F. Ear Training
- Week 6
- A. **Mid-Term Exam**
  - B. Major/Minor Chords
  - C. Diatonic Chords

- D. Diatonic Chord Matrix
  - E. Transposition
  - F. Ear Training
- Week 7
- A. Nashville Number System
  - B. NNS Study of Charts
  - C. NNS Time
  - D. Road Map Symbols
  - E. I, IV, V progression
  - F. Arpeggios
  - G. Ear Training
- Week 8
- A. NNS Study and Writing Charts
  - B. Common Commercial Song Forms
  - C. Simple Intervals
  - D. Dominant 7<sup>th</sup> Chord
  - E. Dominant 7<sup>th</sup> Chord Matrix
  - F. Ear Training
- Week 9
- A. Chord Inversions
  - B. I, vi<sup>m</sup>, IV, V progression
  - C. Common Pop/R&B Song forms
  - D. Diatonic Intervals
  - F. Ear Training
- Week 10
- A. Minor Scales
  - B. Minor Key Signatures
  - C. Drum Patterns Common to Various Styles
  - D. Bass Guitar Lines Common to Various Styles
  - E. How “Feel” Relates to the Beat (Quantizing)
  - F. Swing Feel vs. Straight Feel (Quantizing)
  - G. Ear Training
- Week 11
- A. Primary Triads in Minor Keys
  - B. Minor Chord Progressions
  - C. Complex Intervals
  - D. Ear Training

- Week 12
- A. Accompaniment Styles
  - B. Pick-Up Notes, Passing and Neighboring Tones
  - C. Melodies from scales and arpeggios
  - D. 12 Bar Blues
  - E. NNS Study and Writing Charts
  - F. Ear Training

- Week 13
- A. Chords Out of Context
  - B. Major to Minor, Major to Diminished, Major to Augmented
  - C. Songs with Non-diatonic Chord Progressions
  - D. Modes
  - E. Ear Training

- Week 14 A. **Final Exam**

**Note:** This course outline is subject to change at any time during the semester. Revisions will be posted on D2L.

**Course Assessments:** We will use the following assessments to demonstrate your understanding, knowledge, and skills: *(include type and point/percentage breakdown here)*

**Grading Policy:**

Final grades are based on class participation, worksheets, assignments, labs, projects, quizzes, & exams. These activities will be used to determine mastery of skills and concepts.

**Grading Scale:**

Letter Grade	Percentage Range
A	90-100%
B	80-89.99%
C	70-79.99%
D	60-69.99%
F	0-59.99%

**FA**

If you stop attending class or if you are in an online class and stop submitting assignments, but do not turn in a withdrawal form by the deadline, you are still enrolled in class. You will be given a grade of FA, which means you have failed due to not attending class and not completing your assignments. Please refer to the current academic calendar available on the Nashville State web site, looking for the date that indicates it is the “Last Day to Earn F for Attendance (FA).” If you stop attending your course after this date, you will receive an F.

Last date to earn an F for attendance is XXXX, 2022.

## **FN**

An FN is awarded if you have never attended your course or done any of the work in an online course.

### **Late Work Policy & Make-up Procedures for Missed Assignments and Work:**

Students should contact the instructor regarding opportunities to make-up missed assignments, labs, quizzes, and exams.

### **Attendance Policy**

Students are expected to complete assigned coursework prior to deadlines. To do so, students should fully participate in each class meeting. If a student needs to be absent from a class, please contact the instructor to arrange virtual participation or a plan to make-up missed work.

### **General Policy**

If you have been exposed to COVID-19 or have tested positive, you must email [virusinfo@nsc.edu](mailto:virusinfo@nsc.edu).

- *Absences in a course may affect your final grade.*
- *Tardiness may also affect your final grade.*
- *You are responsible for all work/tests that occur during any missed course session(s) regardless of reason(s) for absence.*
- *If you are not well enough to attend a course session (class), you must notify the instructor as soon as possible before the scheduled course time.*
  - *If you are unable to notify an instructor before the scheduled course time, you must contact the instructor as soon as reasonably possible.*
- *If you have an unavoidable conflict with a scheduled course session, you must notify the instructor before the course session.*
  - *If you are unable to notify an instructor before the scheduled course time, you must contact the instructor as soon as reasonably possible.*

### **Instructor's Policy**

Two consecutive or non-consecutive class absences will result in a one full letter grade deduction. Showing up after the appointed class start time or leaving before the appointed class end time will be recorded as 1/2 of a class missed and counted toward the two class missed grade deduction. Two times late, or left early, equals one missed class. A student is considered late if they arrive at class after the instructor has started class. Students are responsible for all course work missed due to class absence.

First absence does not affect final grade. Second absence, one full letter grade. Third or more absence, one full letter grade each.

**For financial aid** purposes, **attendance** is measured by participation in the course. Instructors can determine your level of participation in several ways. Some of those ways are:

- continued attendance
- participation in on-ground or virtual class sessions
- participating in D2L as prompted
- responding to an instructor’s email
- posting to a discussion board
- completing and submitting assignments

### Technology Statement

- All classes at the College are web enhanced. “Web enhanced” means that components of the course, such as assignments and online discussions, may be located online in the class D2L/NS Online course shell and used in the course, even if the course meets in a classroom on ground.
- You must have access to a computer and an internet connection to complete assignments, engage in online discussions, and access various course materials through D2L/NS Online course shells.
- You may also be required to use free video conferencing platforms (examples: Zoom, Teams, etc.) for course sessions and meetings.
- You will be responsible for appropriate dress while on video. This means that you are expected to dress as if you were in a classroom.
- You will be responsible for a distraction free environment while on video. This means that the professor and others in the course should not be able to hear noise in your home, such as cell phones, TVs, or barking dogs. The best way to do this is to keep yourself on “mute” until you need to speak.
- You will be responsible for making sure your background is neutral. Keep in mind that students and professors come from all around the world, and you are all a part of our community. Therefore, please avoid having images in your background that may be offensive to your classmates.
- Certain publisher materials, such as textbook figures, may not work on cellphones and may require a laptop or a tablet.
- If you have questions or concerns regarding access to a computer or internet resources, please contact your instructor. Additional information is available on this website: <https://www.nsc.edu/current-students/student-online-resources/access-to-internet-and-technology>.

### Computer Labs

Computers are available for all Nashville State students to use at each campus during open hours. Open computer lab availability may vary from campus to campus. You should check the NSCC website for current hours of operation.

### D2L/NS Online and myNSCC

It is your responsibility to check your email in **both** D2L/NS Online course shells and your @my.nsc.edu (student email) on a regular basis. These are the official communication



channels between the college and you. You are responsible for the information communicated through these email channels. D2L/NS Online emails contain specific course information and @my.nsc.edu emails contain important information from college offices, such as Financial Aid.

### **ADA Compliance Statement**

If you need accommodations due to a disability, please do not hesitate to reach out to our Access Center. Disabilities for which you can receive accommodations include documented physical, emotional, and/or learning conditions. Nashville State is committed to supporting your success, and we encourage you to get assistance if needed. If you require accommodations for any courses in which you are enrolled, contact the Access Center at 615.353.3741 or 615.353.3721, or e-mail [accesscenter@nsc.edu](mailto:accesscenter@nsc.edu).

### **Classroom Misconduct**

Disruptive conduct is not allowed in the classroom. Disruptive conduct is any behavior that prevents students from learning and interferes with the ability of the instructor to teach. This may change from course to course; therefore, your individual instructors will give you guidance on what qualifies as “disruptive conduct” in their courses. Please review the [Nashville State Student Code of Conduct policy](#). Please be aware that children are not allowed in class or to be left unattended on campus.

### **Academic Misconduct**

You have started this academic journey to prepare for a future career. Because of this, it is important that you learn the materials being presented in your courses. For this reason, cheating, in any form, robs you of your opportunity to learn and master the material that will enable you to succeed in that future career. Nashville State has a clear [Academic Misconduct Policy](#) that you are expected to follow. In addition, your instructors will clarify what Academic Misconduct looks like and the consequences for violations in each course that you take. The instructor has the authority to assign an “F” or a “zero” for such violations or for the semester grade.

**Insert instructor academic misconduct policy here**

### **Academic Early Alert System**

If you are not doing well in your course, your instructor may send you an Early Alert through your @my.nsc.edu email. This email will go to your academic advisor and Student Success advisor, as well. If you get an Early Alert, contact your instructor immediately. Instructors send these when they want to help you figure out how to get extra support to pass the course. An Early Alert does not mean that you have already failed the course. Rather, it means you are in danger of failing the course if you do not change your learning strategy. Please use an Early Alert to your advantage and as an opportunity to improve your grade.

## **RAVE Emergency Alert System**

You can log in to this free alert system to receive text messages about emergencies related to NSCC campuses: <https://www.getrave.com/login/nscc>. The instructions for this are listed below.

- Your RAVE Username is your NSCC email address.
- If you've never received an email from RAVE with your password, or if you need to reset your password, select “Forgot your password?” and a new password will be emailed to you.
- Should the RAVE system indicate “user not found”, select Register and create your own RAVE account.

## **Student Wellness**

Your well-being is important to us. With this in mind, the college has several resources available to provide support when needed:

- Free tutoring: <https://www.nsc.edu/current-students/on-campus-resources/learning-center-and-tutoring>
- NSCC email, scheduling, online courses, textbooks, tech check out and support, computer labs on campuses, academic advising, financial advising, COVID-19 information and procedures on campuses: <https://www.nsc.edu/current-students/student-online-resources>
- Services that help with bus passes, food, childcare, textbooks, housing, financial counseling, personal counseling, suicide prevention, health insurance: <https://www.nsc.edu/current-students/on-campus-resources/student-support-services>

## **Equity Statement**

We are taking steps to become more aware of the many different needs of students. Faculty, staff and administrators are committed to helping students find ways to meet their needs so that ALL students can reach their goals. Please ask for things you need.

## **Inclement Weather & Campus Closings**

You get notices about campus closings in these places: text messages from RAVE and [www.nsc.edu](http://www.nsc.edu).

Even when campuses are closed, you are still responsible for completing all assigned work. Check D2L/NS Online for a message from your instructor so you do not miss important assignments and due dates, which may change due to the campus closure.

## **Class Cancellation Policy**

Our instructors post messages about cancelling classes in the D2L/NSOnline course shells and/or on the classroom door on campus. These messages can be found in the News and Content section or the Email tab in the online shell. Please check these to be sure that you take advantage of opportunities for learning and points toward your grade.