

# Syllabus: Mus 124, Sect. 002 (Prof. Coan)

Fall 2013

M, W, F Dunham Hall 0158; 11:00-11:50 am

Professor Coan, DH 0199; 618-650-2012; dcoan@siue.edu

**Textbook:** *Creative Approach to Music Fundamentals* textbook and software access

## Course Format

This course will be taught *in situ*, which means that you will learn concepts primarily through doing. When it comes to music, this means playing an instrument and singing. You do not need to know how to play an instrument prior to the course. You do not need to know how to read music prior to the course (and in fact, most people take the course in order to learn how to read music).

## How will the course work?

You will learn to play or sing during class times and through that playing you will learn the course material which involves learning about musical foundations, especially notation and very basic music theory. You will learn exactly the same content as in other current sections of Mus 124. You will be amazed at what you will know and understand by the end of the semester.

## Ensembles

You will be divided into small playing groups (ensembles). You will be guided in class through a progressive set of musical experiences which you will then need to practice with your ensemble. This, along with practicing your instrument, will comprise your homework. You are not graded on what a wonderful instrumentalist you are but on what you know and understand regarding the course content. If you choose also to try and become a good player on your instrument, then you'll be glad you did for years to come but for the purposes of your grade, you only need to become good enough to understand the concepts and learn the knowledge.

## Grade

Your grade in the course will be determined by demonstrating what you know through in-class playing and some musical notation activities. The course grade will be calculated according to the following weighting system:

- Written assignments 25%
- Demonstration assignments 25%
- Quizzes 25%
- Final exam 25%

How the demonstration assignments will take place will differ between assignments so it's important to pay close attention to in-class instructions and work diligently on in-class assignments and your practice.

### **Supplies Needed**

*Instrument:* Rather than have you buy an expensive software license or workbook, you will need to purchase a very inexpensive and simple instrument. The instructor will identify instruments and sources available to you. If you already own some sort of instrument, that will be fine. The instructor will talk more about this in class during the first week. This might be a good time to start to learn some instrument that you've always wanted to learn.

*Staff Paper:* You will need plenty of staff paper for the course. It is available in the MUC Bookstore and at music stores near campus such as Mojo's and Swing City. You may also print your own staff paper from staff paper websites.

*Notebook:* You will need some sort of notebook to take course notes and keep track of your progress.

*Other items:* You may want to have some sort of metronome to help keep time and a tuner that measures more than just guitar pitches (smart device apps for both of these things are fine--the instructor may have recommendations).

### **Classroom Behavior**

You are expected to show respect for your instructor, your fellow class members and for yourself. No food may be eaten in the room. No cell phones or computers may be used in class. Anyone caught texting in class will have 5% taken off her/his final course grade per infraction. If an assignment is given, it must be handed in on time. Late assignments are not accepted except in the case of illness.

### **Attendance**

Attendance is mandatory and will be taken. We only meet three times per week. You are allowed one free unexcused absence over the course of the semester. Your illness and the death/funeral of an immediate family member are the only excused absences and you must contact the instructor by phone or email by as much advance notice as possible. Taking friends to the airport and other such avoidable events, are not excused. Please make doctor's appointments for times when the class doesn't meet.

Your small group counts on you. Please do not miss any group practices that your ensemble may schedule and do not miss class when your ensemble is to play an assignment. Your ensemble will rate your attendance and preparedness.

**Students with Disabilities:** Students needing special academic accommodations and who have documented disabilities with an ID CARD from Disability Support Services should make an appointment to discuss these accommodations by the end of the first week. Students with disabilities are encouraged to visit the SIUE Disability Support Services office located in Rendleman Hall, room 1218.

**Plagiarism:** (From *SIUE Policies and Procedures*, available online at <http://www.siue.edu>) The University recognizes plagiarism as a serious academic offense. Plagiarism, the act of representing the work of another as one's own, may take two forms. It may consist of copying, paraphrasing or otherwise using the written or oral work of another without acknowledging the source, or it may consist of presenting oral or written course work prepared by another as one's own. Normally a student who plagiarizes shall receive a grade of F in the course in which the act occurs. The offense shall also be reported to the Provost. Should a student who has been suspended for plagiarism be readmitted and be again found guilty of the offense, he/she shall be permanently expelled from the University.

## Course Outline

This outline covers all of the topics presented in class. Because each member of the class moves forward at his/her own speed according to the level that he/she begins on an instrument, the outline is presented only as an outline of the topics. The successful student will acquire all the necessary skills, knowledge and concepts, some faster on the written aspects than others and some faster on the playing aspects than others. The topics are not listed in the order they will appear in class because we keep spiralling through the topics, revisiting previous topics more deeply as we add each new one.

The more you practice your instrument alone and with your ensemble outside of class, the faster you will move. It is important to keep in mind that regardless of how fast or slowly you move, you will be held responsible for all of the music fundamentals taught in the class.

The keyboard, The Grand Staff, Major/Minor Keys & Scales

Major/Minor Keys & Scale

Rhythm notation

Rhythm & Meter (Sept 7 Labor Day No Class)

Intervals

Triads

Melody & Harmony

Composition