



**C O K E R**  
UNIVERSITY

**MUS 120: FOUNDATIONS OF MUSICAL SKILL  
SYLLABUS**

**Course Title:**

MUS 120: Foundations of Musical Skill

**Meeting times and location:**

Online

**Instructor Information:**

Dr. Reed A. Hanna

Email: rhanna@coker.edu

**Course Description:**

Music theory sequence is a five-semester presentation of the rudiments of music from the Common Practice Period (1600-1900) and the Twentieth Century. Students will develop the skills to analyze and discuss the harmonic, melodic, and formal attributes of musical scores and recordings of music. Understanding rudiments will lead students to an awareness and comprehension of the basic structure of traditional Western music; an understanding that is utilized in all musical activities, be it listening, performing, or original creative work.

Foundations of Musical Skill is a literacy course in the rudiments of music reading, intervals, chords and scales. This course provides basic literacy in the concepts and vocabulary of music theory. Students will use these skills to progress through music theory courses (MUS 121, 122, 221, 321) and as a foundation for creative work.

**Prerequisites:** None

**Objectives:**

1. To develop a practical understanding and mastery of the fundamental elements of **musical notation**, such as: staves, measures, clefs, pitches, sharps/flats/naturals, and notes/rests.
2. To develop a practical understanding and mastery of the fundamentals elements of **rhythm and meter**, such as: note and rest values, simple and compound meter, time signatures, ties, pickup notes, syncopation, triplets.
3. To develop a practical understanding and mastery of the fundamentals elements of **harmony**, such as: key signatures, intervals, scales, triads and seventh chords, and cadences.
4. To develop a practical understanding and mastery of the fundamentals elements of **expressive markings**, such as: slurs, dynamics, articulation symbols.
5. To develop a practical understanding and mastery of the fundamentals elements of **musical form**, such as: phrases and phrase structure, binary form, ternary form, rondo form, repeats.
6. To develop a working vocabulary of **musical terms and concepts**.
7. To gain critical listening skills and communicate ideas about music theory effectively, both verbally and in writing.

**Course requirements:**

You are expected to:

1. Complete all tasks and assignments for each learning module before their respective due dates.
2. Complete all exams on or before their respective due dates.
3. Complete all online discussion assignments.
4. Adhere to online etiquette standards.

**Required Books and Materials:**

Lambert, Philip. *Principles of Music*; 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, Oxford University Press. 2018. **E-book**.

ISBN: 978-0-078-02515-0

You will also need:

- Music manuscript paper (PDFs on Blackboard)
- A folder or binder to keep loose music manuscript paper and supplemental worksheets.

**Attendance:**

This course is designed to maximize your learning of the subject matter and advance your understanding through a variety of ways; therefore, attendance (completion of online learning modules) is vital for supporting your educational outcomes. The university is required to verify academic participation to remain in compliance of federal financial aid regulations.

[Term] attendance verification runs from [Term dates]. Students must attend all class sessions during the verification period, unless an absence has been previously discussed in writing with the instructor. Unverified students will be removed from the course roster and will not be allowed to re-enroll in the course during the [Term] semester.

**Grading/Assessment Criteria:**

Your final grade will be determined as follows:

Practical Assignments	60%
Aural Skills Assignments	20%
Comprehensive Mid-Term Exam	10%
Comprehensive Final Exam	10%
<b>TOTAL</b>	100%

**Coker University Grading Scale:**

Each student will receive a final letter grade for the course:

Grade	%	Description
A	100-90	Grades in the A range represent truly excellent work, showing a high degree of mastery of the subject matter. This work is error-free (or nearly so). An exceptionally high grade.
B	89-80	Grades in the B range represent good-to-strong basic command of the material, with few errors. A high grade.
C	79-70	Grades in the C range represent errors that reveal only partial understanding or weak mastery of the material. A fair grade.
D	69-60	Grades in the D range represent work that is very weak, showing poor understanding and very little mastery of the material. A low grade.
F	59-0	Grades in the F range represent unacceptable work. A very low grade.

Important note: Final grades are not “rounded” regardless of the proximity of the grade. A grade of 89.9% falls within the “B” range.

**Course Schedule**

Refer to **Course Schedule** [\[hyperlink\]](#) for Online Learning Module tasks, assignments, and due dates.

### **Final Exam Review:**

A virtual (live) review session will be held on **[Date]**.

The instructor reserves the right to require the completion of additional assignments and activities not listed in the course schedule, or to remove assignments, as needed.

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### **Accommodation of Disability:**

Reasonable accommodations will be provided for qualified students with documented physical, sensory, learning or psychiatric disabilities that require assistance to fully participate in this class. If a student has a disability that will likely need some accommodation by the instructor, the student should contact Robin Richardson in the Learning Support Services Office (ext. 8021, [rrichardson@coker.edu](mailto:rrichardson@coker.edu)) to provide the necessary documentation. This must be done within the first 2 weeks of classes. No accommodations can be made without documentation from LSS. The student is solely responsible for contacting Robin Richardson.

### **Title IX and Reporting of Discrimination and Sexual Harassment:**

As a recipient of Federal Funds, Coker University is required to comply with Title IX legislation, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in educational programs or activities, admission, and employment.

### **Coker's Commitment to Equality:**

Equal access to educational experiences is an important part of the Coker experience. If you feel you have been discriminated against based on your sex, gender, gender identity/expression, or sexual orientation, or if you have experienced sexual harassment, misconduct, or violence, we encourage you to report this to a member of the Coker Community.

### What is Sexual Harassment?

Sexual harassment is unwelcome conduct of a sexual nature, including unwelcome sexual advances and requests for sexual favors. Sexual violence is a form of sexual harassment and includes sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, rape, sexual battery, sexual coercion, and sexual exploitation.

### To Whom Can I Talk?

While faculty and staff are happy to listen to your concerns, please be mindful of how much you wish to disclose since all Coker faculty and staff members are **mandatory reporters**. This means that if they are made aware of potential discrimination, harassment, misconduct, or violence that has occurred involving any Coker student, staff, or faculty member, they are required by law to report it to Coker's Title IX Officer. This includes incidents that occur on campus or at an off-campus Coker-sponsored event or activity in the recent present or in the past. You may also contact Coker University's Title IX Coordinator, Sean Kenyon (843-383-8007) directly. At any time that you fear for your immediate safety, contact Campus Safety (843-383-8140) or dial 911.

### Confidential Reporting

If you wish to talk with someone who is better able to keep your information confidential, please visit or call Coker's Counseling Services (843-383-8040) or Coker's Student Health Services (843-383-8141).

Additional information is located under the Title IX section on the Coker website:  
<https://www.coker.edu/about-coker/offices-services/campus-safety/title-ix/>

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### **Addendums to this syllabus:**

- [Term] Course Schedule
- Acknowledgement Course Requirements, Policies, and Procedures Checklist