Course Meetings:  T, Th 2:00 – 3:20pm, Slosberg 212  
Instructor: Mark Berger  
Email: mberger@brandeis.edu  
Office Hours: By appointment in Slosberg 216  
Teaching Assistant: Richard Chowenhill  
Email: r1char9@brandeis.edu  
TA Office Hours: TBA  

This course is designed to introduce students to the fundamental concepts of Western music. Students will acquire an understanding of the basic building blocks of musical construction and performance as well as a literacy of musical notation, thereby enhancing the students’ understanding and appreciation of music. Class meetings will be a combination of lecture and hands-on experimentation through a number of projects designed to give the students creative freedom while honing new skills and concepts discussed in lectures.  


Ancillary Materials (Required at each class meeting): Music staff paper for notes and assignments, and a pencil.  

From the Office of Academic Affairs:  

“Academic integrity is central to the mission of educational excellence at Brandeis University. Each student is expected to turn in work completed independently, except when assignments specifically authorize collaborative effort. It is not acceptable to use the words or ideas of another person--be it a world-class philosopher or your lab partner--without proper acknowledgement of that source. This means that you must use footnotes and quotation marks to indicate the source of any phrases, sentences, paragraphs or ideas found in published volumes, on the internet, or created by another student.  

“Violations of University policies on academic integrity, described in Section 3 of Rights and Responsibilities, may result in failure in the course or on the assignment, and could end in suspension from the University. If you are in doubt about the instructions for any assignment in this course, you must ask.  

Attendance Policy:  

Attendance is taken daily. You may accumulate three unexcused absences without penalty; after three, your final grade for the course will be docked one notch for each class missed. (A 90 becomes an 85.) Please arrive to class on time. Three tardies will amount to one unexcused absence. If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to contact the instructor and make arrangements to make up any missed assignments or quizzes.
If you are a student with a documented disability on record at Brandeis University and wish to have a reasonable accommodation made for you in this class, please see me immediately.

**Grading:**

The grade for this course is determined as follows:

- Written work (assignments/quizzes): 40%
- Participation in In-Class Projects: 30%
- Midterm: 15%
- Final Exam: 15%

Homework and quizzes should always be done in pencil. Homework assignments are due according to the dates listed in this syllabus. Any homework assignment handed in one class after it is due will receive full credit. After that point, five points will be deducted from that particular homework assignment for each day it is late (e.g., an 80 becomes a 75). Homework assignments handed in later than one week after they are due will receive a grade of ZERO. Of the weekly homework assignments (not including the midterm or final), your lowest grade will be omitted from your final average.

Success in this 4 credit hour course is based on the expectation that students will spend a minimum of 9 hours of study time per week in preparation for class (readings, papers, discussion sections, preparation for exams, etc.).

**Disabilities:**

If you are a student with a documented disability on record at Brandeis University and wish to have a reasonable accommodation made for you in this class, please see me immediately.
Course Schedule: (Estimated. All scheduled items subject to change. All assigned reading should be finished in advance of the scheduled class meeting.):

Thurs 8/27 – Introductions, Syllabus/Course Policies

Week 1:
Tues 9/1 – Phrase, Beat and Tempo; Introduction to Meter
    Read Introduction + Chapters 1.1 – 1.2, pp. 1 – 15

Thurs 9/3 – Basic Rhythmic Patterns in Simple Meter; Rests in Simple Meter; Repeat Signs
    Read Chapter 1.3 – 1.5, pp. 15 – 24
    Worksheet 1: Due 9/8

Week 2:
Tues 9/8 – Project 1: Compose, conduct and perform a percussion piece in simple meter.

Thurs 9/10 – Brandeis Monday Schedule - No class

Week 3:
Tues 9/15 – Rosh Hashanah – No class

Thurs 9/17 – The Keyboard and Basic Concepts of Pitch; Whole-Steps and Half-Steps; Treble Clef and Bass Clef
    Read Chapter 2, pp. 41 - 54

Week 4:
Thurs 9/22 – Ledger Lines, Octaves, The Grand Staff, Accidentals
    Worksheet 2: Due 9/29

Tues 9/24 – Project 2: Melodic Composition in Simple Meter; In-Class Performance

Week 5:
Tues 9/29 – Brandeis Monday Schedule – No class

Thurs 10/1 – 16th Notes and Subdivision; Dotted Note Values; Syncopation
    Read Chapter 3, pp. 71 – 93
    Worksheet 3: Due 10/6

Week 6:
Tues 10/6 – The Major Scale; Solfege; Pentachord Melodies; Hexachord Melodies; Major Pentatonic Scales and Melodies
    Read Chapter 4, pp. 111-128
    Worksheet 4: Due 10/13
Thurs 10/8 – Solfege and Scale Degrees; Intervals of the Major Scale; Major Key Signatures & the Circle of 5ths
   Read Chapter 5, pp. 147 - 163

Week 7:
Tues 10/13 – Major Scales - continued.
   Worksheet 5: Due 10/15

Thurs 10/15 – Project 3: Melodic Composition in a Major Key, In-Class Performance

Week 8:
Tues 10/20 – Midterm Review

**Thurs 10/22 – Midterm Exam

Week 9:
Tues 10/27 – Interval Size, Major/Minor vs. Perfect, Augmented/Diminished, Consonance vs. Dissonance
   Read Ch. 6, pp. 183 - 202

Thurs 10/29 – Interval inversions, Compound Intervals, Methods for Interval ID
   Worksheet 6: Due 11/3

Week 10:
Tues 11/3 – Compound Meter; Subdivision in Compound Meter; Dotted Rhythms in Compound Meter
   Read Ch. 7.1 – 7.4, pp. 217 - 233

Thurs 11/5 – Triplets and Duplets; Changing and Asymmetric Meter
   Read Ch 7.5 – 7.6, pp. 233 – 241
   Worksheet 7: Due 11/10

Week 11:
Tues 11/10 – Minor Pentachords and Hexachords; Minor Pentatonic Scales
   Read Ch. 8 Part B, pp. 272 – 290
   Worksheet 8: Due 11/17

Thurs 11/12 – Project 4: Rhythmic Composition in Compound Meter, In-Class Performance

Week 12:
Tues 11/17 – Minor Scales, Intervals of Natural Minor, Minor Key Signatures, Relative and Parallel Keys
   Read Ch. 9.1b – 9.6b, pp. 332-343
Thurs 11/19 – Minor Scale Inflections: Harmonic and Melodic
   Read Ch. 9.7b – 9.13b, pp. 343-357
   *Worksheet 9: Due 11/24*

**Week 13:**
Tues 11/24 – Project 5: Minor Key Melodic Composition, In-Class Performance

Thurs 11/26 – Thanksgiving – No Class

**Week 14:**
Thurs 12/1 – Triads: Major, Minor, Diminished, Augmented; Chord Symbols; Open vs. Close Position, Roman Numeral Analysis and Figured Bass; Inversions; Dominant 7th Chords
   Read Ch. 10.1-10.3, pp. 387-403
   *Worksheet 10: Due 12/3*

Tues 12/3 – Intro to Basic Chord Progressions, Tonic and Dominant Functions, Pre-Dominant Functions
   *Worksheet 11: Due 12/8*

**Week 15:**
Tues 12/8 – Final Review

**Final Exam - TBA**