

# MT 101A – Introduction to Tonal Theory A

California Institute of the Arts

Syllabus, Fall 2009

Instructor: Andrew Tholl  
atholl@alum.calarts.edu  
Lectures: Tuesday and Friday 10:10am – 12:00pm, Room B324  
Keyboard Tutorial: Tuesday 6:00pm – 7:00pm, Room B321  
Office Hours: Tuesday 12:10 – 1:00, Room B241 and by appointment  
Course Weighting: 3.0 units

## Course Description

An introduction to the structure of tonal music, exploring melodic construction, systems of consonance and dissonance, cadences, harmonic function, sequences, modulations and simple forms. Musical examples are drawn from Western classical, jazz, and popular traditions.

Prerequisite: MT100 or placement by examination. Permission of the instructor required.

## Course Objectives

Through lectures, discussion, listening, exercises, score-study and creative assignments you will:

- learn to perceive and describe the organization of diatonic tonal music
- explore the structure of individual musical passages in a manner that can inform your personal acts of listening, performance and composition
- make direct creative application of the concepts introduced

## Course Materials

- Required Texts (to be ordered directly from McGraw-Hill by telephone: 1-800-338-3987)
  - Koskta, S. and D. Payne. *Tonal Harmony: with an Introduction to Twentieth-Century Music*, 6<sup>th</sup> ed. McGraw-Hill, New York, NY. 2008. ISBN 0073401358
  - Kostka, S. and D. Payne. *Workbook for Tonal Harmony*, 6<sup>th</sup> ed. McGraw-Hill, New York, NY. 2008. ISBN 0077269969
- Course Pack
  - available from instructor
- You must bring the course textbook and course pack to lectures.

## Evaluation will be based on:

- **Attendance and Participation**
  - being present
  - making an active contribution to the class
  - being prepared to answer questions regarding reading and other assignments
  - attendance at and preparation for keyboard tutorials is mandatory
- **Assignments and Tests**
  - based on concepts covered in class
- **Grading Scheme:**

◦ Attendance and Participation	15%
◦ Written Assignments	35%
◦ Written Tests	25%
◦ Keyboard Assignments	25%
- **You cannot pass this course without passing the keyboard component.**

**Course Policies:**

- All students must sign in at lectures by 10:15am, after which time the sign-in roster will be removed, the lecture-room door may be locked, and the student will be regarded as having been absent from that lecture. Although you have until 10:15am to sign in, you are expected to be in the room and ready for class by 10:10am.
- Signing any name other than your own on the sign-in roster will be treated as an instance of academic misconduct and will be referred to the Associate Provost and the Dean for disciplinary action.
- A student's absence may be excused only if he/she submits to the instructor's departmental mailbox detailed handwritten notes from the course textbook thoroughly covering all missed information. These notes must be submitted by 9:30am on the first school day following the day of his/her return to class. The reason for the absence is immaterial.
- 3 unexcused absences, or 5 absences *of any sort*, will result in an automatic grade of NX (insufficient attendance).
- Assignments submitted after the end of the lecture in which they are due but before the end of the following lecture period will lose 30% of their value. Assignments submitted thereafter will not be accepted. Exceptions can only be made if a doctor's note is supplied confirming medical reasons why the assignment could not be submitted on time.
- The following are not permitted during lectures, unless explicitly solicited by the instructor:
  - the use of laptops, cell phones or mp3 players
  - talking with classmates
  - reading
  - doing homework
  - eating

I have read and understood this syllabus and I agreed to be bound by its conditions.

Name (print): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_