

ACE Music Theory Scope and Sequence

1st Semester Tentative Outline/Timeline of Course Topics:

- Unit 1: Notation – Pitch, notes, staves & staff systems, clefs; Organization of time in music – Rhythm & simple meters; Pitch & time together: the musical score.
- Unit 2: Pitch & the piano keyboard – half & whole steps (diatonic & chromatic), accidentals, enharmonics, ledger lines, octave designation; More about simple meters.
- Unit 3: Major key up to 4 accidentals – Major scale structure, key signatures and scales up to 4 accidentals; Rhythm & Meter: Subdivision of the simple beat.
- Unit 4: Major Keys up to 7 accidentals – key signatures & scales, major circle of 5th, tonic & dominant triad and tendency tones. Rhythm & Meter: tuplets.
- Unit 5: Minor keys – Natural minor scale structure, key signatures and scales, relative minor (la-based minor), parallel minor (do-based minor); Rhythm & meter – 8th and half note based simple meters.
- Unit 6: Harmonic & melodic minor scales – structure & use of harmonic & melodic minor, tonic triad and tendency tones in minor keys: Rhythm & meter: Compound meter.
- Unit 7: Intervals – number & quality, inverting intervals, enharmonic intervals.
- Unit 8: Triads & 7th chords – structure & quality, inversions, analysis/naming. Rhythm & meter 16th & quarter note based compound meters.

2nd Semester Tentative Outline/Timeline of Course Topics:

- Unit 1: (text chapters 3 & 4): Triads & 7th chords - Construction & spelling, qualities, alterations, inversions, figured bass & lead sheet symbols, chords in various textures, diatonic triads in major & minor keys, 7th chords in major & minor keys.
- Unit 2: (text chapter 5): Beginning harmony - principles of voice leading, notating chords, voicing single triads, parallel motion.
- Unit 3: (text chapter 6): Beginning voice leading: Root position part writing - writing with repeated roots, writing with roots a 4th (5th) apart, writing with roots a 3rd (6th) apart, writing with roots a 2nd (7th) apart, writing for instruments: ranges and transpositions.
- Unit 4: (text chapter 7) Harmonic progression and the sequence.
- Unit 5: (text chapter 8): Triads in first inversion - part writing, sop-bass counterpoint.
- Unit 6: (text chapter 9): Triads in second inversion - arpeggiation and the melodic bass, cadential six-four, passing six-four, pedal six-four, part writing considerations.
- Unit 7: (text chapter 11 and 12): Non chord tones – passing tones, neighboring tones, suspensions, retardations, appoggiaturas, escape tones, neighbor group, anticipations, pedal tones.