

A SHORT COURSE IN
MUSIC THEORY

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COURSE OBJECTIVE:

At the end of this course you are expected to be able to construct a major scale beginning on any note utilizing sharps and flats appropriately to create the proper intervals based on the structure 2-2-1-2-2-2-1. You should be able to create the basic triads on each note of the scale, assign correct roman numerals to each chord and describe each chord in terms of: the intervals involved; major, minor, or diminished tonality, and correctly identify which notes from the scale are added to the naturally occurring chords within the scale to create: sixths, sevenths, augmented and diminished fourths and fifths. You will be expected to correctly annotate roman numeral notation to express alterations of chords both those natural to the scale and borrowed chords as well.

Chord progressions will be covered and you will be expected to correctly identify those commonly used with an 80% accuracy.

APPROACH:

No structure can be built unless a proper foundation is created. The most recognized example is a house. No structural work can be done until the foundation has been set. Without that, the structure would settle, drift, and quickly fall apart. This concept applies equally to the building of a piece of machinery, an automobile, and also to music.

The foundation of music is the scale. To spend an inordinate amount of time on them results in a boring, tedious, and discouraging course of study. But the basic understanding is required.

This course is short consisting of some 6-8 lessons. It begins with the examination of scales with some written exercises. That is followed by the construction of natural chords, those naturally occurring within the construct of the scale, the explanation of tonality, and the introduction of the roman numeral system. These two first lessons must be understood thoroughly. Borrowed chords are covered along with a roman numeral annotation methodology.

This section will be expanded as the course materials are completed.

There are no examinations or grading within this course. It will be assumed that when the student responds to the exercises indicated that the material has been understood so it is imperative that if there are any questions, however minor, that they be asked so clarification can be offered.