

Note:

Course content may be changed, term to term, without notice. The information below is provided as a guide for course selection and is not binding in any form, and should not be used to purchase course materials.

COURSE SYLLABUS

WMUS 103

BASIC MUSIC SKILLS FOR WORSHIP LEADING

COURSE DESCRIPTION

A practical introduction to harmonic, melodic, and rhythmic principles of music for the worship leader. Musical elements including key signatures, scales, intervals, chords, chord construction and chord progression are introduced as the foundation for harmonic analysis of traditional, contemporary Christian, popular, and jazz music. Special attention is given to the Nashville Number System and jazz harmony practices as an accepted methodology for music analysis. Examination of contemporary Christian music genres provides resource for practical application of harmonic principles.

RATIONALE

As practitioners of worship in the 21st-century church, one of our primary mediums of communication is music. Music serves as a valuable tool for the facilitation of worship within the local church, and though this medium is not itself worship, it is commonplace in the evangelical community. Music, therefore, merits thorough understanding and study. This course seeks to provide a foundational understanding of music through exploration of the elements most critical to the worship leader.

I. PREREQUISITE

For information regarding prerequisites for this course, please refer to the [Academic Course Catalog](#).

II. REQUIRED RESOURCE PURCHASE

Click on the following link to view the required resource(s) for the term in which you are registered: <http://bookstore.mbsdirect.net/liberty.htm>

III. ADDITIONAL MATERIALS FOR LEARNING

- A. Computer with basic audio/video output equipment
- B. Internet access (broadband recommended)
- C. Blackboard [recommended browsers](#)
- D. Microsoft Office

IV. MEASURABLE LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- A. Fluently read treble and bass clef notes.
- B. Express and identify meter types.

- C. Identify scales with corresponding key relationships.
- D. Accurately identify and construct musical intervals.
- E. Identify and construct triads.
- F. Use Nashville numbers
- G. Craft charts for worship leading.

V. COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS

- A. Textbook readings and lecture presentations
- B. Course Requirements Checklist
After reading the Course Syllabus and [Student Expectations](#), the student will complete the related checklist found in Module/Week 1.
- C. Discussion Board Forums (2)
Discussion boards are collaborative learning experiences. Therefore, the student is required to create a thread in response to the provided prompt for each forum. Each thread must be at least 200 words and demonstrate course-related knowledge. In addition to the thread, the student is required to reply to 2 other classmates' threads. Each reply must be at least 150 words.
- D. Workbook Assignments (7)
The student will complete 7 workbook assignments that focus on foundational elements of music. The worksheets needed to complete each assignment are in the back of the textbook. Once completed, each workbook assignment must be scanned and uploaded to Blackboard as a single PDF document.
- E. Charting Assignment
Using course techniques, the student will craft a chord chart for use in worship leading. Elements such as proper format and overall structure are of critical importance. After reviewing the Reading & Study materials for the assigned module/week, the student will use the provided lyrics, lead sheet, and audio file to create a chord chart in Microsoft Word. The chord chart must include all of the major elements discussed in the presentation titled "Creating a Chord Chart."
- F. Interval Application Worksheet
The student will finish constructing the melody of a given lead sheet using the concept of intervals.
- G. Traid Application Assignment
The student will select a worship song. The student will then obtain a chord chart or lead sheet for the selected song and translate the leadsheet symbols into written notes.

H. Nashville Numbers Application Assignment

Given a chord chart, the student will translate the leadsheet symbols into Nashville Numbers.

I. Final Project

The student will create a rhythm plus chart for use in worship leading. Completion of this project requires an in-depth understanding of not only course concepts, but also their application to worship ministry. The student will use the provided files to create a rhythm plus chart that is useful for musical worship. The chart must include two staves: one for the vocal melody with lyrics below and one of the slash chart with chords above. The chart must also include clefs, a key signature, a time signature, a starting tempo, dynamic markings throughout, section/rehearsal markings, and vocal and instrumental instructions.

J. Quizzes (6)

Each quiz will cover the Reading & Study material for the module/week in which it is assigned. The quizzes will be open-book/open-notes and contain multiple-choice, multiple-answer, and matching questions. Quizzes 1, 2, 3, 5, and 6 will have a time limit of 30 minutes. Since Quiz 4 is longer, the student will have 1 hour to complete it. In addition to the graded quizzes, a series of practice quizzes is provided. The student can repeat the practice quizzes as often and as many times as desired. The goal of these practice quizzes is to hone skill and understanding in preparation for the graded quizzes.

VI. COURSE GRADING AND POLICIES

A. Points

Course Requirements Checklist	10
Discussion Board Forums (2 at 25 pts ea)	50
Workbook Assignments (7 at 40 pts ea)	280
Charting Assignment	100
Interval Application Assignment	75
Traid Application Assignment	50
Nashville Numbers Application Assignment	50
Final Project	150
Quizzes (5 at 35 pts ea, 1 at 70 pts)	245
Total	1010

B. Scale

A = 900–1010 B = 800–899 C = 700–799 D = 600–699 F = 0–599

C. Disability Assistance

Students with a documented disability may contact Liberty University Online's Office of Disability Accommodation Support (ODAS) at LUOODAS@liberty.edu to make arrangements for academic accommodations. Further information can be found at www.liberty.edu/disabilitysupport.

If you have a complaint related to disability discrimination or an accommodation that was not provided, you may contact ODAS or the Office of Equity and Compliance by phone at (434) 592-4999 or by email at equityandcompliance@liberty.edu. Click to see a full copy of Liberty's [Discrimination, Harassment, and Sexual Misconduct Policy](#) or the [Student Disability Grievance Policy and Procedures](#).

COURSE SCHEDULE

WMUS 103

Textbook: Kinchen & Miller, *Music Theory for the Christian Musician: Part One* (2015).

MODULE /WEEK	READING & STUDY	ASSIGNMENTS	POINTS
1	Kinchen & Miller: ch. 1 5 presentations 3 practice quizzes	Course Requirements Checklist	10
		Class Introductions	0
		DB Forum 1	25
		Workbook Assignment 1	40
		Quiz 1	35
2	Kinchen & Miller: chs. 1 & 2 4 presentations 2 practice quizzes	Workbook Assignment 2	40
		Quiz 2	35
		Quiz 3	35
3	Kinchen & Miller: ch. 2 3 presentations	Workbook Assignment 3	40
		Charting Assignment	100
4	Kinchen & Miller: chs 3 & 4 3 presentations 3 practice quizzes	Workbook Assignment 4	40
		Quiz 4	70
5	Kinchen & Miller: ch. 5 3 presentations 1 practice quiz	Workbook Assignment 5	40
		Interval Application Assignment	75
		Quiz 5	35
6	Kinchen & Miller: ch. 7 3 presentations 1 practice quiz	Workbook Assignment 6	40
		Triad Application Assignment	50
		Quiz 6	35
7	Kinchen & Miller: ch. 8 3 presentations	Workbook Assignment 7	40
		Nashville Numbers Application Assignment	50
8	Kinchen & Miller: ch. 9 3 presentations	DB Forum 2	25
		Final Project	150
TOTAL			1010

DB = Discussion Board

NOTE: Each course module/week (except Module/Week 1) begins on Tuesday morning at 12:00 a.m. (ET) and ends on Monday night at 11:59 p.m. (ET). The final module/week ends at 11:59 p.m. (ET) on **Friday**.