Course description: Fundamentals of Music is an introduction to the basics of tonal music theory. Students who complete this course will be able to notate rhythms and identify pitches in three clefs; they will demonstrate an understanding, through identifying and writing, of such important organizational aspects of tonal music as major and minor scales, concepts of mode (major and minor key circle of fifths), and materials such as intervals, chords, and chord progressions. They will further demonstrate a rudimentary understanding of harmony through roman numeral analysis of simple diatonic music. Students will also learn concepts of rhythms, melody, and harmony, and exercise creativity, by writing rhythm exercises and major and minor key melodies, culminating in a final composition involving melodies and chords. In order to develop an aural knowledge of what musical symbols represent, students will also perform very basic melodies and rhythms by singing and clapping.

A broader purpose of the course is to help students acquire listening skills that may be applied to many types of music. Students will listen to live and recorded music in and out of class and will be expected to write two short (2-3 page) papers in response to their attendance at two “live” concerts that

1. Demonstrate the ability to write grammatical English at a college level in two, two- to three-page papers and
2. Apply music concepts (i.e. meter, texture, orchestration, mode, dynamics, form) learned in class to the listening experience of music.

In addition to writing two (2-3 page) papers, students will demonstrate their acquisition of the knowledge and skills of the course through copious graded homework assignments, 9-10 quizzes, a midterm, final examination, and the composition of one 24-measure piece in A-B-A form.

Examples used in class will be drawn from a variety of musical styles, but will concentrate mostly on the Western classical tradition. This course is the ideal preparation for all of the many courses offered by the music department to students outside of the music major, including theory and analysis, musicianship, and music history courses. It is the hope of the instructor and the department that Fundamentals of Music will inspire students in a lifelong engagement with, and appreciation of, music.

There are no prerequisites for the course. Although prior musical training will be helpful, the conscientious student will acquire all of the necessary skills through homework exercises, class drills, quizzes, and tests.
**Required materials:** The text for the course is *Rudiments of Music: A Concise Guide to Music Theory*, second edition, by Perry Goldstein. It is available in the campus bookstore.

**Assignments and Exams:** There will be a midterm and final examination and frequent short quizzes. Course work will include written assignments in the text, perhaps a 1- or 2-page write-up based on certain materials covered, two concert reports, and the musical composition that will be due at the end of the term. Concert attendance at two University of St. Thomas concerts will be mandatory (see below).

For assignments including compositions, students are encouraged to use pianos available in the practice rooms in this building during building hours.

**Homework:** Final grades for homework will be based on the percentage of work completed. Do your homework in pencil and erase your errors. Homework will be graded with a ✓ + (100) for conscientiously prepared work, ✓ (90) for good work, and ✓ - (70) for inadequately prepared work. Any late homework will be given an automatic ✓ - (70), which is far better than a grade of 0 so it is in your best interest to still turn in homework even if it is late.

**Quizzes** are important for building and maintaining your new music skills, and they also give you an opportunity to master the material prior to the exams. Quizzes may not be made up except under extenuating circumstances as approved by the instructor. The lowest quiz grade will be dropped.

**Attendance at two concerts is required** and the resultant concert reports will constitute 10% of your final grade. The University Singers Sacred Music Concert in the Chapel of St. Basil on Tuesday, October 4 at 7:30 PM is required for your first concert report. The second concert that you attend and write your report on may be of your choice, but it must be one of the concerts offered in the Fall semester 2016 at the university (see attached sheet for a list of all UST 2016-2017 concerts). The concert reports will give the class an opportunity to attend concerts together and develop listening skills and the ability to articulate their perceptions. Papers should be typed and commensurate with all written work expected of students on the college level.

**Attendance and Participation** are crucial for building theory skills. Ten percent of the final grade is based on class participation. **Excessive absence will lower your grade.**

**Exams:** A midterm examination will cover the materials in the first half of the class, and a final, comprehensive exam during finals week will cover the material for the entire course. Exams may not be made up unless you have a verifiable illness or emergency. You must notify me by email in advance if you must miss an exam and need a make-up, or on occasions when that is not possible, as soon after the missed class period as possible.
Grading Breakdown for Music Fundamentals
Quizzes: 20%
Homework: 25%
Midterm: 15%
Final: 15%
Concert Reports: 10%
Final Composition: 5%
Class Participation: 10%
Total: 100%

Academic Honesty
Each student must pursue his or her academic goals honestly and be personally accountable for all submitted work. Representing another person’s work as your own is always wrong. Any suspected instance of academic dishonesty will be reported to the university’s Academic Committee. More information may be found in the section on “Academic Integrity” in the UST 2016-2017 student handbook.

Disability Services for Students
If you have a physical, psychological, medical, or learning disability that may impact your course work, please contact Counseling and Disability Services (C&DS). They will determine with you what accommodations are necessary and appropriate. All information and documentation is confidential.