The main purpose of the course, however, is to explore basic music theory so thoroughly that the interested student will then be able to easily pick up whatever further theory is wanted. Music history and the physics of sound are included to the extent that they shed light on music theory. Remember, the main premise of this course is that a better understanding of where the basics come from will lead to better and faster comprehension of more complex ideas.

### 1: Understanding Basic Music Theory: Course Introduction
- **1.1: Course Introduction**

### 2: Notation

#### 2.1: Pitch
- **2.1.1: The Staff**
- **2.1.2: Clef**
- **2.1.3: Pitch: Sharp, Flat, and Natural Notes**
- **2.1.4: Key Signature**
- **2.1.5: Enharmonic Spelling**

#### 2.2: Time
- **2.2.1: Duration: Note Lengths in Written Music**
- 2.2.2: Duration: Rest Length
- 2.2.3: Time Signature
- 2.2.4: Meter
- 2.2.5: Pickup Notes and Measures
- 2.2.6: Dots, Ties, and Borrowed Divisions
- 2.2.7: Syncopation
- 2.2.8: Tempo
- 2.2.9: Repeats and Other Musical Road Map Signs

- 2.3: Style
  - 2.3.1: Dynamics and Accents
  - 2.3.2: Articulation

- 3: Definitions
  - 3.1: Rhythm
  - 3.2: Timbre
  - 3.3: Melody
  - 3.4: Texture
  - 3.5: Harmony
  - 3.6: Counterpoint
  - 3.7: Range
  - 3.8: Classifying Music

- 4: The Physical Basis
  - 4.1: Acoustics for Music Theory
  - 4.2: Standing Waves and Musical Instruments
  - 4.3: Harmonic Series I: Timbre and Octaves

- 5: Notes and Scales
  - 5.1: Octaves and the Major-Minor Tonal System
  - 5.2: Half Steps and Whole Steps
  - 5.3: Major Keys and Scales
  - 5.4: Minor Keys and Scales
  - 5.5: Interval
  - 5.6: Harmonic Series II: Harmonics, Intervals, and Instruments
• 5.7: The Circle of Fifths
• 5.8: Scales that are not Major or Minor

• 6: Harmony and Form
  • 6.1: Triads
  • 6.2: Naming Triads
  • 6.3: Consonance and Dissonance
  • 6.4: Beyond Triads: Naming Other Chords
  • 6.5: Beginning Harmonic Analysis
  • 6.6: Cadence
  • 6.7: Form

• 7: Challenges
  • 7.1: Ear Training
  • 7.2: Tuning System
  • 7.3: Modes and Ragas
  • 7.4: Transposition: Changing Keys

• Back Matter

• Front Matter
  • TitlePage
  • InfoPage
  • Table of Contents