

Community Education – Fall Quarter 2026

Course Title: Rhythm: Making the Most Out of Time

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Course Description

Rhythm is music's most tactile dimension, grounding us in physicality and gesture. Discover the Western system of rhythm and notation inside and out! With over a hundred listening examples including classical, folk, ragtime, jazz, pop, film scores, and Broadway, you'll learn to identify rhythms and meter with no prior musical training. Get set to clap and rap with this interactive and exciting six-week course.

Course Details

Date: Thursdays, 10/8 – 11/19

Time: 4:00pm – 6:00pm

Location: Room 102, Beacock Music Hall, Main Campus, 1933 Fort Vancouver Way.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, students will:

- learn music notation where rhythm and meter are concerned
 - gain a practical command of basic rhythms and patterns.
 - understand both simple and compound meter in a variety of genres.
 - enjoy the history of rhythmic development in Western music.
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Course Schedule

Week 1, Oct 8:

Introduction to note values, rhythm patterns, and their notation.

Week 2, Oct 15:

Simple meter: time signatures, division and subdivision of the beat.

Week 3, Oct 22:

Converting to different beat units, pickups, triplets.

Week 4, Oct 29:

Compound meter, 6/8, 9/8, and 12/8 plus counting strategies.

Week 5, Nov 5:

Syncopation and the hemiola.

Week 6, Nov 12:

Irregular and composite meter, changing time signatures, polyrhythms.

Week 7, Nov 19:

Non-Western influences, a concise history of rhythm in music, from Ancient Greek rhythm to jazz, pop, and beatboxing.

Resources

Recommended references for further study:

- Breaking Barlines: my online music theory course with *FREE* video lessons and downloadable materials. <https://breakingbarlines.com>
- Alfred Rhythm Workshop Studying Rhythm, 3rd ed., by Anne C. Hall
- Ancient Traditions, Future Possibilities, by Matthew Montfort (for African-based rhythms)

Class Evaluation

- Class evaluations are sent by email.
- If you don't see it right away, check your **junk/spam folder**.
- Evaluations are **anonymous** and come directly from Clark College.
- If you don't receive one, contact:
 - Email: continuingeducation@clark.edu
 - Phone: 360-992-2939

Inclement Weather

- If the college closes due to weather, updates will appear at www.clark.edu
- Community Education may also cancel classes independently if travel is unsafe.
- If canceled, you will be notified by both phone and email.
- Please check that your contact information is correct on the class roster.

More Classes

Looking for more Community Education courses? Visit: www.clark.edu/cce/