The University of Texas at El Paso
MUST 2112: Aural Skills IV
1 Credit

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Prerequisites: A minimum grade of ‘C’ in MUST 2111(Aural Skills III) and MUST 2313 (Music Theory III)
Corequisite: MUST 2314 (Music Theory IV)

Course Materials
• Required Textbook: Ottoman and Rodgers, Music for Sight Singing, 7th Ed. (Prentice Hall, 2007)
• Metronome, Pencil, and Manuscript Paper
• Practica Musica, Version 5 (software program available in the music library computer lab)
• Practice Dictation Examples on UTEP My Space portal (available at directory: /ddousa)

Course Description
• This course is the last in the required four-semester sequence in aural skills for music majors. It involves active participation by students in class exercises in prepared singing, sight singing, and dictation. Topics include singing major- and minor-key melodies that involve advanced chromaticism, identifying augmented 6th chords and all types of 7th chords in all inversions, dictating 4-part harmonic progressions involving chords studied in MUST 2313 and MUST 2314, and an introduction (including dictation and singing) to modal scales, atonality, and asymmetrical meter. Fundamental materials from previous semesters will be reviewed and reinforced. Computer-assisted instruction (CAI) will be used for dictation exercises. Students will make connections between the written language of music learned in music theory class and the aural comprehension of the sounds the language represents. Musicianship skills developed in this course are valuable for application to music performance, pedagogy, composition, arranging, and analysis.

Course Objectives
Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to
• accurately sing melodies, both prepared and at first sight, that involve elements of late 19th- and 20th-century music.
• accurately notate pitch and rhythm of melodies (involving major or minor keys with chromaticism and modal scales, in simple, compound, and asymmetrical meters) that they hear.
• identify 7th chords, augmented 6th chords, modal scales, and 20th-century scales by ear, as well as to accurately dictate harmonic progressions (outer voices and chord functions) involving chromatic chords studied in MUST 2313 and MUST 2314.

Course Outline
• Attendance/Class Participation. Keeping up with course material is extremely important. While there is no formal attendance component in the calculation of your final grade, you are expected to be in class, arrive on time, and to not leave the classroom once class has begun.
Absences due to extenuating circumstances (illness, legal matter, emergency) must be documented and confirmed in writing. If documentation of an absence is not provided, that absence will be considered unexcused and will result in no credit for any homework due that day, or any quizzes or exams given that day. Any devices that may cause a disturbance (i.e., pagers, cell phones, etc.) must be turned off prior to class.

• Homework. Homework assignments will include exercises with CAI, as well as preparation of melodies for singing in class. Unless otherwise noted, assignments are to be turned in at the beginning of the class period on the due date. No credit will be awarded for late assignments unless documentation of an excused absence is provided or unless arrangements have been made prior to class. Assignments will include exercises for developing basic improvisation skills.

In addition to required homework assignments, practice dictation exercises with answer keys will be made available through the UTEP My Space portal throughout the semester. These exercises will provide practice materials for dictation quizzes and exams.
To be successful in this course and in developing aural skills in general, consistent daily study and practice is necessary. The amount of time needed to master material may vary from student to student. However, it is most important that you work on your ear-training and sight-singing skills daily. As you study and practice examples from class and from your applied studies, listen carefully and try to understand as completely as possible what you are hearing. IF YOU WOULD LIKE SOME INDIVIDUAL PRACTICE, PLEASE STOP BY OR SEND ME AN E-MAIL — I’M HAPPY TO HELP OUT!

*Quiz*. Short dictation quizzes and singing quizzes will be given frequently to test mastery of specific topics. Quizzes missed due to an unexcused absence or tardiness cannot be made up.

*Midterm and Final Exams*. Exams will include written and singing components. Dictation exams will be given in class, while singing tests will be given individually.

PLEASE NOTE: Missed assignments and quizzes can have a significant effect on your overall grade. Exams cannot be made up except in the case of a true emergency. Written documentation is required for an absence on the day of the exam. The final exam will be given only at the time scheduled by the university.

Tentative Semester Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEEK</th>
<th>TOPIC</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Singing of melodies and melodic/rhythmic dictation involving chromaticism and syncopation, 7\textsuperscript{th}-chord ID, harmonic dictation involving chromaticism</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>MIDTERM EXAM #1 (Singing – Tuesday / Dictation – Thursday)</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Progressive exercises in singing, dictation, and chord ID involving advanced chromatic harmony</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Introduction to modal scales</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>MIDTERM EXAM #2 (Singing – Tuesday / Dictation – Thursday)</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Introduction to late 19\textsuperscript{th} and 20\textsuperscript{th}-century musical materials</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>UPPER-LEVEL AURAL SKILLS BARRIER EXAM*</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Progressive singing &amp; dictation exercises involving 20\textsuperscript{th}-century musical materials</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>SINGING EXAM #3</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Finals Week</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>FINAL EXAM (DICTATION)</td>
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* During this week, the upper-level aural skills barrier exam will be administered. This exam covers all material from Aural Skills I (MUST 1111) through Week 10 in this course. A passing score on this exam (and on the Theory portion of the exam) is a prerequisite for enrollment in upper-level music theory courses. Also, you must earn at least a grade of ‘C’ in MUST 2112 and MUST 2314 to enroll in upper-level music theory classes.

Information on the content and due dates for specific assignments and quizzes will be announced in class.

**Grading**

Grades will be calculated based on homework, quizzes, and exams. Each component will be calculated as a percentage score (for example, if your earn 40 out of a possible 45 points on a singing midterm, your percentage score for that component would be $40/45 \times 100 = 88.9\%$). In determining your final grade, these scores will be weighted according to outline on the next page. A sample grade calculation is also provided.
Homework 5%  
Quizzes 15%  
Midterm 1 (Singing) 10% (Dictation) 10%  
Midterm 2 (Singing) 10% (Dictation) 10%  
Singing Exam 3 20%  
Final Exam (Dictation) 20%  

Grading Scale

90% and up A  
80% up to 90% B  
70% up to 80% C  
60% up to 70% D  
Below 60% F

SAMPLE SEMESTER GRADE CALCULATION

Homework: 264 out of 300 total points earned = 88.0%  
Quizzes: 100 out of 130 total points earned = 76.9%  
Singing Midterm Exam #1: 40 out of 45 points earned = 88.9%  
Dictation Midterm Exam #1: 60 out of 77 points earned = 77.9%  
Singing Midterm Exam #2: 42 out of 45 points earned = 93.3%  
Dictation Midterm Exam #2: 40 out of 68 points earned = 58.8%  
Singing Final Exam: 50 out of 55 points earned = 90.9%  
Dictation Final Exam: 66 out of 80 points earned = 82.5%

Final Grade: .05*88.0 + .15*76.9 + .10*88.9 + .10*77.9 + .10*93.3 + .10*58.8 + .20*90.9 + .20*82.5 = 82.5 = B

- Census Day is the last day to drop a course without a grade of ‘W’.
- A grade of ‘W’ will be reported only if the student withdraws from the course by the Course Drop Deadline.
- A grade of ‘I’ will be reported only if extenuating circumstances (extended illness, legal matters, emergency) prevent the student from completing the course. An ‘I’ will not be given as a substitute for a failing grade. The student and instructor will determine a timetable for completion of all course requirements in a time frame that is in accordance with UTEP policy.
- Academic Dishonesty. Cheating is unethical, not acceptable, and a serious matter. Plagiarism is using information or original wording in a paper without giving credit to the source of that information or wording: it is also not acceptable. Do not submit work under your name that you did not do yourself. You may not submit work for this class that you did for another class. If you are found to be cheating or plagiarizing, you will be subject to disciplinary action according to UTEP catalog policy. Please see [http://www.utep.edu/dos/acadintg.htm](http://www.utep.edu/dos/acadintg.htm) for more information.
- Special Needs. I will make any reasonable accommodations for students with limitations due to disabilities, including learning disabilities. Please see me personally before or after class in the first two weeks or make an appointment to discuss any special needs you might have. If you have a documented disability and require specific accommodations, you will need to contact the Disabled Student Services (DSSO) at 747-5148 or at dss@utep.edu, or stop by at Room 106 in the Union East Building.

Names and Contact Information for Classmates

_________________________________ E-mail _____________________ Phone_________________

_________________________________ E-mail _____________________ Phone_________________

**PLEASE NOTE:** The information on this syllabus is subject to change. Any changes (e.g., dates of exams, subjects covered) will be announced in class and/or via email.