The University of Texas at El Paso
MUST 2112: Aural Skills IV
Spring 2014 / 1 Credit
TR 8:00-8:50 (Section 001) / MWF 9:00-9:50 (Section 003)
Fox Fine Arts 343

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Dominic Dousa
OFFICE: FFA 437
OFFICE PHONE: (915) 747-7819
EMAIL: ddousa@utep.edu

For information about the instructor, please see http://faculty.utep.edu/ddousa

**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**
- Metronome, Pencil, and Manuscript Paper
- Practice dictation examples on UTEP MSpace 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, dictation, and error detection. Topics include singing major- and minor-key melodies that involve advanced chromaticism; identifying 7th chords and 9th chords; melodic, harmonic, and rhythmic dictation involving materials 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, in simple, compound, and asymmetrical meters) that they hear.
- identify 7th chords, 9th chords, 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.
- detect errors in pitch and rhythm for examples with four parts.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**
- *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.

Any devices that may cause a disturbance (i.e., pagers, cell phones, computers, etc.) must be turned off prior to class. Students who disrupt class will be dismissed and forfeit credit for any quizzes or exams that take place that day.
Absences due to extenuating circumstances (illness, legal matter, emergency) must be documented and confirmed in writing. Failure to notify the instructor or the Department of Music office (915-747-5606) of any extenuating circumstances before class (or, in the case of an immediate emergency, as soon as is possible), will result in no credit for any missed work.

- **Dictation Practice.** There is no formal homework to turn in for credit, though it is essential that you drill exercises daily. Identification exercises will be available with the program Practica Musica and on the websites [www.teoria.com](http://www.teoria.com) and [www.musictheory.net](http://www.musictheory.net). Practice dictation exercises with answer keys will be made available through the UTEP MSpace portal throughout the semester. These exercises will provide practice materials for dictation quizzes and exams.

- **Quizzes.** Short dictation 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.

- **Exams.** The Midterm and Final Exams will include written and singing components. Dictation exams will be given in class, while singing tests will be given individually. The Upper-Level Aural Skills Barrier Exam will be given in Week 7 of the semester.

**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. The final exam will be given only at the time scheduled by the university.

### TENTATIVE SEMESTER SCHEDULE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEEK</th>
<th>DATES</th>
<th>CLASS TOPIC / ACTIVITY</th>
<th>EXAMS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>January 21, 23</td>
<td>Singing: Melodies in Simple Meter with Syncopation</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Dictation: Rhythm (Syncopation), Melody &amp; Harmony (Review)</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>January 28, 30</td>
<td>Singing: Melodies in Compound Meter with Syncopation</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Dictation: Melody &amp; Harmony (Major Keys with Chromaticism)</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>February 4, 6</td>
<td>Singing: Melodies at First Sight (Major Keys, Simple Meter with Subdivision)</td>
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<td>Dictation: Error Detection in Melodies</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>February 11, 13</td>
<td>Singing: <strong>Midterm Exam #1 (2/13)</strong></td>
<td>Midterm Exam #1 (Singing)</td>
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<td>Dictation: 7th Chords in Open Voicing, Review</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>February 18, 20</td>
<td>Singing: Melodies with Substituted Beat Division</td>
<td>Midterm Exam #1 (Dictation)</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Dictation: <strong>Midterm Exam #1 (2/18)</strong></td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>February 25, 27</td>
<td>Singing: Melodies with Substituted Beat Division (continued)</td>
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<td>Dictation: Melody &amp; Harmony (Minor Keys with Chromaticism)</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>March 4, 6</td>
<td><strong>Upper-Level Barrier Exam (Part 1 – 3/4, Part 2 – 3/6)</strong></td>
<td>Barrier Exam</td>
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<td>March 10-14</td>
<td>SPRING BREAK</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>March 18, 22</td>
<td>Singing: Melodies at First Sight (Minor Keys with Chromaticism)</td>
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<td>Dictation: Rhythm (Compound Meter with Syncopation)</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>March 25, 27</td>
<td>Singing: Modal Scales</td>
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<td>Dictation: Melodic &amp; Harmonic Error Detection, Modal Scale ID</td>
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</table>
| 10 | April 1, 3 | Singing: Review — Sight-Singing & Prepared-Singing Materials  
Dictation: Review and Drill — Melody, Rhythm, and Harmony | Midterm Exam #2 (Singing – 4/8, Dictation – 4/10)  
Midterm Exam #2 |
| 11 | April 8, 10 |  
Midterm Exam #2 (Singing – 4/8, Dictation – 4/10) |
| 12 | April 15, 17 | Singing: Modal Melodies  
Dictation: 20th-Century Scale ID, 9th-Chord ID |
| 13 | April 22, 24 | Singing: Melodies with Changing Meter & Asymmetrical Meter  
Dictation: Rhythm with Asymmetrical Meter, Melody with Harmony |
| 14 | April 29, May 1 | Singing: Practice — Melodies at First Sight  
Dictation: Error Detection, Review and Drill |
| 15 | May 6, 8 | Dictation: Review and Drill — Melody, Rhythm, and Harmony  
Singing Exam #3 (5/6)  
Singing Exam #3 |
| **FINALS WEEK** | May 12-16 | Final Exam (Dictation, *see below for date/time)  
Final Exam |

* TR 8:00-8:50 Class Final Exam Time: Thursday, 5/15; 7:00-9:45 AM  
* TR 9:00-9:50 Class Final Exam Time: Tuesday, 5/13; 10:00 AM-12:45 PM

Quizzes will be given 1-2 times a week. Information on the content for quizzes and exams will be announced in class.

**GRADING**

* During Week 7, the upper-level aural skills barrier exam will be administered. This dictation exam covers all material from Aural Skills I (MUST 1111) through Week 5 in this course, though its primary emphasis will be on fundamental materials from the first three semesters of the sequence. The purpose of the barrier exam is to ensure that students have mastered and retained fundamental foundational material throughout the four-semester theory and aural skills sequence.

* A below-passing score on this exam will result in a maximum overall course grade of D. A score of below 60% on this exam will result in a maximum overall course grade of F.

For students who earn a passing score on the barrier exam, the course grade will be based on quizzes and exams. Each component will be calculated as a percentage score (for example, if you earn 33 out of a possible 40 points on an exam, your percentage score for that component would be 33/40 * 100 = 82.5%). These scores will be weighted according to the following outline in determining your final grade. A sample semester grade calculation is provided on the next page.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>% of Overall Grade</th>
<th>Grading Scale</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes (Singing &amp; Dictation)</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>90% and above</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam #1 (Singing)</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>80% up to 90%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam #1 (Dictation)</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>70% up to 80%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Barrier Exam (Dictation)</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>60% up to 70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam #2 (Singing)</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>Below 60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam #2 (Dictation)</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Singing Exam #3</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam (Dictation)</td>
<td>20%</td>
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For students with final grades within 1% of the next grade level (59%, 69%, 79%, 89%), the instructor may assign a higher grade if the student has (1) attended class regularly, (2) not missed quizzes and exams, (3) demonstrated consistent effort in mastering class material, and (4) shown improvement throughout the semester.

SAMPLE SEMESTER GRADE CALCULATION

Quizzes: 100 out of 130 total points earned = 76.9%
Singing Midterm Exam #1: 31 out of 40 points earned = 77.5%
Dictation Midterm Exam #1: 64 out of 77 points earned = 83.1%
Barrier Exam: 140 out of 150 points earned = 93.3%
Singing Midterm Exam #2: 30 out of 40 points earned = 75.0%
Dictation Midterm Exam #2: 40 out of 68 points earned = 58.8%
Singing Final Exam: 37 out of 45 points earned = 82.2%
Dictation Final Exam: 108 out of 135 points earned = 80.0%

Final Grade: .05*76.9 + .15*77.5 + .10*83.1 + .15*75.0 + .10*58.8 + .15*82.2 + .20*80.0 = 78.6 = C

* Census Day is Wednesday, February 5. This 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 (Friday, April 4).
* 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. Students found to be cheating will be subject to disciplinary action according to UTEP policy. Please see “Student Conduct and Discipline” in the UTEP Handbook of Operating Procedures for more information (http://admin.utep.edu/LinkClick.aspx?link=docs%2fStudent+Conduct+and+Discipline.pdf&tabid=71896&mid=163588).

* 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 Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) at 747-5148 or at cass@utep.edu, or stop by at Room 106 in the Union East Building.

**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.