

# **Aural Skills I – MUST 1111: Sections 1 & 2**

University of Texas at El Paso, Department of Music – Fall 2023 Syllabus

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Stephen Nordstrom, Associate Professor of Violin

EMAIL: [sbnordstrom@utep.edu](mailto:sbnordstrom@utep.edu)

OFFICE: Fox Fine Arts Center, Room 434

OFFICE HOURS: Thursdays (by appointment), and Fridays (12:00–12:30 pm)

## **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course is the first in a four-semester sequence of aural skills for music majors. It includes practice in interval, scale, and chord recognition, pulse and meter identification, rhythmic and melodic dictation, and diatonic sight singing. Instruction will explore all major and minor keys as well as simple and compound meters. Co-requisite for the course is MUST 1313. Pre-requisite is MUST 1312 with a grade of “C” or better OR a high score on the Music Theory Placement Exam. Musicianship skills gained in this course are applicable to all areas of music performance, theory, and pedagogy.

## **CLASS MEETINGS**

Fox Fine Arts Center, Room M101

*Section 1 – Tues. and Thurs., 8:00-8:50 am*

*Section 2 – Tues. and Thurs., 9:00-9:50 am*

**\*For class meetings and all assessment activities, you must attend the section in which you are enrolled.**

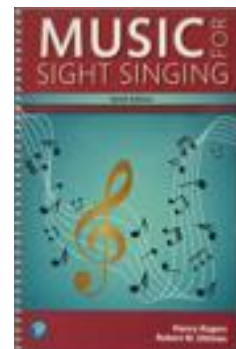
## **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Recognize diatonic intervals and be able to sing them at sight in treble and bass clef
- Recognize simple and compound meters and detect pulse and rhythm
- Sing diatonic melodies and scalar patterns at sight in both major and minor keys using solfege
- Accurately complete exercises in melodic dictation using major and minor keys
- Accurately notate rhythms in both simple and compound meters by ear

## **REQUIRED MATERIALS**

- Textbook – Rogers and Ottman, *Music for Sight Singing*, 10<sup>th</sup> Edition (Pearson 2019), [Print or Online Edition](#)
- [Auralia](#) Subscription (Purchased through UTEP Bookstore, \$35 for 12-month access)
- Metronome, manuscript or staff paper, pencils and eraser, piano keyboard for checking pitch (or smartphone/tablet app)



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## **BLACKBOARD and TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS**

The bulk of evaluative work will be completed online through our Aural Skills I course module in UTEP's Blackboard learning management system. Students will need access to a computer/tablet with internet as well as a microphone and webcam. A smart phone video recorder will suffice for making recordings. You will need to access the Blackboard course module to submit singing quizzes and to practice and complete quizzes/exams in Auralia.

## **COURSE COMMUNICATION**

- **Office Hours** – This will be the primary way for you to interact with me outside of the classroom regarding course activities. I will hold by appointment Office Hours on Thursday and in-person Office Hours (M434) on Friday from 12:00–12:30 pm.
- **Email** – If you have an urgent question or need immediate assistance, please email me through your designated UTEP email address. State your question clearly and include your full name and course section in the message. I will make every effort to respond to your email within 24 hours.
- **Announcements** – Check Blackboard regularly for announcements, updates, and important information about the class. These announcements go directly to your email when you are enrolled in the course.

## **ATTENDANCE and COURSE PARTICIPATION**

Attendance and course participation are vital to your success in this class and are therefore mandatory and included as part of your overall grade. Attendance will be taken through a sign-in sheet at the beginning of class. If you are not in your seat when the sign-in sheet goes around, you will receive zero attendance points for that day. There are **25 total class meetings** during the semester. Each time you are **present, you will earn 4 points**. If I do not take attendance on a particular day, each of you will receive 4 points. With a perfect record of attendance, you will receive 100 points at the conclusion of the semester.

**Attendance and class participation will comprise 10% of the final grade.**

***\*If you attempt to sign in for a friend, you will both receive zero points and your case will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution***

## **MAKE-UP WORK and LATE ASSIGNMENTS**

Make-up work will only be given in the case of a documentable emergency. It might be given in a different format and/or graded with penalty points. If you miss an assignment without a documentable excuse, you will receive a 50% deduction on that assignment. Reach out to me, in advance when possible, and explain with the proper documentation why you missed a certain assignment. Once the parameters for a make-up assignment have been set, no further extensions will be granted.

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I highly encourage you to submit your work early to help avoid technical difficulties that sometimes arise with last-minute submissions. If you are having trouble submitting an assignment, contact me as soon as possible by email. If you experience technical difficulties that are beyond your troubleshooting abilities, please contact the [UTEP Help Desk](#).

## **COURSE ASSIGNMENTS and GRADING**

### **Auralia Assignments**

- Bi-weekly Assigned Quizzes, *Due on Fridays by 11:59 pm*
- Will be completed and submitted through Auralia software, accessed via Blackboard

### **Singing and Rhythm Quizzes**

- Prepared singing and rhythm examples from *Music for Sight Singing* textbook, Bi-weekly, *Due on Fridays by 11:59 pm*
- Will be video recorded by the student and submitted via Blackboard or taken one-on-one during class time (see course schedule)

### **Exams (Two Midterms and One Final)**

- Each exam will have two separate parts – Dictation on Auralia and Singing in person
- The singing and dictation portions will each count for 50% of the total exam grade

**\*Singing quizzes/exams will be graded on rhythmic accuracy, solfege, and intonation**

The final grade will be weighted as follows:

- Auralia Assignments – 20%
- Singing and Rhythm Quizzes – 20%
- Midterm Exams – 25%
- Final Exam – 25%
- Attendance/Participation – 10%

Grading Scale:

90-100 = A	80-89 = B	70-79 = C	60-69 = D	0-59 = F
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**\*Students must receive a grade of “C” or higher in Aural Skills I to move on to the next course in the sequence – Aural Skills II**

## **COURSE-DROP and INCOMPLETE GRADE POLICIES**

I will not initiate a course-drop in the event of excessive absence and lack of completed work. If you feel you are unable to complete the requirements of the course – including attendance and assignments – or have accumulated enough missed work that it will create a detrimental effect on your grade, let me know as soon as possible and then contact the [Registrar’s Office](#) to initiate the course-drop process. If you do not take these steps, you will be at risk of receiving an “F” for the semester.

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Incomplete grades may be requested if you have completed at least half of the course requirements and extenuating circumstances will hinder your ability to complete the remainder of the course before the conclusion of the semester. Speak with me as soon as possible if you feel this is warranted. If you are granted an incomplete for the semester, we will establish a list of assignments to be completed with concrete deadlines.

#### **ABSENCE FOR RELIGIOUS HOLY DAYS**

In the event that a class meeting, exam, or assignment falls on the day of a recognized religious holy day, the student must provide written notice to the instructor. This written notice should be submitted no less than ten days prior to the expected date of absence.

#### **EXCUSED ABSENCES FOR UNIVERSITY-RECOGNIZED ACTIVITIES**

Students representing UTEP in officially recognized University activities such as sporting events, band, or professional conferences must notify the Dean of Students of their upcoming absence no less than ten days prior to the absence. The student is responsible for providing the professor with a letter from the Dean of Students prior to the officially recognized activity. Make-up assignments and exams will be permitted with the consultation of the faculty and provided that the student follows the proper procedures.

#### **ACCOMMODATIONS POLICY**

Students with disabilities (e.g., physical, learning, psychiatric, visual, hearing, etc.) who need to arrange special classroom accommodations must notify me at the beginning of the semester with a letter from the [Center for Accommodations and Support Services](#) (CASS). Students are encouraged to contact the CASS Center for further information.

PHONE: 915-747-5148, EMAIL: [cass@utep.edu](mailto:cass@utep.edu), LOCATION: Union East Building, Room 106

#### **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

All UTEP students are expected to be honest and individual in their pursuit of truth and knowledge and will be held to the highest standards of academic integrity. Cheating, plagiarism, and collusion are unacceptable and will not be tolerated. All suspected violations will be reported to the [Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution](#) (OSCCR) for possible disciplinary action. Students are strongly encouraged to familiarize themselves with the university's policies on academic infringement from the [UTEP Handbook of Operating Procedures](#).

#### **COVID-19 PRECAUTIONS**

Please stay home if you have been diagnosed with COVID-19 or are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms. If you are feeling unwell, please let me know as soon as possible, so that we can work on appropriate accommodations. If you have tested positive for COVID-19, you are encouraged to report your results to [covidaction@utep.edu](mailto:covidaction@utep.edu), so that the Dean of Students

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Office can provide you with support and help with communication with your professors.  
The Student Health Center is equipped to provide COVID-19 testing.

### **FALL 2023 COURSE SCHEDULE (Subject to Change)**

Week	Auralia Topics	Music for Sight Singing	Assignments/Quizzes
1	Pulse Tapping, Meter Recognition, Rhythm Comparison	Chapter 1	Quiz #1 - Rhythm
2	ADD Pitch Comparison	Chapter 1 and 2	Auralia Quiz #1
3	ADD Interval Comparison	Chapter 1 and 2	Quiz #2 – Rhythm and Singing
4	ADD Interval Recognition, Contour	Chapter 1 and 2	Auralia Quiz #2
5	ADD Rhythm Elements	Chapter 2	Quiz #3 – Rhythm and Singing
6	<b>October 3<sup>rd</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> – Midterm Exam #1 (Dictation on Auralia, Singing in M101)</b>		
7	ADD Rhythm Element Dictation	Chapter 2 and 3	Auralia Quiz #3
8	ADD Rhythmic Dictation	Chapter 3	Quiz #4 - Singing
9	ADD Melodic Comparison	Chapter 3 and 4	Auralia Quiz #4
10	ADD Melodic Dictation	Chapter 3 and 4	Quiz #5 – Rhythm and Singing
11	<b>November 7<sup>th</sup>/9<sup>th</sup> – Midterm Exam #2 (Dictation on Auralia, Singing in M101 &amp; M434)</b>		
12	ADD Scales, Tonality	Chapter 3, 4, and 5	Auralia Quiz #5
13	ADD Chord Recognition, Chord Comparison	Chapter 4 and 5	_____
14	ADD Cadences	Chapter 4 and 5	Quiz #6 – Rhythm and Singing
15	_____	Chapter 4 and 5	Auralia Quiz #6
<b>Finals</b>	<b>December 11<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> – Final Exam Week (Dictation on Auralia, Singing in M101 &amp; M434)</b>		