

Aural Skills I: MUST 1111 – Sections 1 (8am) & 2 (9am)

University of Texas at El Paso, Department of Music -- Fall 2018

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Stephen Nordstrom, Assistant Professor of Violin

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OFFICE: Fox Fine Arts Center, Room 434

OFFICE HOURS: Thursday 10-11:00 am

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is the first in a four-semester sequence of aural skills for music majors. It includes practice in both diatonic sight-singing and rhythmic and melodic dictation. 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.

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
- ❖ Sing diatonic melodies at sight in both major and minor keys using solfeggio
- ❖ Accurately complete exercises in melodic dictation using major and minor keys
- ❖ Accurately notate rhythms in both simple and compound meters by ear

MEETING PLACE AND TIMES

Fox Fine Arts Center, Room M343

Tuesdays and Thursdays: 8:00-8:50 am (Section 1) & 9:00-9:50 (Section 2)

REQUIRED MATERIALS

- ❖ Textbook: Rogers and Ottman, *Music for Sight Singing*, 9th Edition (Pearson 2014)
- ❖ Metronome (for practice)
- ❖ Manuscript or staff paper, pencils, an eraser

Additional materials will be provided as handouts in class or posted to BlackBoard.

COURSE WEBSITE

All handouts and practice exercises for the class will be posted on BlackBoard under the MUST 1111.1 or MUST 1111.2 course module: <http://blackboard.utep.edu>

Please check this website regularly for additional class materials and announcements.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Attendance is mandatory and 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 be counted absent. Attendance and class participation will comprise 10% of the final grade.

ABSENCE FOR RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS

In the event that a class meeting, exam, or assignment due date falls on the day of a recognized religious holiday, the student must provide written notice to the instructor of each course. This written notice should be submitted no less than ten (10) days prior to the expected date of absence.

EXCUSED ABSENCES FOR UNIVERSITY-RECOGNIZED ACTIVITIES

Students representing the University 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 (10) 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 FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

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). For greater success, students are strongly encouraged to contact CASS at 747-5148 or at dss@utep.edu or visit the Union East Building, Room 106.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

University of Texas at El Paso 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. Students are strongly encouraged to familiarize themselves with the university's policies on academic infringement from the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution:

<http://sa.utep.edu/osccr/academic-integrity/>

<http://sa.utep.edu/osccr/student-conduct/student-conduct-process-appendix/>

PRACTICE and PREPARATION

Participation in class and practice at home are essential to your success in Aural Skills. The following websites will provide materials for practice and will be valuable to your understanding of class activities; www.teoria.com and www.musictheory.net. Additionally, I highly encourage you to practice together in small groups. Sight singing and interval recognition are great group practice activities.

EVALUATION

*Quizzes and Online Assignments

**Exams (Midterm and Final)

Attendance and Class Participation

*We will have two in-class quizzes during the semester (see course schedule). These quizzes are designed to prepare you for the dictation portion of the exam and will be structured similarly. Online assignments will be submitted through email by 11:59 pm on the due date listed in the course schedule. Late assignments will incur a 50% point deduction. These assignments will focus on singing, intervals, and dictation.

**Each exam will address the three main areas of focus for the class, which include interval/triad recognition, dictation, and singing. During exam weeks, the singing portion of the exam will be taken (recorded) on Tuesday and the dictation and interval portions will be taken in class on Thursday.

GRADING POLICY

The final grade will be weighted as follows:

Quizzes and Online Assignments – 40%

Midterm Exam – 20%

Final Exam – 30%

Attendance and Class Participation – 10%

*The singing and dictation portion of the exams will each count for 50% of your total exam grade

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.