

Aural Skills I: MUST 1111 – Sections 1 & 2

The University of Texas at El Paso, Department of Music - Fall 2015

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Stephen Nordstrom, Assistant Professor of Violin

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OFFICE: Fox Fine Arts Center, Room 434

OFFICE HOURS: By appointment

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. Corequisite for the course is MUST 1313. Prerequisite 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 solfege
- 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 M101

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 and pencils

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 factor into the final grade for the class. It will be taken through an occasional sign-in sheet and unannounced quizzes (no make-ups). Attendance and class participation will be counted as 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.

PRACTICE and PREPARATION

Although there will be no formal homework assignments for the course, participation in class and practice at home are essential to your success. The textbook contains numerous practice examples for both melodic and rhythmic practice. In addition to those examples found in the textbook there will be practice sheets given in class and posted on BlackBoard. The following websites will provide further materials for practice and will be valuable to your understanding of Aural Skills; www.teoria.com and www.musictheory.net.

EVALUATION

Unannounced Quizzes (In-class)

2 Midterm Exams

1 Final Exam

Attendance and Class Participation

Each exam will address the three main areas of focus for the class. These include interval/chord recognition, dictation, and singing. Interval ear training will be covered in each unit and chord recognition will begin during the third unit. We will have two types of dictation, rhythmic and melodic, which will occur in each unit. There will be both prepared and sight singing during each unit as well.

***During exam weeks, the dictation and interval portions of the exam will be taken in class on Tuesday and the singing portion will be taken (recorded) on Thursday.

GRADING POLICY

The final grade will be weighted as follows:

Unannounced Quizzes – 20%

Midterm Exam #1 – 20%

Midterm Exam #2 – 20%

Final Exam – 30%

Attendance/Class Participation – 10%

***During each exam, prepared and sight singing will account for 50% of grade.

Grading Scale:

90-100 = A	80-89 = B	70-79 = C	60-69 = D	0-59 = F
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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/>

Aural Skills: MUST 1111 – Course Schedule

Week	Class Meetings	Activity (Intervals, Singing, Dictation)		
1	Aug. 25 th , 27 th	Intervals: 2 nd	Singing: By step (Major)	Dictation: Rhythmic (Simple meter)
2	Sept. 1 st , 3 rd	Intervals: 2 nd	Singing: By step (Major)	Dictation: Rhythmic (Simple meter)
3	Sept. 8 th , 10 th	Intervals: 3 rd	Singing: By step + 3rds (Major)	Dictation: Rhythmic + Melodic (Simple meter)
4	Sept. 15 th , 17 th	Intervals: 3 rd	Singing: By step + 3rds (Major)	Dictation: Rhythmic + Melodic (Simple meter)
5	Sept. 22 nd , 24 th	Midterm Exam (Dictation and Intervals 9/22, Singing 9/24)		
6	Sept. 29 th , Oct. 1 st	Intervals: 4 th	Singing: Tonic triad (Major and minor)	Dictation: Rhythmic + Melodic (Simple)
7	Oct. 6 th , 8 th	Intervals: 4 th	Singing: Tonic triad (Major and minor)	Dictation: Rhythmic + Melodic (Simple)
8	Oct. 13 th , 15 th	Intervals: Tritone, 5 th	Singing: Tonic triad (Major and minor)	Dictation: Rhythmic + Melodic (Simple)
9	Oct. 20 th , 27 th	Intervals: TT, 5 th , Octave	Singing: Tonic triad (Major and minor)	Dictation: Rhythmic + Melodic (Simple)
10	Oct. 27 th , 29 th	Midterm Exam (Dictation and Intervals 10/27, Singing 10/29)		
11	Nov. 3 rd , 5 th	Intervals: 6 th	Singing: Diatonic Leaps (Major and minor)	Dictation: R + M (Simple and Compound)
12	Nov. 10 th , 12 th	Intervals: 6 th	Singing: Diatonic Leaps (Major and minor)	Dictation: R + M (Simple and Compound)
13	Nov. 17 th , 19 th	Intervals: 7 th	Singing: Diatonic Leaps (Major and minor)	Dictation: R + M (Simple and Compound)
14	Nov. 24 th	Intervals: ALL Chords: Major + minor	Singing: Diatonic Leaps (Major and minor)	Dictation: R + M (Simple and Compound)
15	Dec. 1 st , 3 rd	Intervals: ALL Chords: Seventh Chords	Singing: Diatonic Leaps (Major and minor)	Dictation: R + M (Simple and Compound)
Finals	Dec. 8 th , 10 th	Final Exam (Intervals, Chords, Singing, and Dictation 12/8)		