

Syllabus

Aural Skills IV (MUS3623)

Instructor: David Baker
Office: M&DA, Room 123
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Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday: 12:30-1:30pm, and by appointment.
Course: MUS3623
Term: Fall, 2016
Time: MWF, 11:30-12:20
Location: MDA 221
Required Texts: Berkowitz, *et al. A New Approach to Sight Singing*, (5th Edition) (Norton Press)

Course Objectives:

Aural Skills I is the first in a four-semester curriculum meant to provide training in musicianship, sight-singing, and aural dictation skills for all music majors. Upon successful completion of Aural Skills I, students will be able to:

- Perform and sight-sing melodies that incorporate chromaticism and leaps
- Perform and sight-sing atonal melodies
- Perform and sight-sing complex rhythms that include 32nd notes, double dotted durations, changing meters, and odd meters
- Perform and sight-sing duets that include these complex melodic and rhythmic elements
- Work toward a mastery of singing and playing such complex musical ideas

Required Classroom Etiquette

1. **Attendance is expected at each class meeting**, since the instructor's demonstration of practice techniques and study methods will benefit the students greatly. Attendance will be taken at each class meeting.
2. Excused absence constitutes absence excused by the University (e.g., performance, etc.) or a note provided from the University Health Center.
3. It is the student's responsibility to arrange a make-up time/day with the instructor within ONE WEEK from the date of the excused absence. Failure to do so will result in a zero (0) for the missed assignment.
4. Tardiness will not be tolerated and may result at the least in the student's ejection from the class. Disruptive or disrespectful behavior will result in ejection from the classroom and report to the Dean of Students.
5. All written work is due at the *beginning* of class on the designated date.
6. Students are expected to complete all the assignments. The instructor reserves the right to collect or "spot" check HW or classwork (e.g., HW, in-class work, etc.) at any time. Incomplete or missing work will result in a "0."
7. The textbook must be brought to class at every class meeting. Sharing is not permitted.
8. **Laptops, cell phones, or any other electronic devices may not be used.**

Assignments

1. The student is responsible for all the assignments, and having prepared all melodies and rhythms assigned. These will be listed on Moodle.
2. Quizzes, exams, and other assignments **will not be accepted if they are not completed in pencil.**
3. All the written work must always include the student's name at the top of the page.

Examinations

1. Four recitations
 - a. There will be no labs on the scheduled day of recitation.
 - b. It is your responsibility to sign up for a slot on a first-come, first-served basis.
 - c. See recitation dates in the tentative schedule below.
2. Other examinations
 - a. One midterm (dictation)
 - b. One lab final (dictation)

Overall Evaluation

Recitations (4)	30%
Daily Quizzes	25%
Midterm	20%
Final	25%

Grading Scale:

97-100	A+
93-96	A
90-92	A-
87-89	B+
83-86	B
80-82	B-
77-79	C+
73-76	C
70-72	C-
67-69	D+
63-66	D
60-62	D-
<60	F

Attendance and Tardiness

Attendance is required, and is an extremely large part of your grade. Additionally, **there will be daily quizzes** to assess both comprehension and attendance.

For further information, see the LSU's university-wide attendance policy ([PS-22](#)).

Schedule (Tentative and Subject to Change)

Week	Topic	Important Dates
1 (1/9)	Review of rhythm, chromatic sight-singing, modes	
2 (1/16)	More depth with modes (Phrygian, Dorian, and Mixolydian); odd meters	No Class on Monday (Martin Luther King Day) Final day to drop without a 'W' (1/20)
3 (1/23)	More on modes (Lydian, Aeolian, and Locrian); Syncopation and odd meters	
4 (1/30)	Whole-tone and octatonic collections	Recitation 1 (1/31)
5 (2/6)	Melodies with more difficult rhythms (32 nd notes, double dotted durations, etc.)	
6 (2/13)	Melodies that include modal mixture (with more difficult leaps)	Recitation 2 (2/16)
7 (2/20)	Introduction to atonal melodies (incorporating primarily major and minor seconds)	
8 (2/27)	Mardi Gras break; work with octatonic melodies	
9 (3/6)	Melodies derived from octatonic scales	Midterm (3/7)
10 (3/13)	Atonal melodies (incorporating primarily major and minor seconds and perfect fourths)	
11 (3/20)	Atonal melodies (incorporating primarily major and minor seconds, perfect fourths, and major and minor thirds)	Recitation 3 (3/23)
12 (3/27)	Atonal melodies that	

	incorporate the tritone	
13 (4/3)	Atonal melodies that include the major and minor and seventh	Recitation 4 (4/6)
14 (4/10)	Spring Break	
15 (4/17)	Twelve-tone rows	
16 (4/24)	Special Topics and Review	Final (4/27)

Recitations

There will be five (5) recitations given throughout the semester, focusing on sight-singing rhythms and melodies, the singing of a prepared piece, and a “sing and play” at the keyboard. The recitations will be graded as follows:

	Excellent	Good	OK	Needs work	No credit
Sight singing	5: Very nicely done. Intonation is good and made no mistakes.	4: Good work. There might be some intonation issues, or there might have been some stumbling over certain points.	3: OK overall, but had more than two issues with either intonation or rhythm, and /or stumbled noticeably at points.	2: More practice is definitely needed. It was clear that some preparation was made, but a lot more work needs to be done.	0: No credit can be given for this. See the instructor for details.
Prepared piece	5: Very nicely done. Intonation is good and made no mistakes.	4: Well done. Intonation is pretty good and only made 1-2 mistakes.	3: OK overall, but had more than two issues with either intonation or rhythm, and /or stumbled noticeably at points.	2: More practice is definitely needed. It was clear that some preparation was made, but a lot more work needs to be done.	0: No credit can be given for this. See the instructor for details.
Sightreading rhythm	4: Nicely done, no mistakes.	3: 1-2 mistakes, but overall it was well done.	2: A few mistakes and it might be better to work on this quite a bite more.	1: It was clear that preparation was made for this, but a lot more work needs to be done.	0: No credit can be given for this. See the instructor for details.
General preparedness	4: Comes to the recitation prepared and on time, demonstrates that rehearsal and practice went into this.	3: Not entirely prepared or showed up a little late.	2: Unprepared or showed up late.	1: Not taking the recitation entirely seriously.	0: No credit can be given for this. See the instructor for details.

Academic Integrity

Louisiana State University adopted the Commitment to Community in 1995 to set forth guidelines for student behavior both inside and outside of the classroom. The Commitment to Community charges students to maintain high standards of academic and personal integrity. All students are expected to read and be familiar with the LSU Code of Student Conduct and Commitment to Community, found online at www.lsu.edu/saa. It is your responsibility as a student at LSU to know and understand the academic standards for our community.

Students who are suspected of violating the Code of Conduct will be referred to the office of Student Advocacy & Accountability. For undergraduate students, a first academic violation could result in a zero grade on the assignment or failing the class and disciplinary probation until graduation. For a second academic violation, the result could be suspension from LSU. For graduate students, suspension is the appropriate outcome for the first offense.

Assistance

I am available and interested in talking with you about the course, the course material, and strategies to enhance your learning. We can usually have brief discussions after class, and I am able to answer questions by e-mail (dbake29@lsu.edu) at any time. Please feel free to visit me during office hours (see above) at any point during the semester. Additionally, I am happy to set up an appointment at a time that is mutually acceptable for more lengthy discussions.

Food and Drink

Please refrain from having any food or drink in the classrooms.