

Syllabus **Aural Skills III (MUS3621)**

Instructors	David Baker (section 2) dbake29@lsu.edu MDA 208 Office hours: MW 12:30 – 1:30				
Time	MUS 3621.1	Aural Skills III	8:00 – 8:50	TTh	221 MDA
	MUS 3621.2	Aural Skills III	8:00 – 8:50	TTh	245 MDA
	MUS 3621.3	Aural Skills III	9:00 – 9:50	TTh	221 MDA
Required Text	Berkowitz et al., <i>A New Approach to Sight Singing</i> , 5 th Edition (Norton)				

Course Objectives:

Aural Skills III is the third 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 III, students will be able to:

- Sing melodies that include chromaticism, resulting from secondary dominants, modulation, modal mixture, and Neapolitan and augmented sixth chords.
- Perform rhythms that include syncopation in both simple and compound meters
- Perform rhythms in “odd” meters such as 5/8, 7/8, 5/4, etc.

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.
4. Please show up to all recitations on time. Points will be deducted from the preparedness portion of the rubric (see below) in the event of a late arrival.

Examinations

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

Overall Evaluation

Recitations (4)	25%
Homework	20%
Midterm	15%
Final	25%
Attendance/Participation	15%

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

Late Assignments

Written assignments will be accepted **one week after the due date**. Late assignments will be deducted 5 points per class. For example, an assignment due on Monday that earns a 94 will be awarded an 89 if handed in before Wednesday, an 84 if handed in before Friday, etc. **ASSIGNMENTS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED AT ALL AFTER ONE WEEK.**

Attendance and Tardiness

Attendance is required, and is an extremely large part of your grade. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class. If you are unable to sign in (e.g. if you arrive to class after the attendance sheet has been collected), it will be treated the same as an absence.

You may miss at most two classes with no deduction, unless you have a written excuse from a health care provider or another authorized excuse as arranged with the teacher. Excessive unexcused absences (more than 2) will lead to a 5-point deduction in your attendance and participation grade.

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

Schedule (Tentative and Subject to Change)

Week	Topic	Material (In Berkowitz)
1 T:8/23 Th:8/25	Tonicizing the relative major or minor; Rhythms with quarter note triplets	Melodies 225–242 (pp.52–56); Duets 58–60 (p.226); Rhythms 142–148 (pp.189–190)
2 T:8/30 Th:9/1	Tonicizing the dominant; Rhythms with sixteenth note ties	Melodies 243–254 (pp.56–59); Duets 60–62 (pp.226–227); Sing and Play 79 (pp.303–304); Rhythms 147–152 (pp.190–191)
3 T:9/6 Th:9/8	Secondary dominants; syncopated rhythms with sixteenth notes	Melodies 255–259 (pp.59–60); Duets 65–66 (pp.228–229);
4 T:9/13 Th:9/15	Secondary dominants (continued); Rhythms in 5/8 and 7/8	Melodies 260–264 (pp.60–62); Duet 71 (p.231); Rhythms 161–165 (pp.193–194) Recitation 1
5 T:9/20 Th:9/22	The Neapolitan sixth;	Melodies 270–272 (pp.63–64); Duet 103 (p.247); Sing and Play 85 (p.306)
6 T:9/27 Th:9/29	Augmented sixth chords	Melodies 273–375 (p.65); Duet 104 (p.247); Rhythms 166–167 (pp.194–195)
7 T:10/4 Th:10/6	Recitation/Break	Recitation 2 (Tuesday) Fall Break (Thurs)
8 T:10/11 Th:10/13	Introducing Dorian and Mixolydian	Melodies 276–284 (pp.66–68); Duets 74–75 (232–233); Sing and Play 92 (p.310)
9 T:10/18 Th:10/20	Skips larger than an octave, quarter note triplets	Melodies 288–292 (pp.69–70); Rhythms 168–169 (p.195); Duets 80–81 (p.236)
10 T:10/25 Th:10/27	Modulating to the supertonic	Melodies 336–339 (pp.82–83); Duets 82–83 (p.237) Recitation 3
11		

T:11/1	Modulating through the submediant	Melodies 350–352 (pp.85–86); Sing and Play 105 (p.320); Rhythms 171–171 (p.196)
Th:11/3		
12		
T:11/8	Melodies in odd meters (5/8 and 5/4)	Melodies 353–357 (pp.86–87); Rhythms 173–174 (p.197); Duets 87-88 (pp.238–239)
Th:11/10		
13		
T:11/15	Modal mixture (major key with lowered sixth; major and minor dominant chords)	Melodies 373–377 (pp.92–93); Rhythms 175–176 (pp.197–198); Duets 107-108 (p.249)
Th:11/17		
14		
T:11/22		Recitation 4 (Tuesday)
Th:11/24		Thanksgiving break (no class on Thursday)
15		
T:11/29	Review for final exam	Final exam will take place in the final class.
Th:12/1		Final Exam

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

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unexcused absences (more than 2) will lead to a 5-point deduction in your attendance and participation grade.

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Assistance

Your instructor is available and interested in talking with you about the course, the course material, and strategies to enhance your learning. Note your instructor's office hours; also, s/he is able to answer questions by e-mail at any time. Additionally, s/he will be happy to set up an appointment at a time that is mutually acceptable for lengthier discussions.

Food and Drink

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

I, _____, (print name) have read the syllabus and class schedule and understand the classroom policies, expectations, and rules as stated in the syllabus and schedule. By signing this form I agree to comply with the policies listed and accept the schedule for this class.

SIGNED _____

DATE _____