

# Semester 3 Aural Skills (MUSC 2121) – Section 003

## Syllabus

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### 1 General course description

Course title: Semester 3 Aural Skills  
Course number: MUSC 2121  
Semester: Fall 2013  
Course hashtag: #musc2121  
Meeting time: MW 10:00am–10:50am  
Meeting location: MUS C125  
Professor: Kris Shaffer, Ph.D.  
Course website:  
Online course resources:

### 2 Musical concepts and fluency

The goal of this course is *musical fluency*: that is, the successful depositing of musical information into readily-accessible long-term memory, and the successful cognitive assimilation of musical concepts and structures.

We will seek fluency in the following conceptual areas (which will serve as assessment criteria):

- Standard rhythms in simple and compound meters (to the subdivision level)
- Tuplet borrowing in simple and compound meters (triplets in simple meter; duplets in compound meter)
- Diatonicism in tonal melodies
- Chromaticism in tonal melodies (centered around the German Lied)
- Modulation to closely related keys in tonal melodies
- Functional diatonicism in tonal harmonic progressions
- Functional chromaticism in tonal harmonic progressions

That fluency will be practiced and/or assessed through the following tasks:

- Performance with practice
- Performance from sight
- Error detection
- Aural identification of basic structures from a recording
- Self-paced transcription
- Live, instructor-paced dictation

### 3 Units of study

The concepts and tasks listed above overlap significantly, so any unit boundaries will necessarily be fluid. In general, though, the course will progress from *performance* to *transcription* to *listening/aural analysis* for each concept, with rhythm coming first, then melody, then harmonic progressions. Class activities will progress according to the following *rough* outline.

- Unit I: Performance of rhythm
- Unit II: Transcription of rhythm; performance of melody
- Unit III: Dictation of rhythm; transcription of melody and bass lines
- Unit IV: Dictation of melody and bass lines; performance of harmonic progressions
- Unit V: Transcription of harmonic progressions
- Unit VI: Dictation/aural analysis of harmonic progressions

See coursework document for information on end-of-unit assessments.

### 4 Course materials

#### Required

- A free Google account (for maintaining self-evaluations on Google Drive)—if you already have a Gmail address, you already have this.
- A free account to Piazza<sup>1</sup>.
- Kazez
- Berkowitz

Maybe; haven't decided yet:

- A semester account for Learning Catalytics<sup>2</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup><http://www.piazza.com>

<sup>2</sup><http://www.learningcatalytics.com>

- A web-enabled device that can be brought to each class meeting (laptop, tablet, smart-phone, web-friendly eReader, iPod Touch, etc.).
- An account for Spotify<sup>3</sup> (a free account should be sufficient for this course).

All other required class materials will be posted or linked to on the course D2L site.

## 5 About this syllabus

This syllabus is a *summary of course objectives and content*, not a contract or a collection of policies and assessment information. Course policies and assessment practices are contained in separate documents. *All information in this syllabus (except for the “General course description”) is subject to change, with sufficient advanced notice provided by the instructor.*

## 6 Licensing

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<sup>3</sup><http://www.spotify.com>