MUS 117: Ear Training

Course Syllabus: Fall 2014
August 25, 2014 – December 12, 2014

Instructor: T.J. Emsley, BM/MM
Location: MUS 214
Time: TR 8:30-9:20; 9:30-10:20
Office Location: Music Building, 221
Office Hours: By Appointment
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Course Information

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings:

Required Textbooks:
- *Ear Training: Technique for Listening* by Bruce Benward, 7th Edition | Revised
  ISBN: 978-0-07-340136-2
- *Progressive Sight Singing* by Carol Krueger, 2nd Edition
  ISBN: 978-0-19-538604-2

Technology:
- *http://www.musictheory.net*

Supplemental Materials:
- Academic planner/calendar

Course Description:

MUS 117 is the first in a three-course sequence that examines the aural and singing skills of the notation, structure, and development of Western Music.

Student Learning Outcomes:

Upon completion of the course, students will:

- Develop and enhance skills in music reading and writing.
- Provide training in the ability to sing diatonic and chromatic melodies, including the use of solfeggio.
- Develop the ability to hear, identify, correct, and reproduce harmonic and melodic concepts after a few hearings.
- Demonstrate the same ability in accurately transcribing tonal music from repeated hearings.
- Utilize all these skills so as to improve performance skills for lessons and ensembles.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS:

This course is a lab course. Instruction will vary for each student but include lectures by the instructor, listening examples, class discussions, class singing, as well as dictation.

ASSIGNMENTS, GRADING POLICIES, AND CALCULATION OF FINAL AVERAGE:

1. READING THE TEXTBOOKS/HANDOUTS AS ASSIGNED ON THE COURSE SCHEDULE

It is imperative that students read the textbook as assigned. Sight singing and practicing interval training daily will dramatically enhance classroom and exam performance.

2. ATTENDANCE

The University attendance policy states that students "are expected to be present for all class meetings." Refer to "Attendance" in the Course and University Procedures/Policies Section below. **For each unexcused absence, 3 percentage points will be deducted from the student's final grade.**

The instructor will close the door at the designated starting time. Attendance will be taken at that time. NO ONE will be admitted after the door has been closed.

3. CLASS PARTICIPATION/HOMEWORK (15 Points)

Engagement, participation, and a positive attitude are important in a course of this kind, as they are in any area of college and life. Students will participate in classroom activities, field trips, and written work, the details of which will be announced by the instructor. It is especially important that first-year students begin the process of integrating into both the university and department's community of scholar/musicians.

4. LISTENING/DICTATION EXAMS (60 POINTS)

There will be FOUR listening exams throughout the course. These exams will test the students' aural skills. Exams may include melodic dictation, harmonic dictation, interval drills, error detection of melodies and rhythms, and chord inversions. NO MAKE-UP EXAMS WILL BE GIVEN (**See note for attendance policy above).

Only assignments that are completed IN PENCIL, neat, and legible will be graded for credit; all others will be returned with a grade of 0%.

**Because this is a class that builds on previously learned material, each exam will be weighted differently:*
Exam 1 – 7 pts; Exam 2 – 13 pts; Exam 3 – 17 pts; Exam 4 – 23 pts

5. SIGHT-SINGING EXAMS (25 POINTS)

Students will sign up for a time during the class period to complete the sight-singing exam. Material of each exam will differ. Overall, students will be required to sing rhythms, intervals, sight-sing, and/or melodies while conducting a basic pattern. If a time conflict arises, the instructor and student may meet to take the exam BEFORE the next class period.

**Because this is a class that builds on previously learned material, each exam will be weighted differently:*
Exam 1 – 3 pts; Exam 2 – 5 pts; Exam 3 – 7pts; Exam 4 – 10 pts

Calculation of Final Grade

All quizzes, exams and assignments must be completed if the student is to pass the course.

Listening/Dictation Exams (60%)	100 – 90%	A
Sight-Singing Exams (25%)	89 – 80%	B
Class Participation/Homework (15%)	79 – 70%	C
	69 – 60%	D
	59 – 0%	F

Communication and Support

I encourage classes to interact with me as much as possible, especially if a student feels challenged by the academic content of a course or has missed classes. My office and conference hours are indicated at the top of the syllabus. If you cannot see me during my regular office hours, I will make every effort to set up an appointment at a time that is mutually convenient. Apart from speaking to me before or after class, e-mail is usually the best means of getting in touch with me.

Additional resources: www.musictheory.net
www.musictheoryresources.com
www.tonalcentre.org
www.gmajormusictheory.org

Course and University Procedures/Policies

Attendance

Students are expected to attend classes regularly and to stay abreast, without prompting, of all readings, assignments and exams. Participation in class meetings will provide an opportunity for explanation of difficult concepts, discussion of solutions to homework assignments, and answering of questions. University guidelines on attendance are outlined in *The Student Guidebook*, available through the Office of the Dean of Students and by searching the University's web site, but the specific policies for this course are as follows.

Each student in this course is allowed unexcused absences amounting to **two** class periods. Unexcused absences require no explanation.

Excused absences are defined in *The Student Guidebook* and various university policies, but the policy employed in this class is confined to the following: (1) Participation in pre-approved University activities such as athletic events, sponsored field trips, and travel for specific University related academic reasons; (2) Verifiable legal proceedings; (3) Documented cases of illness, injury, or emergencies.

All such excuses must be provided in original, written, documentary form within 5 days of the absence(s). In lieu of documentation, the absences become unexcused and counted as such. **When a student accrues more than four unexcused absences the instructor has the prerogatives (1) to reduce the final letter grade for each additional absence, and, for excessive absences, (2) to expel the student from class, drop the student from class, or assign the student a final grade of F.**

Academic Dishonesty

Academic dishonesty has zero tolerance in this class. Be sure that you understand what constitutes academic dishonesty (e.g., plagiarism, cheating on exams, theft of instructional material or exams, representing the work of someone else as one's own, misrepresenting absences or tardiness on sign-in sheets or roll calls, etc.). Academic dishonesty is a severe transgression in college and may result in referral to the Dean of Students, expulsion from class, and /or the University, and a failing grade.

University Mission Statement

Texas A&M University-Commerce nurtures and educates for success through access to academic, research, and service programs of high quality.

Music Department Mission Statement

The Music Department of Texas A&M University-Commerce promotes excellence in music through the rigorous study of music history, literature, theory, composition, pedagogy, and the preparation of music performance in applied study and ensembles to meet the highest standards of aesthetic expression.

Student Behavior

All students enrolled at the Texas A&M University-Commerce shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment (*Student's Guide Handbook, Policies and Procedures, Conduct*).

Classroom Behavior and Protocol

Our classroom is a forum for learning, a place where all of us should feel safe, comfortable, and enlivened. Each of us should look forward not only to coming to class but to learning more about music. Towards this end, all are expected to be courteous and respectful of each other. Common sense, professionalism, and the Golden Rule should prevail, but let it be known that the following activities will not be tolerated under any circumstance:

- sleeping during class
- use of cell phones, computers, pagers, and other personal electronic devices – or in sight – while class is in session
- backpacks, pouches, purses and other items from your desks when class is in session; permissible items are pens, pencils, the textbook, notes, water, sodas, and similar beverages.
- engaging in disruptive or distracting behavior of any sort
- aggression, threatening behavior (whether implied or physical), disrespect, and needless argumentation directed at anyone in the classroom
- consumption of food when the class is in session
- entering or exiting the classroom after class has begun; no one may exit the classroom without prior permission or polite notification of the instructor
- whispering, talking to each other, or otherwise engaging in distracting behavior while the instructor is lecturing, answering questions, or involved in dialogue with students

Please understand that violations of these protocols are taken seriously and may result in expulsion from the class and/or a final grade of F. Please also understand that the instructor will not hesitate to summon the University Police when student conduct is deemed threatening or belligerent to the instructor or other students.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statue that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services
Texas A&M University-Commerce, Gee Library 132
Phone 903.886.5150 or 903.886.5835 or Fax 903.468.8148
StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu

COURSE OUTLINE/CALENDAR

WEEK	DATES	BENWARD	KRUEGER
1	AUG 26, 28	Syllabus/Unit 1	Part I, Ch. 2 | Part II, Ch. 1
2	SEPT 2, 4	"	"
3	SEPT 9, 11	"	"
4	SEPT 16, 18	Exam 1	Sight Singing Exam 1
5	SEPT 23, 25	Unit 2	Part I, Ch. 3 | Part II, Ch. 2
6	SEPT 30, OCT 2	"	"
7	OCT 7, 9	"	"
8	OCT 14, 16	Exam 2	Sight Singing Exam 2
9	OCT 21, 23	Unit 3	Part I, Ch. 4 | Part II, Ch. 3
10	OCT 28, 30	"	"
11	NOV 4, 6	"	"
12	NOV 11, 13	Exam 3	Sight Singing Exam 3
13	NOV 18, 20	Unit 4	Part I, Ch. 5 | Part II, Ch. 4
14	NOV 25, 27	"	"
15	DEC 2, 4	"	"
16	DEC 9, 11	Exam 4	Sight Singing Exam 4