Welcome to Aural Skills I. This class will begin the training of your ear as a musician. You will learn to sing melodies and rhythmic patterns at sight, identify and sing intervals above and below a given note, and play those intervals on the keyboard. You will also learn how to transcribe the pitches and rhythms of performed melodies into music notation. In this class, we refer to the transcription process as dictation.

This class uses a software application called Auralia that will allow you to practice those skills mentioned above. You will be held accountable for your practice using Auralia.

Your semester grade will be calculated as follows:

Sight Singing, Rhythmic Counting, Intervals: 40% of semester grade.

Rhythmic Dictation, Melodic Dictation, Intervals: 40% of semester grade.

Quizzes: 10% of semester grade. Class attendance and preparation. There will be 10 “pop” quizzes during the semester. These quizzes cannot be made up if you are absent.

Auralia: 10% of semester grade.
Course Requirements

The SFASU School of Music Undergraduate Handbook states: “Courses required to be taken concurrently (MUTC 1116 & 1211; MUTC 1117 & 1212; MUTC 2116 & 2211; and MUTC 2117 and 2212) must BOTH be passed with a minimum grade of “C” before moving on to the next two courses. Thus, students who meet the minimum requirements in only one of the two courses may NOT move on to the next level until the deficiency is rectified.” Also, be aware that you only have two attempts to pass any required music class.

Schedule

There are three units of material this semester. We will have an exam that encompasses all unit material very four weeks. The dictation exam will be given Friday of the unit exam week. I will listen to each student individually for the sight singing, rhythmic counting, and interval portion of the exam. There will be a sign-up sheet provided for the individual exam that lists available times. The individual exams will be held on Monday-Thursday afternoons of unit exam week. I have included a detailed weekly class schedule that is posted on Brightspace.

Required Materials

Music for Sight Singing, 10th edition by Nancy Rogers and Robert W. Ottman

Auralia

Student Cloud license https://www.risingsoftware.com/shop/

NOTE: Please make sure you are purchasing the CLOUD version, not the more expensive Student and Home version.

School code: SFASU

PIN: G6WF

All handouts and printable materials are on your Aural Skills Brightspace page!
Zoom Videoconferencing Software

This is a videoconferencing (and recording) program available for free to SFASU students. This can be installed on a computer, iPad, or cell phone.)

(1) Go to at https://sfasu.zoom.us/ to get Zoom software

(2) Install the software on your device.

(3) Log in with your SFA credentials.

How To Make A Zoom Recording

(1) Start a meeting. Make sure your audio and video are on.

(2) Click record and select the option that records to the cloud. (This should be the default when recording on a phone.)

(3) When you are finished, stop recording and end the meeting. Two links to your recording will be sent to you via e-mail. One will be “host-only,” meaning it can only be accessed by you. Go to this if you want to rename the video or if you would like to trim dead time at the beginning or end.

4) Watch the video once to make sure everything recorded correctly. Once you are finished, copy the “share recording” link and past this in the relevant dropbox on Brightspace.

Assignments

Assignments include daily performance homework, dictation assignments on Auralia, individual hearings, and dictation tests. Performance homework will be assigned daily.

There are three individual hearings, which will feature a combination of prepared and at-sight materials. The prepared materials will include both singing activities and playing short harmonic paradigms on the piano. The dictation tests will include rhythmic, melodic, and harmonic dictation as well as ID of other musical elements.
All homework, classwork, and tests must be completed neatly in pencil, then converted into an image file. These files will be uploaded to the appropriate dropbox in Brightspace. A missed individual hearing counts as an unexcused absence and will only be made up in extreme circumstances at the discretion of the instructor.

**Time Requirements**

MUTC 1116, “Aural Skills II” (1 credit) meets three times per week (MWF) in 50 minute segments for 15 weeks. Success in this class requires daily practice. As with learning your primary instrument, short, regular practice sessions are more effective than sporadic marathon sessions. Aim to spend at least 10 minutes a day practicing performance skills and 10 minutes a day practicing dictation skills (totaling at least 2 hours per week of practice outside of classroom hours).

**Attendance**

Because gaining fluency in aural skills takes consistent practice, I expect you to attend every class. If you do miss a class for any reason, you are still responsible to know the material covered that day and for submitting all assignments on time. Besides failing to show up, unexcused absences include sleeping in class, arriving more than 10 minutes late without a good reason, and leaving class early without a good reason.

Students are allowed up to 4 unexcused absences; each additional absence lowers the semester grade by 5%. (For example, a student with a semester average of 85% and 7 unexcused absences would be penalized 15 points, yielding a 70% C for the semester.) Excused absences include official University or School of Music activities, medical emergencies, religious observances, and documented illnesses. Excused absences do not count against your attendance or lower your grade. E-mail me as soon as possible (usually before class) with the reason and documentation for your absence. If you are ill, please provide me a doctor’s note, but please keep your medical condition private.
Classroom Behavior

Classroom behavior should not interfere with the instructor's ability to conduct the class or the ability of other students to learn from the instructional program. Unacceptable or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Students who disrupt the learning environment may be asked to leave class and may be subject to judicial, academic, or other penalties.

This policy applies to all instructional forums, including electronic, classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The instructor shall have full discretion over what behavior is appropriate or inappropriate in the classroom.

Students who do not attend class regularly or who perform poorly on class projects/exams may be referred to the iCare: Early Alert Program at SFA. Information regarding the iCare program is found at:

https://www.sfasu.edu/judicial/earlyalert.asp

or call the office at 936-468-2703. Student Code of Conduct: Policy 10.4

Academic Integrity (4.1)

Academic integrity is a responsibility of all university faculty and students. Faculty members promote academic integrity in multiple ways including instruction on the components of academic honesty, as well as abiding by university policy on penalties for cheating and plagiarism.

Definition of Academic Dishonesty
Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes but is not limited to (1) using or attempting to use unauthorized materials to aid in achieving a better grade on a component of a class; (2) the falsification or invention of any information, including citations, on an assigned exercise; and/or (3) helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism. Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were your own. Examples of plagiarism are

(1) submitting an assignment as if it were one's own work when, in fact, it is at least partly the work of another; (2) submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from an Internet source or another source; and (3) incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one's paper without giving the author due credit. Please read the complete policy at http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/student-academic-dishonesty-4.1.pdf.
Withheld Grades Semester Grades Policy (5.5)

Ordinarily, at the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F. If students register for the same course in future terms the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average. For additional information, go to http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/course-grades-5.5.pdf.

Students with Disabilities

To obtain disability related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, and Room 325, 468-3004 / 468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/.

Mental Health and Wellness

SFA values students' mental health and the role it plays in academic and overall student success. SFA provides a variety of resources to support students' mental health and wellness. Many of these resources are free, and all of them are confidential.

On-campus Resources:
SFA Counseling Service www.sfasu.edu/counselingservices
Rusk Building, 3rd Floor 936.468.2401

SFA Human Services Counseling Clinic www.sfasu.edu/humanservices/139.asp
Human Services, Room 202 936.468.1041

Crisis Resources:
Burke 24-hour crisis line: 1.800.392.8343S
Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1.800.273.TALK (8255)
Crisis Text Line: Text HELLO to 741-741

Updated: April 2021