

Aural Skills IV (MUSI 2171), Spring 2005

Professor: Andrew Davis ([email <adavis@uh.edu>](mailto:adavis@uh.edu))

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 [Class rosters \(see what small section you're in\)](#)

Home page and syllabus

Instructor information:

- Professor Andrew Davis
 - Office: 152 MSM
 - Phone: 713.743.3294
 - email: adavis@uh.edu (this is the best way to reach me)
 - Office hours: please make an appointment
- Instructors: [office is 306 MSM; phone 713.743.3266]
 - Juan Luis Enríquez (juan.enriquez@mail.uh.edu)
 - Keith Chambers (keithchamberstx@yahoo.com)
 - Irma Pren (irmapren@aol.com)

Course information:

- Course: Aural Skills IV, MUSI 2171
- Time: TTh, 9:00–10:00am
- Classroom locations (all room numbers in MSM):
 - Davis: 108
 - Enriquez: 110
 - Chambers: 112
 - Pren: 116
- Course web site (this page): <http://www.uh.edu/~adavis5/musi2170>

Course description:

This course mixes reinforcement of material from Aural Skills III and new aural tasks. While the material is not conceptually different in a significant way from the material introduced in Aural Skills III, the course goes into greater depth and expect an increased level of comfort and fluency with the material. In the area of singing, the first half of the course emphasizes singing chromatic melodies with or without modulations (either close or distant) as well as sight reading melodies with close modulations. The second half of the course introduces singing melodies in irregular meters and melodies that use the diatonic modes ("church modes"). An emphasis on ensemble singing is present throughout the entire course. In the area of dictation, the first half of the course emphasizes chromatic melodic and harmonic dictation (including melodies and progressions with Neapolitan and augmented sixth chords), as well as melodic dictation with longer (period-length) melodies—both with and without close modulations. The second half of the course reviews modulating harmonic dictations, but the main focus is on taking melodic dictation from recordings. This skill serves to link the exercises we do in class to the experience of listening to and

understanding real music.

Prerequisites:

- You must have taken the sightsinging/ear-training placement exam and received permission to enroll in the course, or you must have received a continuing grade (C- or better) in Sightsinging and Ear Training III.
- You must be enrolled concurrently in (or have already received credit for) Theory IV (MUSI 2211).

Required materials: all available in the University Bookstore, 126 University Center (713.748.0923)

- Benjamin, Horvit, and Nelson. *Music for Sight Singing*. 3rd edition (2003).
- Benjamin, Horvit, and Nelson. *Music for Ear Training: CD-ROM and Workbook* (2001).

Evaluation:

- You will receive grades for dictation (homework assignments, quizzes, a midterm, and a final) and singing (hearings in class, a midterm, and a final).
- **Singing grades:** Everyone will be heard singing in class regularly (see the note about this at the top of the [daily schedule page](#)). You are responsible for learning and coming to class prepared to sing any assigned material. When called upon in class to sing, you must sing. If you do not sing, you will receive an F for that hearing. After you sing, your instructor will assign you a grade of either A (you were prepared and sang the assignment well), B (you were prepared and sang most of the assignment well, with some minor problems), or F (you were unprepared or unable to sing the assignment at an acceptable level of quality). If you receive an F, you have the option to make up that hearing within one week for a better grade. Make an appointment to see your instructor; when you appear for the appointment, the instructor may ask you to sing any material assigned for the day on which you received an F. NOTE WELL: you will NOT necessarily be asked to sing exactly the same material that you sang the first time. When you make up the assignment it will be evaluated on a standard grading scale (all grades are possible), but you will receive a grade one full letter lower than what it otherwise would have been (e.g., A becomes B, B- becomes C-, etc.).
- **Reporting of grades:** Dictation homework assignments and quizzes will be returned to you with grades. You may ask your instructor to see your singing grades at any time.
- **Computation of final grade:**
 - Singing: 50% (in-class singing 25%; midterm exam 12.5%; final exam 12.5%).
 - Dictation: 50% (assignments 20%, exams and quizzes 30%—and one exam equals two quizzes).
- **Grade distribution** will be according to the standard scale of percentages, as follows:
 - A: 92.5–100
 - A-: 90.0–92.5
 - B+: 87.5–90.0
 - B: 82.5–87.5
 - B-: 80.0–82.5
 - C+: 77.5–80.0
 - C: 72.5–77.5
 - C-: 70.0–72.5

- D+ 67.5–70.0
 - D: 62.5–67.5
 - D-: 60.0–62.5
 - F: below 60.0
- **IMPORTANT: School of Music policy dictates that a grade of C- or better is necessary to continue in the aural skills course sequence. Any grade below C- will be considered non-continuing, and the student will not be permitted to enroll in the next aural skills course.**

Assignments, quizzes, and exams:

- Dictation homework assignments provide a means for you to practice taking dictation and a means for your instructor to evaluate your progress and proficiency with the skill.
Assignments are due at the beginning of class on the date indicated. Late assignments will not be accepted without a written, valid excuse. If you cannot provide such an excuse, your grade for the missed assignment will be 0. Note that you are responsible for the work assigned in class even if you are absent—you should check the [schedule](#) online to see what material was assigned, and you should obtain notes on the relevant material from a classmate.
- There are only four dictation assignments and it is crucial that you have the experience of doing them—therefore no grade will be dropped.
- Dictation quizzes provide a means for your instructor to test your mastery of the skill and are given in class on a regular basis. Quiz dates are posted on the [course schedule](#). **Make-up quizzes will not be given:** if you miss a quiz you must provide a written, valid excuse. If you cannot do so your quiz grade will be 0; if your absence is excused, the quiz you missed will not be included when your final course grade is computed.
- Dictation and singing exams also provide a means for your instructor to test your mastery of the skills. Exam dates are posted on the [course schedule](#). Make-up exams will only be given if you provide a written, valid excuse for why you missed the exam. If you cannot do so your grade for a missed exam will be 0.

Academic dishonesty:

You are expected to do your own work on all assignments, quizzes, and exams unless instructed differently; any work you hand in at any time should be your own unless you are assigned to do otherwise. Problems with academic dishonesty will be handled according to the [procedures outlined in the undergraduate student handbook](#) and in the undergraduate course catalog. Please note that the mere suspicion of academic dishonesty is enough to initiate official action; please do not put yourself in the position of having to deal with this kind of situation.

Disabilities:

If you have a disability that affects your capacity to complete assignments, quizzes, or exams in a timely manner, please inform your instructor at the beginning of the semester so that appropriate arrangements can be made. You will need to document your disability with the UH [Center for Students with Disabilities \(CSD\)](#): 100 CSD Building ([click here to get a map](#)), 713.743.5400. The CSD will provide information on your disability to the instructor, and the instructor and student will work out a mutually agreeable arrangement (based on recommendations provided by the CSD) for how to accommodate the disability.

Other information:

- It should be clear that in order to maintain a productive environment in class students are expected to behave with courtesy and respect toward their instructor and their classmates. Students will be dismissed from class if they are found to be creating excessive disruptions. **This includes disruptions from cell phones: turn them off.**
 - Last day to drop or withdraw with no grade: 02/14. After this date grade options for drops/withdrawals are W, Q and F.
 - Last day to drop or withdraw from the course: 04/05. A grade of W, Q, or F is possible. Course enrollment status cannot be changed after this date.
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URL: <http://www.uh.edu/~adavis5/musi2171>
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