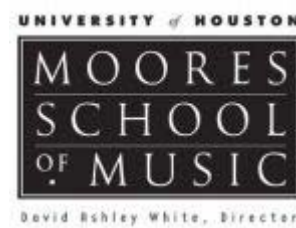


Aural Skills I (MUSI 1170), Fall 2009

Professor: Andrew Davis ([email](#))

[Home page and syllabus](#) | [Daily schedule](#)



CLASS ROSTERS: see what class you're in

Home page and syllabus

COURSE INFORMATION

course: MUSI 1170: Aural Skills I
time: T Th 8:00–8:50am
location: MSM 108, 110, 112, 116

course web site: <http://www.uh.edu/~adavis5/musi1170> (this page). You are expected to monitor the web site regularly for assignments, updates to the course schedule, and announcements and other news items not communicated in class or through email. Details of assignments may or may not be posted in class—you are expected to obtain the assignment and any related instructions online.

I will communicate with you using your university-issued email account. You are expected to either read the account regularly or set the account to forward mail to another account you monitor regularly. You are responsible for communications issued via email; not reading your email is not an excuse for not knowing what was communicated.

Note on rooms and class logistics: unless instructed otherwise, class will meet with Professor Davis every other Tuesday in room 108; for every other meeting class will be held in small sections with the graduate teaching assistants in the assigned rooms (see the class rosters for your TA and room assignments).

PROFESSOR INFORMATION

professor: Andrew Davis, Associate Professor of Music Theory and Director of Graduate Studies
office: MSM 152
office phone: 713 743 3294
email: [adavis](#) at uh.edu. **This is the best way to contact me.
personal web page: <http://www.uh.edu/~adavis5> (links to courses and other useful information)

office hours: As I also serve as Director of Graduate Studies for the Moores School of Music, I am forced to limit the amount of time I am available for office hours. Unless notified otherwise, I will schedule office hours by appointment only and only on Tuesdays and Thursdays between 9am and 5pm. Occasionally other times will be available on different days. Also occasionally other meetings or obligations on campus may interfere with these times, so you must make an appointment to see me. Most appointments will occupy a half-hour time slot. You may call me or (better) send me an email to make an appointment. TAs for the course are also

available for office hours, if you need additional, or recurring, assistance with course material, or if I am unavailable. Please contact the TAs directly.

TEACHING ASSISTANTS

Timothy Duhr: timothy.duhr at gmail.com
Mauricio Oliveros: maomusik@hotmail.com
Chris Peters: chris_1778@hotmail.com

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND LEARNING OUTCOMES

This is a course in developing your skills in listening to and understanding music. Your acquisition of these skills is measured in two ways: (1) your ability to reproduce musical patterns and melodies with your voice, and (2) your ability to accurately transcribe music into notation upon hearing it. The former is sometimes known as "sight singing" (although it does not necessarily involve singing music on sight); the latter is known as "dictation." You will be tested in each of these areas in class (by singing in class, both for practice and for a grade; and by taking dictation in class, both for practice and for a grade), on dictation homework assignments (by taking dictation from the CD that came with the textbook), and on exams (a midterm and a final, both of which will entail singing for your instructor and taking dictation). Everyone will be heard singing in class on a regular basis. Course objectives include your fluency with basic diatonic singing and dictation, including use of tonic, subdominant, dominant, and dominant seventh chords; and use of treble, bass, and alto clefs. Keep in mind: this is *not* a course in singing; we will not discuss vocal technique in any meaningful detail, and you will not be evaluated on your vocal quality.

PREREQUISITES

You must have taken and passed the music theory placement exam
You must be enrolled concurrently in Music Theory I (MUSI 1310) unless granted permission to do otherwise

REQUIRED MATERIALS

All are available at the University Bookstore, 126 University Center (713 748 0923)

1. Benjamin, Horvit, and Nelson. *Music for Sight Singing*.
2. Horvit, Koozin, and Nelson. *Music for Ear Training*.

Also: pencils, erasers, and music manuscript paper. Sheets of manuscript paper will be needed for homework assignments. If you use a notebook for class notes, I usually suggest having a notebook of manuscript paper.

ATTENDANCE

This is a course in skill development and one requiring class participation. Your attendance is crucial. Your final course grade will be lowered one + or - level for every absence you accumulate beyond four (so: A becomes A-; A- becomes B+; etc.; if your final grade is an A and you have six absences, the grade will be recorded as a B+).

EVALUATION

You will receive grades for singing (hearings in class, a midterm, and a final) and dictation (homework assignments, quizzes, a midterm, and a final). If you need to see your singing grades, please ask your instructor. Dictation work will be returned to you in class.

on in-class singing hearings: You must be prepared to sing the assigned material in class on the days hearings are scheduled. Everyone will be heard singing in class on a regular basis—about once per week, during most weeks. There is, of course, no practical way that everyone will be heard singing all the assigned material—some days you will sing, other days you will not. We will try to distribute the singing among the entire class over the course of the semester so that everyone sings roughly the same number of times.

On days hearings are scheduled, you are responsible for learning and coming to class prepared to sing all assigned material. When called on in class to sing, you must sing. If you do not sing, you will receive an F for that hearing. Otherwise, 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). If you receive an F for this reason, 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, you may be asked 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.** Any assignment made up in this manner will receive a grade one full letter lower than what it otherwise would have been (e.g., A becomes B, B- becomes C-, etc.). You **MUST** make up the hearing within one week; you may not, for example, make up all your Fs at the end of the semester. These makeup appointments are also not coaching sessions and should last 30–60 seconds at most; if you need assistance with the material, make a separate appointment with me or your instructor at a mutually convenient time. If called in class to sing and you do not sing, there will be no opportunity to change the F grade.

The final grade will be computed as follows:

Singing grade	50%
divided as follows:	
in-class singing grades (your two lowest in-class singing grades will be dropped)	25%
midterm exam singing grade	12.5%
final exam singing grade	12.5%
Dictation grade	50%
divided as follows:	
assignments (no assignment grade will be dropped)	10%
exams and quizzes: one exam equals two quizzes (if no assignments are given this entire portion of the grade—50%—will comprise the quiz and exam	

grades; your lowest dictation quiz grade will be dropped)	40%
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Aural skills grades are issued as letters (A, A-, B+, B, etc.) and converted to numeric equivalents as follows:

A+: 12 A: 11 A-: 10 B+: 9 B: 8 B-: 7 C+: 6 C: 5 C-: 4 D+: 3 D: 2 D-: 1

When computing averages, grades X.5 or higher are rounded to the next higher whole number i.e., if your dictation quiz grade is a 6.5, your grade is a B-; if your in-class singing grades average to 10.5, your grade is an A.

No aural skills grades will be dropped when computing your final course grade.

NOTE WELL: School of Music policy is that a grade of at least C- is necessary to continue in the music theory and aural skills sequence. Any grade below C- will be considered non-continuing. Students who earn below a C- will not be permitted to enroll in Aural Skills II.

ASSIGNMENTS AND QUIZZES

Dictation homework may or may not be assigned. If assigned, it provides 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, and due dates are not negotiable.** Late assignments will be accepted only through the beginning of the next class meeting; late grades will be awarded at a penalty of one letter grade (i.e., 10% every day the assignment is late. That is: if a dictation assignment is due at the beginning of Tuesday and you turn it in Tuesday afternoon (or any time after the start of class Tuesday), the grade will be lowered one letter grade; if you turn in the assignment any time on Wednesday, grade will be lowered by two letter grades; if you turn in the assignment at the beginning of Thursday the grade will be lowered three letter grades; the assignment will not be accepted after the start of class Thursday. If you need to turn in an assignment outside the normal class meeting hours, please turn it in to your TA's mailbox (in the main office) or, for me, to the front desk (tell them the assignment is for me and they'll leave it in my box).

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, you will not be penalized for missing the quiz when your final course grade is computed.

Dictation and singing exams also provide a means for your instructor to test your mastery of these 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 on the missed exam will be 0. The midterm dictation exam will be given in class on the date indicated on the schedule; midterm singing exams will be given in individual appointments with your instructor on the dates indicated on the schedule. The final dictation exam will be given in class at the designated final exam time for the course (see the schedule for details). Plan to be at the dictation exam for one hour. Final singing exams will be given in individual appointments with your instructor, as indicated on the schedule. Please plan in advance for the exams—they cannot be given at alternate times for individual students.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

You are expected to submit your own work on assignments, quizzes, and exams unless instructed 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 me 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 any use of cell phones (calling, texting, etc.): turn them off; if it's a problem I'll have to ask you to leave the class.**

Last updated: 1 October, 2009
URL: <http://www.uh.edu/~adavis5/musi1170>
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