

AURAL SKILLS IV (MUSI 2171) | PROFESSOR: ANDREW DAVIS | SPRING 2011 SYLLABUS

[A copy of this file is available online at <http://www.uh.edu/~adavis5/musi2171>;
in the event of a conflict the file online supersedes any printed copy.]

COURSE INFORMATION: MUSI 2171: Aural Skills IV | time: T Th 9:00–9:50am | location: MSM 108, 110, 112, 145 | web site: <http://www.uh.edu/~adavis5/musi2171>. 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. | Note on rooms and class logistics: class will meet with Professor Davis in room 108 as marked on the course schedule online; on all other days class will meet in small sections with the graduate teaching assistants in the assigned rooms (see the class rosters for your TA and room assignments).

PROFESSOR INFORMATION: Andrew Davis, Associate Professor of Music Theory and Director of Graduate Studies | office: MSM 152 | office phone: 713 743 3294 | email: adavis@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: by appointment on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. 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: Carlos Gaviria (carangavir@gmail.com) | Jaemi Loeb (jaemiloeb@gmail.com) | David Mosher (dmosheruh@gmail.com)

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND LEARNING OUTCOMES: Like the previous course(s) in the aural-skills sequence, 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. Students will become fluent in: singing melodies (solo, and in two- or three-part ensembles) with advanced chromaticism, closely-related modulations, distantly-related modulations, modality,

and non-traditional scales; and dictation, including melodic and harmonic dictation in major and minor modes with chromatic harmony, closely-related modulations, modality, and non-traditional scales. 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 received a grade of C- or better in Aural Skills III (MUSI 2170). | You must be enrolled concurrently in Techniques of Music Since 1900 (MUSI 2214).

REQUIRED MATERIALS:

All of the following are available at the University Bookstore, 126 University Center (713 748 0923). You need the latest editions of:

1. Thomas Benjamin, Michael Horvit, and Robert Nelson, *Music for Sight Singing*. Any recent edition is fine, but the page numbers may not match those posted online.
2. Michael Horvit, Timothy Koozin, and Robert Nelson. *Music for Ear Training*. Any recent edition is fine, but the page numbers may not match those posted online.

Also: pencils, erasers, and music manuscript paper. 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 3 (that is: 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).

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 every assigned hearing—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 upon 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.

Regarding reporting of grades: Dictation homework assignments and quizzes will be returned to you with grades. Your singing grades will not be announced in class; you may ask your instructor to see a record of your singing grades at any time.

The final grade will be computed as follows: singing grade 50%, divided as follows: in-class singing grades 25%; midterm exam singing grade 12.5%; final exam singing grade 12.5% | dictation grade 50%, divided as follows: assignments 10%; exams and quizzes 40% (one dictation exam equals two dictation 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

ASSIGNMENTS, QUIZZES, AND EXAMS:

Dictation homework assignments may occasionally be assigned, at the professor's discretion. These 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 on the schedule. Late assignments will not be accepted without a written, valid excuse. If you cannot provide such an excuse, your grade for the assignment will be penalized one letter grade for each day the assignment is late. Note that you are responsible for the work assigned in class even if you are absent from class, and that the assignment is still due on the date indicated—you should check the schedule online to see what material was assigned, and you should obtain notes on the relevant material from a classmate. No dictation assignment grades 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 points for 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. 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 date 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 online). Plan to be at the dictation exam for one hour. Final singing exams will be given in individual appointments with your instructor around the time of the final dictation exam; specific times will be announced, and you will have the opportunity to sign up for private appointments. Please plan in advance for the exams—they cannot be given at alternate times for individual students.

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 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 cell phones: turn them off.

Last day to drop or withdraw without a grade: Wednesday 02/02.

Last day to drop or withdraw with a W grade: Tuesday 04/05. Course enrollment status cannot be changed after this date.