

The University of Texas at Tyler

MUSI 2117: Aural Skills IV, Spring 2026

Course day and time: **9:00-9:55 TR** in FAC 2006

Instructor: Dr. Jeffrey Emge, 566-7450--email: jemge@uttyler.edu

Student Office Hours: FAC 2023 10-12TR and 1-3MWF, or any time my door is open

DESCRIPTION: MUSI 2117 is the fourth semester of a cumulative two-year Aural Skills sequence required of all music majors. This course provides a dictation and sight-singing element to the harmonic, rhythmic/metric, and contrapuntal practices of music from the 17th through the 19th centuries, corresponding with related courses in written music theory and keyboard lab. The dictation and sight-singing components will continue to develop listening skills through singing and dictation exercises.

PRE-REQUISITES: MUSI 2116 and MUSI 2311 and MUSI 2111, or equivalent.

CO-REQUISITES: MUSI 2312 (Theory IV) and MUSI 2112 (Keyboard Harmony IV). Students not possessing the pre-requisites and co-requisites will be administratively removed from the class unless approved by instructor.

REQUIRED MATERIALS

1. *Music for Sight Singing*. Ottman, Robert W. and Nancy Rogers. 9th edition. It is rumored this can be found online for free. Boston, et al: Prentice-Hall, Inc., 2014. ISBN-13: 978-0205760084, www.pearsonhighered.com
Earlier editions are not compatible, and the newest tenth edition is not worth buying a new book. Go to amazon.com or other sites and buy a cheaper, used book if you cannot find it for free.
2. Cell phone that can record HD audio/video
3. A computer or smartphone with excellent internet/Wifi for exams and quizzes
4. A quality printer

OTHER MATERIALS: All students will need manuscript staff paper in class *every day*. Free staff paper can easily be found at this link: http://www.musictheory.org.uk/manuscript_paper.php or many other places.

ATTENDANCE: All students should attend all classes; this creates habits that make you dependable and employable. You are counted as attending if you arrive no later than 8:20, have your materials with you, are participating, do not wear earbuds or headphones, and are not using your phone. To encourage good attendance habits, early, I have an attendance policy. Excessive absences will affect the final grade. Students are allowed **two** absences without the final grade being affected. Each absence, starting with the third, will lower the semester average by **two points**. The instructor retains the sole right to determine whether an absence is of an emergency nature that would not count towards the two allowed absences; emergencies are handled on a case-by-case basis. Student participation in UT Tyler-sponsored trips (absences associated with a UT Tyler course in which the student is enrolled) do not count towards the two allowed absences. Students who are habitually tardy will be counseled privately. In the case of chronic tardiness, the instructor reserves the right to reduce the final grade of those students who are habitually and significantly late. **HOWEVER**, if you are legitimately sick, **DO NOT COME TO CLASS**. For the well-being of both you and the class, you must go to the university clinic or a doctor. After an absence for illness, I must see a note stating you were seen by the university clinic or your own private physician, and cleared to return to class.

HYGIENE: As we still have Covid-19 among us, extra precautions are in place for the entire semester. I ask all students to hand sanitize upon entering the class; a hand sanitizing bottle/station is located at the door to the classroom. Even though the state of Texas forbids public universities to require a mask when indoors, I encourage everyone to wear a mask indoors and to receive the free Covid-19 vaccination.

STUDENT DRESS AND CONDUCT: Pajamas or sleep pants are prohibited as dress in this class. Any recording--video and/or audio--of any portion of lectures without express prior approval of instructor is strictly forbidden, and violators will be asked to drop the class and referred for disciplinary proceedings. Students must avoid wearing strong perfumes/after shave in rehearsal, as they can easily triggered allergies. Personal grooming and hygiene are important in group settings, because students must sit for a long time near each other. Students with noticeable body odor will be asked to leave class and charged with an absence. Do not use smartphones to check messages during class. Students wearing any item with political or obscene content will be asked to leave and charged with an absence.

Resources for Students

CANVAS>>>MUSI2117>>>Course Information>>>[Student Resources](#)

CANVAS>>>MUSI2117>>>Course Information>>>[University Policies and Information](#)

Statement on Plagiarism and the use of Artificial Intelligence

For any written work involving the writing of paragraphs, papers, or analytical work in prose form, I reserve the right to use Turnitin© or similar plagiarism detection software to determine if you are the actual author of any written work product involving prose. If I or through Turnitin© detect the likelihood that you either plagiarized work, or copied in whole or in part work from another student, or used Artificial Intelligence to create the work, a grade of zero will be assigned.

Student Evaluation:

50% 4 Quizzes (Rhythm Dictation and Performance, Singing, Melodic Dictation, Harmonic Dictation)

25% Midterm Exam

25% Final Exam

Sample quizzes and exams are posted on CANVAS→MUSI 2117→MODULES

GRADING SCALE: 90-100% A 80-89% B 70-79% C 60-69% D Below 60% F

The two major exams have six parts: melodic, rhythm, and harmonic dictation, singing and rhythm performance, and singing intervals. They will be administered both in class (dictation) and by appointment (performance). The final exam will be a comprehensive two-hour exam during finals week, tentatively scheduled at: **9:30a.m. Thursday, April 30**

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successfully completing MUSI 2117, students will be able to:

- *sing prepared excerpts from the standard literature of the middle and late 19th century;
- *sing at sight advanced music excerpts from the level of the late 17th and early 18th century;
- *write melodic and rhythmic dictation at a level consistent with music of the late 18th century;
- *take harmonic dictation with soprano, bass, and roman numerals involving common and two remote modulations.

Aural Skills 4: Tentative Outline

January 13	Syllabus; Melodic Dictation 4, A-B, Ottman Chapter 14 38-44, Rhythms 14.1-5
January 15	Introduction to Harmonic Dictation (Sop, Bas, roman numerals), Rhythms 14.6-10
January 20	Ottman 14.45-48, Rhythms 14.11-15, Harmonic Dictation with #4
January 22	Ottman 14.49-52, Rhythms 14.16-20, Melodic Dictation 4, C-D
January 27	Ottman 14.54-58, Rhythms 14.21-24, Harmonic Dictation with flat 7
January 29	Ottman 14.59-64, Rhythms 14.25-28, Melodic Dictation 4, E-F
February 3	Ottman 15.1-6, Rhythms 17.1-6, harmonic dictation—sec. dominant V/V
February 5	Quiz 1 Rhythm Dictation; Ottman 15.7-10, Melodic Dictation 4 G-H
February 10	Rhythms 17.7-10, Melodic Dictation 4 I-J, harmonic dictation—vii ^o /V
February 12	Rhythms 17.11-14, harmonic dictation involving V ⁷ /V and vii ^o /V in inversion
February 17	Melodic Dictation 4 K-L, Ottman 15.11-18; melodic dictation practice
February 19	Rhythms 17.15-18, harmonic dictation, Ottman 15.19-15.23
February 24	Quiz 2 Melodic Dictation; Melodic Dictation 4 M-N, harmonic dictation practice
February 26	Harmonic Dictation, Ottman 15.24-28; Melodic Dictation 4 O-P
March 3	Mid-term (dictation, singing, and rhythm)
March 5	Melodic Dictation 4, Q; harmonic dictation, modulation to V or IV, Ottman 15.29-33
March 7-15	Spring Break
March 17	Melodic Dictation 4, R-S, harmonic dictation, Ottman 15.34-37
March 19	Melodic Dictation 4, T-U, Practice melodic dictation, Singing 15.38-15.40, Rhythms 17.19-23
March 24	Melodic Dictation 4, V-W, Modulation using Ger ⁶
March 26	Melodic Dictation 4, X-Y, Singing 15.41-15.43, Rhythms 17.24-27
March 31	Modulation by common chord in minor keys; melodic dictation practice
April 2	Quiz 3 Singing (by video); Melodic Dictation 4, Z, Ottman 15.44-15.49
April 7	Rhythms 17.1-10; Singing 15.50-15.53; Rhythm Dictation practice, patterns 1-8; modulation with Fr ⁶
April 9	Melodic Dictation 4, AA-BB; Singing 15.54-15.57; unusual rests; modulation with Fr ⁶ and Ger ⁶
April 14	Melodic Dictation IV CC-DD; Singing 15.58-15.60; harmonic dictation with sec. leading tone
April 16	Common chord modulation in major review; Rhythms 17.11-17.18; Melodic Dictation 4, EE-FF
April 21	Quiz 4 Harmonic Dictation; Singing 15.61-15.65; Rhythms 18.1-18.5
April 23	Singing 15.66-15.69; Rhythms 18.6-18.10; common chord modulation in minor review

Final Exam (tentative): Thursday April 30: 9:30am-11:30am; performance video link due 5:00pm

Any final exam performance videos submitted after 5:00 are penalized at 10% per hour or fraction thereof