The University of Texas at Tyler

MUSI 1116 Aural Skills I, Fall 2026

Course day and time: **8:00-8:55 TR** in FAC 2006
Instructor: Dr. Jeffrey Emge, 903-521-6825--email: jemge@uttyler.edu
Office: FAC 2023—Student Office hours: 9-11 MWF and 10-12 TR, or by appointment

DESCRIPTION: MUSI 1116 is the first semester of a cumulative two-year Aural Skills sequence required of all music majors and minors. This course provides a basic study of melodic dictation, rhythm dictation and performance, singing of intervals, and singing of simple melodies from the 17th through the 19th centuries, corresponding with related courses in written music theory and keyboard lab.

PRE-REQUISITES: Music major or minor status only.
CO-REQUISITES: Concurrent enrollment in MUSI 1311 and MUSI 1111; otherwise, you will not be allowed to enroll in any of the second semester courses.

REQUIRED MATERIALS

1. *Music for Sight Singing*. Ottman, Robert W. and Nancy Rogers. 9th edition. Boston, et al: Prentice-Hall, Inc., 2014. ISBN-13: 978-0205760084, www.pearsonhighered.com "Rumor has it" that this edition can be found online for free. Earlier editions are not compatible, and the newest tenth edition is not worth buying a new book. Go to amazon.com or other sites (or even older students who already finished the course...) and buy a cheaper, used 9th edition book.
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 must bring manuscript paper (staff paper) to class *every day*. 10-stave paper is standard. Free staff paper can easily be found online at: 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 8:15, 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 each. 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 during class unless you are directed as a class to do so.

Resources for Students

The University of Texas at Tyler has numerous policies and resources regarding deadlines, student assistance, academic information, and your rights as a student.
For MUSI 1116, these policies can be found here and here.

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 detect 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.

GRADING:

50% 4 Quizzes (Rhythm Dictation and Performance, Singing, Melodic and Harmonic Dictation)
25% Midterm Exam (Rhythm dictation/performance, Singing melodies/intervals, Melodic/Harmonic dictation)
25% Final Exam (Rhythm dictation/performance, Singing melodies/intervals, Melodic/Harmonic dictation)
Sample quizzes and exams are posted on CANVAS→MUSI 1116→MODULES
Please note: all work involving the creation of a video must be done with the student's head in full view of the camera, showing both sides of the head to verify the student is not wearing earbuds. Failure to show will result in 50% deduction.

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 of a scale (in person). They will be administered both in class (dictation) and by appointment/phone recording (performance). The final exam will be a comprehensive two-hour exam during finals week

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completing MUSI 1116, students should be able to:
--sing melodies and intervals appropriate to entry-level, diatonic repertoire of the 18th and 19th centuries;
--take two-part dictation including six diatonic chords and a few inversions, along with Roman Numeral analysis
--take rhythmic dictation in both simple and compound meter involving four rhythmic patterns and rests
--take melodic dictation from a bank of 32 melodies, in both major and minor keys up to two sharps and flats
--perform rhythms using the student's voice from a bank of rhythmic exercises
--audiate intervals both melodic and harmonic, including m2, M2, m3, and M3 up or down from a given note

Aural Skills 1: Tentative Outline

August 25	Intro to Aural Skills; Syllabus; Course Expectations; Textbook Music Notation; Intro to Solfege
August 27	Perfect intervals up and down, harmonic and melodic; major scale singing; simple rhythms
September 1	Perfect intervals; major and minor scale solfege
September 3	Melodic Dictation 1, A-B; Rhythms 1.01-1.06; Singing 2.01-2.06
September 8	Harmonic Dictation introduction; Melodic Dictation intro–Exercises C-D; seconds (Census date)
September 10	**Quiz 1 (rhythm dictation)**; Melodic Dictation 1, E; Rhythms 1.07-12; Singing 2.07-12
September 15	Harmonic Dictation-tonic; Melodic Dictation 1, F; Rhythms 1.13-18; Singing 2.13-18
September 17	Harmony- arpeggio bass; Melodic Dictation 1, G; Rhythms 1.19-24; Singing 2.19-24
September 22	Harmony-I and V; Rhythm dictation practice; Melodies 1, H; Singing 2.25-30; thirds
September 24	Harmony-I and V; Rhythms 1.30-35; Melodies 1, I-J; Singing 2.31-36
September 29	Harmony-IV chord; Rhythms 1.36-42; Melodies 1, K-L; Singing 2.37-43; fourths
October 1	**Quiz 2 (singing)**; Rhythms 1.43-48; Melodies 1, M-N; Singing 3.01-3.06; fifths
October 6	Harmony I ,IV, V chords; Rhythms 1.49-55; Melodies, O; Singing 3.07-12
October 8	Harmony I, IV, V chords; Rhythms 1.56-62; Melodies 1, P; Singing 3.13-16
October 13	**Midterm Exam**
October 15	Harmony i, iv, V in minor; Melodies 1, Q-R; Compound Rhythms 1-8; Singing 3.17-24
October 20	Harmony I^6 and i^6; Melodies 1, S; Rhythms 4.01-05; Singing 3.25-30
October 22	Harmony ii and ii°; Melodies 1, T-U; Rhythms 4.06-10; Singing 3.31-3.32; sixths
October 27	Harmony $vii^{\circ 6}$; Rhythm Dictation practice; Melodies 1, V; Singing 3.33-40
October 29	**Quiz 3 (melodic dictation)**; Harmony ii^6 and $ii^{\circ 6}$; review of intervals and scales (last day to withdraw)
November 3	Harmony IV^6 and iv^6; Rhythms 4.11-15; Melodies 1, W-X; Singing 3.41-46
November 5	Sevenths; Rhythms 4.16-4.20; Melodies 1, Y; Singing 3.47-49
November 10	Review of all intervals, scales, simple rhythms 1-8; compound rhythms 1-8
November 12	Harmonic Dictation; Rhythms 4.21-23; Melodies 1, Z; Singing 4.24-30
November 17	Harmonic Dictation; Rhythms 4.55-60; Melodies 1, AA; Singing 4.31-35
November 19	**Quiz 4 (Harmonic Dictation)**; Melodies 1, BB-CC; Singing 4.36-40
	Thanksgiving Break, November 21–29
December 1	Harmonic Dictation; Rhythms 4.61-65; Melodies 1, DD; Singing 4.41-45
December 3	Review of Rhythm Dictation; Rhythms 4.66-69; Melodies 1, EE-FF; Singing 4.46-50

Final Exam: Tuesday December 8, 8:00am-10:00am

Any final performance video submitted after 1:00 are penalized at 10% per hour