

**HSU Music Department**  
**MUS 316: Ear Training III – Spring 2017**  
**T/R: 12:00–12:50PM (MUS B, Rm. 203A)**

**Contact Information**

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Office: Music A, Rm. 108  
Office Hours: M: 4:00–5:00 pm and T/TH: 2:00–3:00 pm. Additional times by appointment.

Before contacting me please be sure to read the syllabus, which has answers to a number of common questions.

**Course Information**

**Course Description**

Comprehensive ear training correlated to MUS 314. Develop music reading and perception skills in studies through rhythm (traditional, 20th century), sight singing (traditional, 20th century), dictation, and keyboard.

The aim of this course is to develop skill in the aural comprehension of music. We will approach the task from several angles, including performance of rhythms, melodies, and keyboard exercises as well as dictation of rhythms, melodies, harmonic progressions, and periods. In Ear Training III, we will work specifically on:

- Melodies containing diatonic leaps, especially those within the tonic and dominant triads and the dominant seventh chord
- Subdivisions of the beat in simple and compound meters and syncopation
- Pre-dominant chords, six-four chords, secondary dominant chords, modulation to closely related keys, and periods

**Pre- and Co-requisites**

The pre-requisites for this course are MUS 215 (Theory II) and MUS 217 (Ear Training II). Additionally, you should be enrolled in a piano class, or have completed the entire piano sequence (I–III).

**Textbook and Required Materials**

- Rogers/Ottman: *Music for Sight Singing*, 9<sup>th</sup> ed.
- Manuscript Paper
- Pencils (no pens, please)
- Binder or folder

## **Supplemental Resources**

A number of websites offer free ear training practice of intervals, scales, chords, etc. If you own a smartphone you may also want to explore ear-training apps for extra practice on the go.

- [www.teoria.com](http://www.teoria.com)
- [www.emusictheory.com](http://www.emusictheory.com)
- [www.tonedear.com](http://www.tonedear.com)
- [www.musictheory.net](http://www.musictheory.net)
- <http://www.earmaster.com/products/free-tools/interval-song-chart-generator.html>

## **Classroom Conduct and Course Preparation**

Basic professionalism in the classroom is expected. This includes:

- Being punctual to class (see attendance policy for more details)
- Bringing course materials with you to class
- Following directions from your instructor
- Participating in activities or performances
- Turning off cell phones and other electronic devices and placing them in a closed bag or case so that they are not a distraction to you or anyone else in class

Ear-training skills develop slowly with constant practice. You should set aside 15–30 minutes of practice time *every day*. Your daily practice should include singing several melodies, at least one keyboard exercise, and at least one rhythmic exercise. Practicing these performance components will also reinforce your dictation skills. You are encouraged to practice with other students from the class, as this type of practice can be very helpful.

## **Attendance and Make-Up Assessments**

- Since this is a skills- and participation-based class, attendance is *mandatory*. Students will be allowed *two unexcused absences* without penalty to their final grade. Each unexcused absence after the first two will result in the final grade being lowered one grade step (e.g. B+ to B)
- Missed assessments can only be made up for *excused absences* (e.g. Music Dept. events, illness) or for serious/compelling reasons (e.g. death in the family). Students may be required to provide some form of documentation for the absence.
- Absences resulting from an unusual situation or other personal circumstance may be considered excused on a case-by-case basis. If this seems relevant to your situation, please contact me as soon as possible.
- If you are absent from class, it is your responsibility to: contact me (preferably before class if possible), provide documentation (when necessary), check with a classmate for any handouts, and check for any changes to the homework assignments on Moodle.

## **Student Learning Outcomes**

### **HSU SLOs**

HSU graduates will have demonstrated:

- Effective communication through written and oral modes.
- Critical and creative thinking skills in acquiring a broad base of knowledge and applying it to complex issues.
- Competence in a major area of study.
- Appreciation for and understanding of an expanded world perspective by engaging respectfully with a diverse range of individuals, communities and viewpoints.

HSU graduates will be prepared to:

- Succeed in their chosen careers.
- Take responsibility for identifying personal goals and practicing lifelong learning.
- Pursue social justice, promote environmental responsibility, and improve economic conditions in their workplaces and communities.

### **Music Department SLOs**

This course will contribute to your acquisition of skills and knowledge relevant to these Music Department (and National Association of Schools of Music) Learning Outcomes:

- Students will demonstrate the ability to hear, identify, and work conceptually with the elements of music – rhythm, melody, harmony, and structure.
- Students will demonstrate familiarity with, and an ability to perform a wide selection of musical literature representing principal eras, genres, and cultural sources.
- Students will demonstrate ability in performing areas appropriate to the student's needs, interests, and degree path.

### **Course-level SLOs**

- Students will be able to audiate and/or sight sing melodies that are more difficult than those studied in ET II.
- Students will be able to audiate and/or read and perform rhythms using syncopation in simple and compound meters.
- Students will be able to perform chord progressions on the piano using secondary chords
- Students will be able to hear and notate more difficult melodies than those studied in ET II.
- Students will be able to hear and notate rhythms using syncopation in simple and compound meters.
- Students will be able to hear and notate chord progressions using secondary chords and modulation.
- Students will be able to aurally identify the four most common types of period forms.

## Course Requirements and Grading

### Final Grade Calculation\*

Unit #1 Test (dictation) and Individual Singing Assessment	20%
Unit #2 Test (dictation) and Individual Singing Assessment	20%
Unit #3 Final Exam (dictation) and Individual Singing Assessment	20%
Dictation Quizzes	15%
Keyboard Exercises	15%
In-class performances (prepared melodies and rhythms)	10%

### Letter Grades

A = 93%–100%	A- = 90%–92%	B+ = 87%–89%	B = 83%–86%
B- = 80%–82%	C+ = 77%–79%	C = 73%–76%	C- = 70%–72%
D+ = 67%–69%	D = 60%–66%	F = below 60%	

*\*In order to pass this course, your overall grade must be at least a D (60%) and you need to pass each performance component (i.e., melody, rhythm, and keyboard skills) AND each dictation component (i.e., melody, rhythm, harmony, and periods) at 50%.*

### Performance Grading (out of 100 pts each)

- Excellent (100): correct pitches, rhythm, scale degrees, and conducting
- Good (90): a few small errors that don't impair the flow (e.g. no hesitating/stopping)
- Above Average (85): errors impair the flow; on second try, student fixes errors on own
- Average (75): many errors to flow, pitches, and scale degrees; student can fix errors once pointed out by instructor
- Below Average (65): generally poor but exercise is still recognizable; student needs help from the instructor (e.g. provides notes, rhythms)
- Poor (50): exercise is unrecognizable, but some pitches/rhythms/scale degrees are still correct; student needs help from the instructor
- Very Poor (40): exercise is unrecognizable; student needs extensive help from instructor
- Incomplete/No attempt (0–30): student is unable/unwilling to complete exercise even with help from instructor; student did not complete the exercise (no show)

### Unit Tests, Individual Singing Assessments, and Final Exam (60%)

You will be evaluated on the skills studied in each unit through a dictation test (or final exam) and an individual singing assessment (10% each). Each test will consist of one or more of the following dictations: melodic, harmonic, rhythmic dictations, and period identification. For the individual singing assessments, each student will meet with me to perform a prepared melody and a prepared rhythm (assigned in advance), as well as a new melody and a new rhythm at sight.

Unit #1: Individual assessments (Tues. Feb. 14) and Test (Thurs. Feb. 16)

Unit #2: Individual assessments (Tues. March 28) and Test (Thurs. March 30)

Unit #3: Individual assessments (Thurs. May 4) and *Final Exam (Thurs. May 11, 12:40–2:30pm)*

### **Dictation Quizzes (15%)**

Graded dictations will take place approximately twice every unit. Each dictation will consist of one or more of the following components: rhythm, melody, harmonic progression, period identification, and error detection. If you are not in class when a dictation is given, you will receive a grade of 0 for each missed component.

### **Keyboard Exercises (15%)**

You will realize assigned figured bass exercises at the piano and prepare these exercises in a variety of keys. I will choose the key at your performance. Keyboard exercises are to be performed for me in my office by 5:00 PM on the assigned due date (a sign-up sheet will be distributed a week prior to the due date). Early performances are encouraged. In preparing and performing keyboard exercises for this class, accuracy and the ability to think through the exercise is more important than playing quickly or in time.

### **Prepared Melodies and Rhythms (10%)**

During the course of each unit, you will be assigned select melodies and rhythms from the textbook to learn and prepare at home (small homework assignments) which will then be performed during class. I will decide before arriving at class who I will have perform each exercise. The purpose of these assignments is to encourage you to regularly practice the associated skills and to monitor your progress. Unless indicated otherwise, you will sing melodies with scale degree numbers while conducting, and you will perform rhythms with Gordon syllables while conducting.

### **Incompletes**

A grade of incomplete will be given only if the following conditions are met: 1) Near the end of the semester a severe illness or other catastrophe makes completing the semester's coursework impossible. 2) You request a grade of incomplete as soon as you realize that you will be unable to complete your coursework. 3) You are passing the course when you request the incomplete.

### **University Policies, Procedures, and Resources**

Students are responsible for reading/reviewing and knowing various University policies and procedures. The Syllabus Addendum website (URL listed below) provides links to policies and procedures as well as helpful resources:

- **Information about Campus Policies**
  - Academic Honesty Policy, Attendance and Disruptive Behavior Policy, Student Code of Conduct, etc.
- **Information about Campus Procedures**
  - Adding or Dropping a Class and Campus Emergency Procedures
- **Information about Student Services and Resources**
  - Counseling and Psychological Services, Student Disability Resource Center, Financial Aid, and Academic and Career Advising Center.

<http://www2.humboldt.edu/academicprograms/syllabus-addendum-campus-resources-policies>

## Course Calendar

Dues dates for dictation quizzes and keyboard assignments are subject to change with fair notice.

Unit	Week	Day	Activity/Assignment
1	1	T (01/17)	Introductions, Review
		R (01/19)	
	2	T (01/24)	Quiz #1
		R (01/26)	
	3	T (01/31)	Keyboard #1
		R (02/02)	
	4	T (02/07)	Quiz #2
		R (02/09)	
5	<b>T (02/14)</b>	<b>Ind. Singing Assessment #1</b>	
	<b>R (02/16)</b>	<b>Test #1</b>	
2	6	T (02/21)	
		R (02/23)	
	7	T (02/28)	Quiz #3
		R (03/02)	Keyboard #2
	8	T (03/07)	Quiz #4
		R (03/09)	
	<b>Spring Break (Mar. 13–17)</b>		<b>No class</b>
	9	T (03/21)	
		R (03/23)	
	10	<b>T (03/28)</b>	<b>Ind. Singing Assessment #2</b>
<b>R (03/30)</b>		<b>Test #2</b>	
3	11	T (04/04)	
		R (04/06)	
	12	T (04/11)	Quiz #5
		R (04/13)	Keyboard #3
	13	T (04/18)	
		R (04/20)	
	14	T (04/25)	Quiz #6
		R (04/27)	Keyboard #4
15	T (05/02)	Review	
	<b>R (05/04)</b>	<b>Ind. Singing Assessment #3</b>	
<b>Exam Week</b>		<b>R (05/11): 12:40–2:30</b>	<b>Final Exam (written)</b>