

HSU Music Department
MUS 317: Ear Training IV – Spring 2017
T/R: 10:00–10:50 AM (MUS B, Rm. 203A)

Contact Information

Professor: Dr. Gillian Robertson
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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

MUS 317 is a continuation of MUS 316 (Ear Training III). The aim of this course is to further 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 dictations of rhythms, melodies, and harmonic progressions.

In Ear Training IV, we will work specifically on:

- Melodies that feature syncopation, chromaticism (e.g. chromatic passing and neighbor tones), and modulation to closely related keys.
- Duple/triple/quadruple divisions of the beat, 2 against 3, mixed meters, hemiola, and reading at very slow tempi
- Mixture, Neapolitan and Augmented Sixth Chords (+6th), and modulation through enharmonic pivot chords.

Pre- and Co-requisites

The pre-requisites for this course are MUS 314 (Theory III) and MUS 316 (Ear Training III), while MUS 315 (Music Theory IV) is a co-requisite. 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*, 9th 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
- www.emusictheory.com
- www.tonedear.com
- 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, Tardiness, 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 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.
- Students will demonstrate effective English writing skills.

Course-level SLOs

- Students will be able to audiate and/or sight sing melodies that are more difficult than those studied in ET III.
- Students will be able to audiate and/or read and perform rhythms using mixed meters and 2 against 3.
- Students will be able to perform chord progressions using chromatic harmonies and enharmonic modulation.
- Students will be able to hear and notate more difficult melodies than those studied in ET III.
- Students will be able to hear and notate rhythms using mixed meters and 2 against 3.
- Students will be able to hear and notate chord progressions using chromatic harmonies and enharmonic modulations.

Course Requirements and Grading

Final Grade Calculation

In-class performances (prepared melodies and rhythms)	10%
Dictation Quizzes	15%
Keyboard Exercises	15%
Midterm Exam: Dictation and Individual Singing Assessment	30%
Final Exam: Dictation and Individual Singing Assessment	30%

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%	

A total of 6 component grades will be taken throughout the semester. Scores gathered from the five main assessments listed above will determine the component grades.

- **Performance Components:** Singing (prepared and sight), Rhythm (prepared and sight), and Keyboard
- **Dictation Components:** Melodic, Rhythmic, and Harmonic

To successfully complete this course a student must have a total combined grade of 60% or higher AND must pass each of the 6 components with a minimum of 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)

Exams and Individual Singing Assessments (60%)

Both midterm and final exams will consist of a written dictation (15% each) and an individual singing assessment (15% each). The written exams will feature of one or more of the following dictations: melodic, harmonic, and rhythmic dictations. 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.

- **Midterm Exam:** Written (Tues. Mar. 7) and Individual Singing Assessments (Thurs. Mar. 9)
- **Final Exam:** Individual assessments (Thurs. May 4) and Written (Thurs. May 11, 10:20–12:10)

Dictation Quizzes (15%)

Graded dictations will take place throughout the semester. Dictations will consist of one or more of the following components: rhythm, melody, harmonic progressions, and error detection.

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 or at the end of class (as time allows) by 5:00 PM on the assigned 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%)

I will assign select melodies and rhythms from the textbook for you to prepare at home and then I will ask each student to perform one of the assigned exercises in class. I will decide before arriving at class who I will ask to 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.

Topics	Week	Day	Activity/Assignment
Harmonic: Mixture and Neapolitan chords	1	T (01/17)	Introductions, Review
		R (01/19)	
	2	T (01/24)	Quiz #1
		R (01/26)	
Melodic: Arpeggiations (I, IV, V, and V7) and chromatic embellishing tones	3	T (01/31)	Keyboard #1
		R (02/02)	
	4	T (02/07)	Quiz #2
		R (02/09)	
Rhythmic: Duple, triple, and quadruple beat divisions; 3 against 2	5	T (02/14)	
		R (02/16)	
Singing: Ch. 13, 14, 15 (start)	6	T (02/21)	Quiz #3
		R (02/23)	
Rhythm: Ch. 14, 17	7	T (02/28)	Keyboard #2
		R (03/02)	
	8	T (03/07)	Midterm Exam (Written)
		R (03/09)	Midterm Exam (Ind. Singing)
Spring Break		03/13 to 03/17	No class
Harmonic: +6th chords, modulation through harmonic pivots	9	T (03/21)	
		R (03/23)	
	10	T (03/28)	
		R (03/30)	
Melodic: Modulation to closely related keys	11	T (04/04)	Keyboard #3
		R (04/06)	Quiz #4
Rhythmic: changing meters (beat remains constant and division remains constant)	12	T (04/11)	
		R (04/13)	
	13	T (04/18)	Quiz #5
		R (04/20)	
Singing: Ch. 15, 16	14	T (04/25)	Keyboard #4
		R (04/27)	
Rhythm: Ch. 17, 18	15	T (05/02)	
		R (05/04)	
Exam Week		R (05/11): 10:20–12:10	Final Exam (Written)