



EAR TRAINING I

MUS 1116.02E
Fall 2025
MW
9:00 – 9:50 AM
Room 213

Instructor: Ethan Gainer

Email: Ethan.Gainer@etamu.edu
Office Hours; schedule appointments via email

Concurrent Enrollment: MUS 1311 (Music Theory I)

Required Materials: Clendinning, Jane Piper and Elizabeth West Marvin. 2020. *The Musician's Guide to Aural Skills*. Fourth Edition. New York, NY: W.W. Norton & Company, Inc.

Clendinning, Jane Piper and Elizabeth West Marvin. 2020. *The Musician's Guide to Sight Singing*. Fourth Edition. New York, NY: W.W. Norton & Company, Inc.

- Textbook *The Musician's Guide to Sight Singing*
- Workbook *The Musician's Guide to Aural Skills*
- Inquisitive Access (online)
- Pencil
- Erasure

Course Description:

Ear Training I is the first in a four-semester course sequence which examines the aural and singing skills of the notation, structure, and development of Western Music

Student Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to accomplish the following in each category:

- Sing diatonic melodies, including the use of solfeggio.
- Be able to identify, correct, and reproduce harmonic and melodic concepts after a few hearings.

- Demonstrate the same ability in accurately transcribing tonal music from repeated hearings.
- Utilize all these skills to improve performance skills for lessons and ensembles.

Course Requirements:

Ear Training is a skill-based topic delivered in a lab-based format. Thus, it is imperative that you come to class regularly and participate in all class activities. This material cannot be learned on your own with a book. As with other performance skills, this material requires regular attention and cannot be learned by “cramming.”

Class time will regularly focus on a variety of listening and dictation exercises. Please do bring your book to class. Performance assignments and exams *may* be completed electronically.

The Rubric used to grade electronically submitted sight singing assignments and tests:

Evaluation and Grading:

Criteria	Level 4 4 Points	Level 3 3 Points	Level 2 2 Points	Level 1 1 Point	Criterion Score
Pitch	Excellent pitch! In tune; pitch has a strong core	Pitch is in tune overall, except for a few notes	Pitch is OK but out of tune for stretches of notes	The student loses sense of key	/4
Rhythm	Rhythm is excellent! Subdivisions are consistent and tempo is steady throughout	Very good. Some uneven rhythms but the tempo is steady	Student's tempo is unsteady and labored	Student stops singing for a significant time. Student loses the musical line.	/4
Spoken Syllables	Syllables are correct and clear throughout	A few missed syllables	Syllables are missed for significant stretches of notes	Syllables are wrong; sung on 'oo' or 'la'	/4

Many graded assignments will be given over the course of the semester, evenly divided between singing and aural activities. There will also be four exams, totaling 30% of the course grade.

In addition to these assessments, regular assignments will be given using the online resource *InQuizitive*. Written assignments that are completed IN PENCIL, neatly and legibly, will be graded for credit; all others will be returned with a grade of 0%.

Course Component	Grade %
Exams	30%
Sight Singing Assignments	20%
Dictation Assignments	20%
InQuizitive	20%
Attendance / Class Participation	10%
TOTAL	100%

A = 90 – 100

B = 80 – 89

C = 70 – 79

D = 60 – 69

F = 0 – 59

NOTE: If you are a music major and earn a grade of D or lower in a music course, the course will need to be taken again.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

LMS

All course sections offered by Texas A&M University-Commerce have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are technical requirements. **Note that technology will be utilized outside of class time.**

LMS Requirements:

<https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements>

LMS Browser Support:

https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm

Zoom Video Conferencing Tool

https://inside.tamuc.edu/campuslife/CampusServices/CITESupportCenter/Zoom_Account.aspx?source=universalmenu

Attendance Policy:

The University Catalog states, “Students are expected to be present for all class meetings of any course for which they are enrolled.” Sporadic attendance is a waste of your intellectual and financial resources. Unless they are the result of a medical or family emergency, excused absences (as defined by the Catalog) need to be arranged beforehand with the instructor. Each student is allowed up to three unexcused absences over the course of the semester. Additional unexcused absences may result in the lowering of the final grade and, in rare and extreme cases, the student being dropped from the course.

The following statements are required by either University policy, state, or federal law:

University Mission Statement:

Texas A&M University-Commerce nurtures and educates for success through access to academic research, and service programs of high quality.

School of Music Mission Statement:

The School of Music of Texas A&M University-Commerce promotes excellence in music through the rigorous study of music history, literature, theory, composition, pedagogy, and the preparation of music performance in applied study and ensembles to meet the highest standards of aesthetic expression.

Disability Resources Statement:

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services
Texas A&M University-Commerce
Waters Library, Room 132
908.886.5150, or 903.886.5835, phone
903.468.8148, fax
StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu

Non-Discrimination Statement:

A&M-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

Behavioral Statement:

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment.

Concealed Carry Statement: Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations. For a list of locations, please refer to <http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStateMents/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf> and/or consult your event organizer). Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

A&M-Commerce Supports Students' Mental Health

The Counseling Center at A&M-Commerce, located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers counseling services, educational programming, and connection to community resources for students. Students have 24/7 access to the Counseling Center's crisis assessment services by calling 903-886-5145. For more information regarding Counseling Center events and confidential services, please visit www.tamuc.edu/counsel

AI use policy [Draft 2, May 25, 2023]

Texas A&M University-Commerce acknowledges that there are legitimate uses of Artificial Intelligence, ChatBots, or other software that has the capacity to generate text, or suggest replacements for text beyond individual words, as determined by the instructor of the course.

Any use of such software must be documented. Any undocumented use of such software constitutes an instance of academic dishonesty (plagiarism).

Individual instructors may disallow entirely the use of such software for individual assignments or for the entire course. Students should be aware of such requirements and follow their instructors' guidelines. If no instructions are provided the student should assume that the use of such software is disallowed.

In any case, students are fully responsible for the content of any assignment they submit, regardless of whether they used an AI, in any way. This specifically includes cases in which the AI plagiarized another text or misrepresented sources.

13.99.99.R0.03 Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty

13.99.99.R0.10 Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty

Syllabus Change Policy

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE

	Monday	Wednesday	To Do for Topic
1. August 25 / 27	Course and D2L introduction Diagnostic Exam	Solfege, Scale degree Numbers and Melodic Contour (Chapter 1)	Inquisitive (Cpt 1) Sight Singing #1 Dictation #1
2. September 1 / 3	Labor Day No Class	Simple Meters (Chapter 2)	Inquisitive (Cpt 2) Sight Singing #2 Dictation #2
3. September 8 / 10	Simple Meters continued	Pitch Collections, Scales and Major Keys (Chapter 3)	Inquisitive (Cpt 3) Sight Singing #3 Dictation #3
4. September 15 / 17	Pitch Collections, Scales and Major Keys	Pitch Collections, Scales and Major Keys Compound Meters (Chapter 4)	Inquisitive (Cpt 4) Sight Singing #4 Dictation #4
5. September 22 / 24	Compound Meters (Chapter 4)	Compound Meters	Exam 1 Chapters 1 - 4
6. October S29 / 1	Minor keys and diatonic modes (Chapter 5)	Minor keys and diatonic modes	Inquisitive (5) Sight Singing #5 Dictation #5
7. October 6 / 8	Intervals (Chapter 6)	Intervals	Inquisitive (6) Sight Singing #6 Dictation #6
8. October 13 / 15	Exam II Review	Midterm Exam	Over Chapters 1 - 6
9. October 20 / 22	Triads (Chapter 7)	Triads	Inquisitive (7) Sight Singing #7 Dictation #7
10. Oct / Nov 27 / 29	Seventh Chords (Chapter 8)	Seventh Chords	Inquisitive (8) Sight Singing #8 Dictation #8
11. November 3 / 5	Exam III Review	Exam III	Over chapters 1 - 8
12. November 10 / 12	Note to Note Counterpoint (chapter 9)	Note to note Counterpoint	Inquisitive (9) Sight Singing #9 Dictation #9
13. November 17 / 19	Embellishing Two-Part Texture (Chapter 10)	Embellishing Two – Part Texture	Inquisitive (10) Sight Singing #10 Dictation #10
14. Nov / Dec 24 / 26	Soprano and Bass Lines in a Chorale Style (chapter 11)	Thanksgiving - NO CLASS	Thanksgiving Break – Relax
15. December 1 / 3	Final Exam Review	Final Exam Review	Over Chapter 1 - 10

Syllabus is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor