

MUTH 1410: Aural Skills I

Fall 2025

Section 004 (5117): MWF 9:00-9:50 AM, MUSI 289

Instructor: Zijia (Lydia) Zhao
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Coordinator: Benjamin Graf, benjamin.graf@unt.edu
Office Hours: By Appointment
Office: Bain Hall 116

Course Objectives:

This course begins to develop both the “hearing eye” and the “seeing ear.” Singing activities will include prepared melodies, sight singing, and ensemble singing. Dictation exercises will focus on melody, rhythm, and harmony. Keyboard assignments reinforce the basic building blocks of tonal theory: intervals, chords, and simple diatonic progressions. By the end of the course, students will be able to sing and identify the following:

1. Diatonic melodies in major and minor using bass and treble clef (using movable do and letter names)
2. Intervals (up through an octave)
3. Triads (major, minor, diminished), and the dominant seventh chord
4. Cadences
5. Harmonic vocabulary commensurate with MUTH1400 (the phrase model and its basic expansions)
6. Simple and compound meter (combined with conducting patterns in 2, 3, and 4)

Required Materials:

- *Music for Sight Singing*, 10th edition by Nancy Rogers and Robert W. Ottman (Pearson 2013)
- Manuscript paper and pencils with erasers!!!

Grading Rubric*

HW/Quizzes/Class Performance	40%
Dictation Tests	30%
Individual Hearings	30%

Letter Grades

A	90-100%
B	80-89%
C	70-79%
D	60-69%
F	below 60%

*You must earn a minimum average of 60% in both the Dictations Tests category and the Individual Hearings category in order to receive a grade higher than F for the course.

**May include both prepared materials and sight-reading.

Course Schedule (subject to change)

Unit	Topics	Dictation Test	Individual Hearing
1	Conducting patterns, treble and bass clefs, meter ID, interval ID, chord ID	Wed., Sept. 17	The Week 5/Sep. 19
2	Tonic and dominant, minor, scale ID, compound meter	Wed., Oct. 22	The Week 10/Oct. 24
3	Predominants, more diatonic skips, subdivision	Wed., Dec. 3	The Week 16/Dec. 5

All hearing tests will be on Zoom, and all dictation tests will be in class.

Assignment Policy:

All work must be done legibly in pencil. Assignments are due 11:59PM. If you do not understand how to complete an assignment or need more time because of some unplanned situations, please contact me before the assignment is due. Otherwise, **No late work will be accepted.**

Examination Policy:

Failure to attend a test without prior notice or an approved excuse will result in a 30% grade deduction for that assessment. One make-up opportunity will be granted; however, failure to appear for the make-up test without prior notice will result in a grade of zero for that test, with no further make-up opportunities permitted.

Attendance:

Because this is a skills-based course, attendance is absolutely vital to your success; it is impossible to make up for missed class time. You are responsible for knowing any new material missed.

Because most in-class performances and assignments will be graded at the very beginning of class, it is to your benefit to get to class on time; you will not be permitted to make up the performance after it is over. Arriving later than five minutes after the start of class will result in a tardy, and three tardies will result in an unexcused absence. Arriving to class more than **15 minutes late will count as an unexcused absence**. Likewise, leaving class early *at any time* or showing an unwillingness to participate will result in an unexcused absence. Most issues and concerns can be resolved easily if brought to my attention before class! Penalties for unexcused absences are as follows:

4 unexcused absences:	final grade lowered by 10% (for example: 85% - 10% = 75%)
5 unexcused absences:	final grade lowered by 20% (for example: 85% - 20% = 65%)
6 unexcused absences:	automatic failure of course

Excused absences will not negatively impact your grade if you notify me before the absence. Excused absences include: medical emergencies, religious holidays, and documented illness. (That is, you must show me a doctor's note or note from the Dean of Students Office.) Official School of Music activities will be judged on a case-by-case basis, although **lessons are not excused absences**. If you plan to be absent for a long period of time, contact the **Dean**

of Students Office. Likewise, if you have a condition that might inhibit your attendance, look into the Office of Disability Accommodations and notify me of any special circumstances.

If any student wishes to dispute an absence as “excused” instead of “unexcused” with the instructor (or the Aural Skills Coordinator, Dr. Graf), he/she must do so within 48 hours of the last class period he/she missed. After that time period, the student will have to go through the Dean of Students Office (Maureen “Moe” McGuinness, Union 409) to obtain an excuse note on UNT letterhead in order to request absences to be changed from “unexcused” to “excused.”

Academic Integrity and Behavior:

While studying together for exams is encouraged and useful, all written assignments must be completed individually. If you have a question over an assignment, please email me. Students caught cheating or plagiarizing will receive a zero for that particular assignment. Additionally, the incident will be reported to the Dean of Students, who may impose further penalty.

According to the UNT catalog, the term “cheating” includes, but is not limited to: a) use of any unauthorized assistance in taking quizzes, tests, or examinations; b) dependence upon the aid of sources beyond those authorized by the instructor in writing papers, preparing reports, solving problems, or carrying out other assignments; c) the acquisition, without permission, of tests or other academic material belonging to a faculty or staff member of the university; d) dual submission of a paper or project, or resubmission of a paper or project to a different class without express permission from the instructor(s); or e) any other act designed to give a student an unfair advantage. The term “plagiarism” includes, but is not limited to: a) the knowing or negligent use by paraphrase or direct quotation of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgment; and b) the knowing or negligent unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or agency engaged in the selling of term papers or other academic materials.

LINK: <http://facultysuccess.unt.edu/academic-integrity>

Student behavior that interferes with an instructor’s ability to conduct a class or other students’ opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. Put away cell phones completely and do not consume any food that clutters your workspace, creates a mess, or bothers other students. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor may refer the student to the Dean of Students to consider whether the student’s conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The university’s expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including university and electronic classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc.

Link: <https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct>

Eagle Connect:

Your access point for business and academic services at UNT occurs at my.unt.edu. All official communication from the university will be delivered to your Eagle Connect account. For more information, please visit the website that explains Eagle Connect.

LINK: eagleconnect.unt.edu/

ODA Statement:

The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office

of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. For additional information see the Office of Disability Accommodation.

LINK: disability.unt.edu. (Phone: (940) 565-4323)

Financial Aid and Satisfactory Progress:

A student must maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) to continue to receive financial aid. Students must maintain a minimum 2.0 cumulative GPA in addition to successfully completing a required number of credit hours based on total registered hours per term. Students cannot exceed attempted credit hours above 150% of their required degree plan. If a student does not maintain the required standards, the student may lose their financial aid eligibility. Students holding music scholarships must maintain a minimum 2.5 overall cumulative GPA and 3.0 cumulative GPA in music courses.

If at any point you consider dropping this or any other course, please be advised that the decision to do so may have the potential to affect your current and future financial aid eligibility. It is recommended that you to schedule a meeting with an academic advisor in your college or visit the Student Financial Aid and Scholarships office to discuss dropping a course being doing so.

LINK: <http://financialaid.unt.edu/sap>