

Northern Wyoming Community College District
– Sheridan College –

MUSC 1035 Aural Theory I (1 credit)

Fall 2015 • TTh • 9:00-9:50 PM

Whitney 130 • Music Department • Fine Arts Division

course site: proferickson.com

Instructor and Contact Information

Dr. Christian Erickson

Office: Whitney 140K

Office hours: Office hours: MTWThF 10:00 AM (additional hours by appointment)

(307) 674-6446, extension 3050

dr.christian.erickson@gmail.com (preferred method of contact)

Course Description

Students learn to read music at sight through the aid of solfège. The ability to aurally identify and transcribe rhythmic patterns, chord qualities and their inversions, intervals, scale patterns and melodies is developed.

Prerequisites

None

Co-requisites

Students seeking the Music AFA degree should enroll in MUSC 1030 Written Theory I and MUSC 1300 Class Piano I.

Purpose

This is a required course for music majors and minors. The skills practiced and learned will provide the student with the fundamental knowledge of music theory required for further study in the discipline.

Course Format

Lab

Grading

Letter

Texts/Materials

- Murphy, Paul, Joel Phillips, and Elizabeth West Marvin, et al. *The Musician's Guide to Aural Skills: Sight-Singing* (3rd ed.). New York: W. W. Norton & Company, 2016. ISBN 978-0-393-26405-0
- Clendinning, Jane Piper, and Elizabeth West Marvin. *The Musician's Guide to Aural Skills: Ear-Training* (3rd ed.). New York: W. W. Norton & Company, 2016. ISBN 978-0-393-26406-7.
- Pens, pencils, erasers, notebook, etc.
- Manuscript paper (available in the bookstore or online)
- Sennheiser HD 202 Headphones (available at the campus bookstore) or other over-the-ear headphones with a 3.5 mm mini-stereo plug and 1/4" adapter
- Access to a computer with an internet connection
- USB flash drive, 2 GB or larger

Minimum Student Outcomes

Upon completion of MUSC 1035 Aural Theory I, the student will be able to:

- sight-sing melodies in major and minor keys, cast in both simple and compound meters.
- sight-sing modal melodies.
- perform rhythmic patterns and pieces that utilize simple and compound meters.
- improvise short musical performances using a prescribed set of parameters.
- transcribe elements of music including rhythms, pitches, scales, scale collections, intervals, melodies, triads, seventh chords, and basic chord progressions.

Approximate Final Grade Evaluation

40% — Recitations (4 @ ~10% each)

20% — Homework: Inductive Listening (10 @ ~2% each)

20% — Homework: Contextual Listening (10 @ ~2% each)

20% — Dictation Exams (2 @ ~10% each)

Descriptions of Graded Course Components

Recitations: [4 total, each worth around 10% of your final grade] Private singing/playing exams will be administered at periodic intervals of the course of the semester. These will be held outside of our regular class meetings. I will distribute a study guide each recitations, then you'll have a week to schedule an appointment and complete the exam with either me or with my teaching assistant. Recitations will typically involve the singing of pre-assigned melodies and rhythms, and the singing of a melody at sight. Duets and keyboard exercises where students sing while playing will also be part of the recitations.

Homework Assignments: [One set of Inductive (aka “Try It”) exercises and one Contextual Listening exercise from each of the 10 chapters studied this semester; each worth around 2% of your final grade] Regular homework will include practice of sight-singing exercises, short melodic, rhythmic, and harmonic dictation exercises, and longer transcriptions of passages from music literature. The brief “Try It” exercises and at least one Contextual listening assignment per chapter will be collected and given a letter grade.

Dictation Exams: [Letter-graded; two total; each worth about 10% of your final grade] Two exams will be administered in which you’ll transcribe a number of short melodic, rhythmic, and/or harmonic examples. A longer transcription of a work from music literature will also be included. Both exams will be administered in the Mac lab.

Attendance: While not directly factored into your grade, attendance and participation are vital to learning. Students are expected to attend class regularly, arrive on time, and stay for the entire session. You are responsible for learning all material covered in class whether you are present or not. If you do miss a meeting or a portion of one, please ask a classmate if you may review his or her notes. See also “College Attendance Policy” on the following page for institutional expectations on this matter.

Course Websites

Our class companion website for this course is available at proferickson.com. Here you’ll find printable documents (such as the syllabus and other handouts), assignments, resources, links to useful sites, and audio files. Any copyright-protected material will be posted in a password-protected directory (login: musc, password: 1035).

Late and Incomplete Assignments

Students are expected to complete all assignments by prescribed due dates. The “due date” is the beginning of the meeting following an assignment unless otherwise noted on the course calendar. Assignments submitted after the due date will be assessed a flat 25% penalty. I will accept late work up as long as it is submitted within *three weeks* of its original due date. Do not simply “blow off” an assignment because the due date has passed and the work is subject to a late penalty. Remember, partial credit is always better than no credit at all.

Absences and Make-up Policy

In cases of school-sponsored activities or illness resulting in an absence by the student, it is the student’s responsibility to notify the instructor in advance of the missed class. Absences with advance notice are considered “excused.” Students are responsible for all reading, listening and other homework assigned during the absence. Absences without prior notification to the instructor (“unexcused”) will automatically result in forfeiture of any possible points associated with the missed class.

Course Withdrawal/Petition for Incomplete Grade

On occasion, unforeseen circumstances may interfere with a student's ability to complete a course or to accomplish a satisfactory level of personal academic achievement. If you find yourself in this situation, I encourage you to visit with me to evaluate your options. Rarely is a grade unsalvageable if a student is willing to take the steps necessary to rectify it. If, however, a student is ever unable to fully devote his or her energies to the coursework, withdrawal may be the best option. Consult the college's academic calendar for the withdrawal deadline. Paperwork for withdrawals can be obtained from the Office of Records and Admissions.

A temporary grade of "I" or "incomplete" is available to students who cannot finish the course due to an emergency situation that arises late in the semester. The administration of an incomplete is at the instructor's discretion. Although I can be flexible depending on the circumstances of the student, my general policy is that the student should have at least 75% of the course completed and have a current grade of C or better at the time of the request for the incomplete grade. The incomplete portion of the course must be completed by the end of the semester following the request (summer sessions excluded) or the "I" will revert to an "F."

Northern Wyoming Community College District Policies

Academic Honesty Statement: Students are expected to maintain the highest standards of academic honesty and integrity. Academic honesty means performing all academic work without lying, cheating, deceit, plagiarism, misrepresentation, or unfairly gaining advantage over any other student. Violations of academic honesty are in violation of District standards for student conduct and shall result in disciplinary action.

Disability Statement: Students with disabilities who believe they may need accommodations in this class are encouraged to contact the Student Success Center as soon as possible to ensure such accommodations may be implemented.

College Attendance Policy: Regular attendance is expected of all students attending NWCCD so they may fully benefit from the educational experience. Students receiving financial aid must regularly attend class and actively participate in their coursework in order to earn their aid. Students failing to do so may be held liable for returning financial aid funds. Visit the Office of Financial Aid Services for more information.

A complete list of official college policies can be found on the NWCCD website by pointing your browser to this shortcut: <http://mcaf.ee/7018c>

Course Calendar

Subject to revision. Homework assigned in class is due at beginning of the next class meeting.

8/22 - 8/30	Chapter 1 Activities
9/1 - 9/8	Chapter 2 Activities
9/13 - 9/20	Chapter 3 Activities; Recitation 1 Deadline (9/16)
9/22 - 9/29	Chapter 4 Activities
10/4 - 10/11	Chapter 5 Activities; Recitation 2 Deadline (10/7)
10/13	Mid-Term Exam
10/20 - 10/25	Chapter 6 Activities
10/27 - 11/3	Chapter 7 Activities
11/4	Recitation 3 Deadline
11/8 - 11/15	Chapter 8 Activities
11/17 - 11/29	Chapter 9 Activities
12/1 - 12/8	Chapter 10 Activities; Recitation 4 Deadline (12/2)
12/13	Final Dictation Exam (8AM-10AM)