



## **MUSC 1035 Aural Theory I (1 credit)**

Fall 2023 • TTh • 8:30-9:20 PM

Whitney 130 • Music Department • Arts & Sciences Division

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### **Instructor and Contact Information**

Dr. Christian Erickson

Office: Whitney 140-J

Office hours: Office hours: MTWTh 1:00 PM (additional hours by appointment)

(307) 675-0732

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### **Course Description**

This course explores music theory from an aural perspective. The ability to aurally identify and transcribe rhythmic patterns, chord qualities and their inversions, intervals, scale patterns and melodies is developed. Students will also learn to read music at sight through the aid of *solfège*.

### **Prerequisites**

None

### **Co-requisites**

MUSC 1030 Written Theory I and MUSC 1290 Keyboard Theory I.

### **Purpose**

This is a required course for students seeking the A.F.A. degree in music.

### **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* (4th ed.). New York: W. W. Norton & Company, 2021. ISBN 978-0-393-69709-4
- Clendinning, Jane Piper, and Elizabeth West Marvin. *The Musician's Guide to Aural Skills: Ear-Training* (4th ed.). New York: W. W. Norton & Company, 2021. ISBN 978-0-393-44254-0.
- Pens, pencils, erasers, notebook, etc.
- Manuscript paper (available in the bookstore or online)
- Sennheiser HD 202 II 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: Try It Dictations (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 for each recitation, 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 "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 must 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 their notes.

## Course Website

Our class companion website for this course is available at [proferickson.com](http://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**

Just as regular practice for lessons and ensembles is vital for the growth of musicianship, so is consistent reinforcement of concepts and skills explored and developed in academic music classes. Therefore it is the policy of the Sheridan College Department of Music to expect our students to complete assignments by prescribed due dates. Your instructor will only accept work submitted on the due date. Submission of late work may be allowed in a documented emergency, but this is at the instructor's discretion. **Note:** As the course officially ends after the administration of the final exam, students may submit no further work after our scheduled exam time concludes.

## **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 before the missed class. Absences with advance notice are "excused." Students are responsible for all assigned reading, listening, and other homework during their 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**

Occasionally, unforeseen circumstances may interfere with a student's ability to complete a course or accomplish satisfactory personal academic achievement. If you are in this situation, I encourage you to visit me to evaluate your options. Rarely is a grade unsalvageable if a student is willing to take the steps necessary to rectify it. However, withdrawal may be the best option if you cannot fully devote your energies to the coursework. Consult the college's academic calendar for the withdrawal deadline. The Office of Records and Admissions can assist in the withdrawal process.

A temporary grade of "I" or "incomplete" is available to students who cannot finish the course due to an emergency 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 student's circumstances, 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 student must complete the unfinished portion of the class by an agreed-upon deadline, or the "I" will automatically change to an "F."

# Course Calendar

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

8/29 - 9/5	Chapter 1 Activities
9/7 - 9/14	Chapter 2 Activities
9/19 - 9/26	Chapter 3 Activities; Recitation 1 Deadline (9/22)
9/28 - 10/5	Chapter 4 Activities
10/10 - 10/12	Chapter 5 Activities; Recitation 2 Deadline (10/13)
10/17	Mid-Term Dictation Exam (8:30AM-9:50AM)
10/19 - 10/26	Chapter 6 Activities
10/31 - 11/7	Chapter 7 Activities
11/9 - 11/16	Chapter 8 Activities; Recitation 3 Deadline (11/17)
11/21 - 11/30	Chapter 9 Activities
12/5 - 12/12	Chapter 10 Activities; Recitation 4 Deadline (12/8)
12/14	Final Dictation Exam (8:30AM-9:50AM)