

Northern Wyoming Community College District
– Sheridan College –

MUSC 2045 Aural Theory IV (1 credit)

Spring 2023 • TTh • 10:00-10:50 PM

Whitney 130 • Music Department • Arts & Sciences Division

course site: proferickson.com

Instructor and Contact Information

Dr. Christian Erickson

Office: Whitney 140J

Office hours: MTWTh 1:00-2:00 PM; F 2:00-3:00 (additional hours by appointment)

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Course Description

This course offers students an opportunity to learn further techniques and methods related to the skills learned in MUSC 2035 Aural Theory III.

Prerequisites

MUSC 2035 Aural Theory III

Co-requisites

MUSC 2295 Class Piano IV and MUSC 2040 Written Theory IV.

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

Lecture/Lab

Grading

Letter

Texts/Materials

- Clendinning, Jane Piper, and Elizabeth West Marvin. *The Musician's Guide to Aural Skills: Sight-Singing, Rhythm-Reading, Improvisation, and Keyboard Skills* (4th ed.). New York: W. W. Norton & Company, 2021.
- 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.
- Pens, pencils, erasers, notebook, etc.
- Manuscript paper (available in the bookstore or online)
- 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, 4GB or larger

Minimum Student Outcomes

Upon completion of MUSC 2045 Aural Theory IV, the student will be able to:

- sight-sing melodies featuring chromaticism, chromatic modulation, modes, and "exotic" scales.
- sight-sing constructed from ordered collections and tone rows.
- perform rhythmic patterns and pieces that utilize changing meters, asymmetric meters, and metric modulation.
- perform rhythmic patterns and pieces that feature quintuples, and septuplets
- transcribe elements of music including chromatic modulating phrases, modes and other "exotic" scales, and post-tonal resources.
- develop listening skills pertaining to the recognition of common musical forms including variation, rondo, and sonata form.

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

Homework Assignments: [One set of "Try it" exercises and one Contextual Listening exercise from each chapter studied letter-graded; assigned on a daily basis] Homework will include sight-singing exercises, short melodic, rhythmic, and harmonic dictation exercises, and longer transcriptions of passages from music literature. At least one assignment per chapter will be collected and given a letter grade. Most assignments will *not* be submitted to the instructor, but will be discussed in class so that students can practice and hone listening skills without fear of a poor grade. Please resist the temptation of skipping assignments that I don't collect. Although it will not affect your grade in the short run, the lack of practice that the assignments afford will most definitely affect your performance on the items that I *do* grade.

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.

Dictation Exams: [Letter-graded; two total; each worth around 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.

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.

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: 2045).

Late and Incomplete Assignments

Just as regular practice for lessons and ensembles is vital for the growth of musicianship, so too 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. Assignments submitted after the due date will NOT be accepted. In the event of a documented emergency, late work may be accepted at the discretion of the instructor. **Note:** As the course officially ends after the administration of the final exam, no late work will be accepted after our scheduled final 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 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.

Institutional 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.

Disability Statement: Students with disabilities who believe they may need accommodations in this class must contact the disabilities services coordinator on their campus as soon as possible to request such accommodations.

Health and Safety Guidelines: The safety of our students, employees, and communities is at the forefront of our decision-making. Our core mission is education, and our commitment to providing quality learning opportunities for all is central to our path forward. While the District cannot eliminate the risk of exposure to or transmission of COVID-19, or other communicable diseases, we are committed to implementing practices and behaviors that mitigate the risk of illness. These include self-screening and remaining at home if feeling ill, frequent handwashing, cleanliness of teaching and learning spaces and seeking professional medical attention/advice as needed. Guidance regarding conduct and compliance can be found in the NWCCD Employee Handbook and the NWCCD Student Code of Conduct. Information regarding all safety precautions and requirements can be found at www.sheridan.edu/updates.

Course Calendar

Regular Class Meetings

1/24 - 1/31	Chapter 31 Activities
2/2 - 2/9	Chapter 32 Activities
2/14 - 2/16	Chapter 33 Activities
2/21 - 2/28	Chapter 34 Activities
3/2 - 3/9	Chapter 35 Activities
3/14	Mid-Term Dictation Exam
3/16 - 3/30	Chapter 36 Activities
4/4- 4/11	Chapter 37 Activities
4/13 - 4/20	Chapter 38 Activities
4/25 - 4/27	Chapter 39 Activities
5/2 - 4/9	Chapter 40 Activities
5/11	Final Dictation Exam

Private Recitation Deadlines

2/16	Due date for Recitation I
3/2	Due date for Recitation II
4/6	Due date for Recitation III
4/27	Due date for Recitation IV

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