

University of South Carolina School of Music
MUSC 217: Aural Skills III
Fall 2007

Faculty Supervisor

Dr. J. Daniel Jenkins
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Instructors

Ms. Suzanna Pavlovsky
Mr. George Schneider

Meeting Times and Locations

Section 1 (463717)	TTH	8:25-9:15 AM	Room 215
Section 2 (463727)	TTH	9:30-10:20 AM	Room 232
Section 3 (463737)	TTH	11:00-11:50 AM	Room 215
Section 4 (463747)	MW	2:30-3:20 PM	Room 210

Course Description

Developing musicians that are able to perform notated music without recourse to a piano or other instrument, to transfer heard sound into notation, and to create music through composition and improvisation—these are just some of the goals of **Aural Skills**. The course objectives include, but are not limited to

- using solfege syllables when singing
- maintaining a beat (and simultaneously singing) in various meters
- performing rhythms and melodies (solo and ensemble) at sight
- reading facility in a variety of clefs
- developing inner hearing and musical memory
- notating pitches and rhythms accurately
- playing (and simultaneously singing) at the piano
- reading a variety of musical scores

Course Materials

Robert W. Ottman and Nancy Rogers, *Music for Sight Singing*, seventh edition
Staff paper and pencil (pen is **not** acceptable)
MacGAMUT software (optional)

Requirements

As in your applied lessons and ensembles, this is a performance-based course. Therefore, your success will hinge greatly on your consistent and proper preparation. In order to do well, plan to build *at least* 20 minutes of your *daily* practice-room time to work on aural skills. You won't be taking time away from preparing for lessons...everything you work on can be applied to your musicianship in other areas!

Remember, Practice makes Perfect . . . but Practicing Mistakes makes Perfect Mistakes. Part of our task this semester is learning how to practice correctly and consistently so that we are using our time as efficiently as possible.

If you feel that your practice time is sufficient, but you are not able to keep up with the pace of the class, then talk to your instructor about appropriate practice methods or about getting extra help outside of class. Your instructor may also require that you work with MacGAMUT software (available in the book store).

In addition to performing in class, both alone and in small groups, you will perform in sightsinging audits for your instructor at the midterm and end of the semester. Due to time constraints, some of these audits will have take place outside of regular class time, and some of the final sightsinging audits will take place during the final exam time. *It is your responsibility to sign up for an audit time that does not create conflicts with other things in your schedule.* You will also take two dictation exams: a midterm and a final.

Audits and exams are extremely important course requirements and make-ups will only be offered under the most exceptional of circumstances.

Class Attendance

As in private lessons and ensemble rehearsals, your attendance in this course is critical. Much of your grade will depend on your performance in class. The university attendance policy states the following: “Enrollment in a course obligates the student not only for prompt completion of all work assigned but also for punctual and regular attendance and for participation in whatever class discussion may occur. It is the student’s responsibility to keep informed concerning all assignments made. Absences whether excused or unexcused do not absolve him or her from this responsibility. Absence from more than 10 percent of the scheduled classes, whether excused or unexcused, is excessive and the instructor may choose to exact a grade penalty for such absences.”

There are only 29 class meetings of this course, which means you can only miss three times before your grade will be lowered. Your instructor will take attendance at every class meeting.

Grading

Classwork (including performance, quizzes, etc.)	40%
Homework (including composition assignments, etc.)	20%
Midterm (including both sightsinging audits and a dictation exam)	20%
Final (including both sightsinging audits and a dictation exam)	20%

Scale

A	100-93	Grades in the A range represent truly excellent work, showing a high degree of mastery of the subject matter. This work is error-free (or nearly so), and displays musicality and creativity. An exceptionally high grade.
B+	92-86	Grades in the B range represent good to strong basic command of the material, with few errors. A high grade.
B	85-80	
C+	79-75	Grades in the C range represent errors that reveal only partial understanding or weak mastery of the material. A fair grade.
C	74-70	
D+	69-65	Grades in the D range represent work that is very weak, showing poor understanding and very little mastery of the material. A low grade.
D	64-60	
F	59 and below	Grades in the F range represent unacceptable work. A very low grade.
0		A grade of “0” represents work that was not submitted or submitted late.

Important Dates

Monday, September 3	No class – Labor Day
Thursday, October 11	No class – Fall Break
Week of October 15	Midterm Dictation Exam and Sightsinging Audits (some of the audits will take place outside of class time)
Thursday, November 22	No class – Thanksgiving Break
Week of December 3	Final Dictation Exam and Sightsinging Audits (some of the audits will take place during the final exam time)

Final Exam Schedule

Section 1 (463717)	Friday, December 14	9:00 AM
Section 2 (463717)	Monday, December 10	2:00 PM
Section 3 (463717)	Monday, December 17	9:00 AM
Section 4 (463717)	Wednesday, December 12	2:00 PM

Academic Integrity**Caveat**

The policies and schedule of this course are subject to change as the supervisor sees fit.