

# MUS 105: Aural Skills I

Credit: 2 semester hours

TR 9:25am–10:40am

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Aven 404

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## Required Texts:

*A New Approach to Sight Singing*, 5<sup>th</sup> ed., by Berkowitz, Frontier and Kraft.

*Music for Ear Training: CD ROM and Workbook*, 4<sup>th</sup> ed., by Horvit, Koozin and Nelson.

**Course Description:** MUS 105 is the first semester of a four-semester sequence that is required of all music majors. The first two semesters, MUS 105–106, are required for the music minor. These courses develop the basic aural skills that are considered necessary for a successful career as a musician. Skills are in the areas of aural recognition/notation and performance (both at sight and prepared) of melodies, rhythms and harmonies.

**Rationale:** For the musician, aural skills are paramount and should be practiced throughout an entire musical career. The processes of singing/playing in tune, audiating written scores and listening intelligently come about through careful and persistent practice. The four-semester Aural Skills sequence gives the student the techniques to practice these skills and provides feedback as the student progresses in mastering them.

## Learning Objectives:

1. Improvement in the areas of interval recognition, chord recognition, melodic singing skills (prepared and unprepared), and understanding of tonal melodies/harmonies.
2. The student will be able to perform these skills quickly enough to make use of them in a practical manner.

**Academic Integrity:** While students are encouraged to study and practice together, turning in work that is not one's own will result in no (zero) credit. The student should read Policy 2.19 on Academic Honesty in the current Mississippi College Student Handbook.

**Methods of Instruction:** Classroom practice and discourse of all skills. Emphasis will be placed upon frequent testing of the individual student. Materials will be of increasing difficulty. *It is essential that the student have a disciplined, organized practice routine for success in this class.*

**Required Practices:** Practice outside of class *and* participation individually and collectively during class meetings is necessary for success. *The biggest single reason for poor performance in this class is lack of practice.* You must practice *as long as it takes* to master the skills.

**Grading:** The following scale will be used to determine the final grade:

A = 92–100%

B = 83–91%

C = 74–82%

D = 65–73%

F = 64% or lower.

Notes:

1. Students who miss a test due to an unexcused absence will not be permitted to make it up. If you know you are going to miss a test because of a school-sponsored event, plan ahead and take the test early.
  2. Being absent for 25% (8) of the scheduled class meetings will result in an automatic F.
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**Calendar of Topics:** This calendar is subject to change via announcement in class or by email.

Written assignments are found in *Music for Ear Training* (MET) and are due on the first class meeting of each week unless otherwise noted. Performing assignments are found in *A New Approach to Sight Singing* (NASS) and are due on Moodle by the Friday of each week at 4:30p.

Week 1	Syllabus. Video recording instructions.
Week 2	<b>HW 1:</b> MET p. 8, #16-25 (due Thursday)
Week 3	<b>HW 2:</b> MET p. 15 (due Thursday) <b>Video 1:</b> Sing 2 from NASS pp. 9-11, #23, 24, 25, 33, 35. Use solfège.
Week 4	<b>HW 3:</b> MET p. 59 <b>Video 2:</b> Chant/conduct 2 from NASS pp. 173-174, #62-70. Two different meters.
Week 5	<b>HW 4:</b> MET p. 37 <b>Video 3:</b> Sing 2 from NASS pp. 11-13, #36, 37, 38, 42. Use solfège.
Week 6	<b>Written Test 1:</b> Intervals and rhythm. <b>Performance Test 1:</b> Sight-singing melodies.
Week 7	<b>HW 5:</b> MET pp. 19 and 51 <b>Video 4:</b> Sing Major, Harmonic Minor and Melodic Minor scales with solfège.
Week 8	<b>Fall Break</b> <b>HW 6:</b> MET p. 50 (due Thursday)
Week 9	<b>HW 7:</b> MET p. 179 <b>Video 5:</b> Chant/conduct 2 from NASS pp. 170-171, #44-52
Week 10	<b>HW 8:</b> MET p. 85

**Video 6:** Sing 1 from NASS pp. 18-19, #68-73 and 1 from pp. 20-22, #78-86 (1 Major, 1 minor) with solfège.

- Week 11     **HW 9:** MET p. 68  
**Video 7:** Sing 2 from NASS pp. 32-33, #139-147 (1 Major, 1 minor) with solfège.
- Week 12     **Written Test 2:** Melodic and Harmonic Dictation (Tonic and Dominant).  
**Performance Test 2:** Sight-singing melodies.
- Week 13     **HW 10:** MET p. 102  
**Video 8:** Sing the melody you compose based on the instructions given in class.
- Week 14     **HW 11:** MET p. 93-94  
**Thanksgiving**
- Week 15     **HW 11:** MET p. 113  
**Video 9:** Sing and play one of the hymns provided in class.
- Week 16     Review for Final Exam

**Final Exam:** Saturday, December 8, 2011, 8:00–11:00am  
Melodic and Harmonic Dictation.  
Sight-singing melodies.

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In order for a student to receive disability accommodations under Section 504 of the Americans with Disabilities Act, he or she must contact Student Counseling Services (SCS). SCS will assist with information regarding the appropriate policy and procedure for disability accommodations before each semester or upon immediate recognition of the disability. SCS is located in Alumni Hall Room #4 or you may contact them by phone at 601-925-7790. The Director of Student Counseling Services, Dr. Bryant may be reached via email at mbryant@mc.edu.