

Course: Aural Skills M206-A
T-W-Th 5:00pm-5:50pm
Term: Fall 2008
Teacher: Professor Karl Soukup
(*Syllabus version: 9.2.08*)

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Course Description

206a is a 1-unit Credit/No-Credit course for music majors only – this semester’s class is designed for graduate students specifically; its purpose is to prepare students for the Aural Skills Exit Exam, which will be given as a final. Course content will include in-class practice in all of the aural skills areas covered on the test including interval identification, chord identification, single line and two-line melodic dictation, four-part dictation, error detection, sightsinging. A portion of class will also be dedicated to drilling aural skills related to 20th Century repertoire. Some work will be graded on the 100-point scale, and other work will be pass/fail. See “Grading” below for details. If you have been assigned this class, by placement exam for instance, you must pass it or you will have to retake it.

Material Requirements

- 1) Sightsinging book (available at Aztec Shops or online):
Ottman, Robert, *Music for Sightsinging*, 7th ed. Englewood Cliffs, NJ:
Prentice Hall, 2007
- 2) Eartraining book (available at Aztec Shops or online):
Horvit, Koozin, & Nelson, *Music for Eartraining*, 3rd ed. Belmont, CA:
Shirmer, 2005
- 3) 8 or 12-line Manuscript paper. Pencils/erasers.

Suggested, but not required:

- 4) A binder to keep your quizzes, assignments, and daily drills.

Supplemental material, as needed:

- 5) Eartraining Software Program – e.g., Practical Musica or MacGamut.

The Horvit text comes with a simple library-type program that acts as a private tutor. But these other Eartraining programs provide much more functionality.

Grading

This course is offered for credit/no-credit only, however some of your work will be graded so that you may track your progress. Daily drills given in class are not graded. In-class and take-home assignments will only be graded on a pass/fail basis: you must complete them satisfactorily to get credit for the course. Take home quizzes will be graded on the 100 point scale, with 70% required to pass – these quizzes represent 30% of your final grade. Four Exams will be given (also graded on the 100 point scale) including the midterm and final and represent 50% of your final grade. Class participation comprises the remaining 20% of your grade. In order to pass the course a get credit, your total grade must be a 70 or better.

Daily Drills – not graded	8 Take Home Quizzes - 30%
Practice Drills from Horvit – not graded	4 Exams – 50%
In-class and take-home Assignments – pass/fail	Class Participation – 20%

Daily Class Structure

Please bring the Ottman to class on Wednesdays and Thursdays as we will sightsing for the first 15 minutes or so on these days. This will take the form of rhythmic clapping or sightsinging (singing the same note but sightreading rhythms), melodic sightsinging as a group or as individuals, and sightsinging 2-part music and canons. The rest of class time will be dedicated to assignments or drilling in the skills of dictation, intervallic and harmonic identification, and honing other Aural Skills.

Tuesdays will be dedicated to harmony and developing 4-part dictation techniques.

Wednesdays will be dedicated to one and two-line Melodic dictation and in-class assignments.

Thursdays will be dedicated to interval and chord identification, error detection drills and tests. 20th century music may be discussed on any of these days as applicable.

Daily Drills

Drills will be given daily so bring manuscript paper and pencils to every class. These drills will not be graded; answers will be given at the end of each drill so that you may track your own progress.

Practice Drills from Horvit

Your aural skills development can only be attained through regular and diligent practice. There are hundreds of practice drills that you can complete on your own in the "Music for Eartraining" text. From week to week, I will be suggesting drills that you can work on from the text. I will not grade this work. It is up to you to practice this material and track your own progress.

I suggest that you give yourself no more than 4 listenings to complete any given example. This will provide you with some much needed practice in completing dictations in a timely manner. You will have to apply these skills on the exams. You can spend a little extra time on the take-home quizzes if you wish, but it is very important for you to limit yourself on the practice drills.

In-class & take-home Assignments

You may be given in-class or take-home written assignments. These will be graded on a pass/fail basis: if you fail the assignment, you must make it up by correcting your mistakes or by completing and passing a make-up assignment. You must turn in and pass all of the assignments to get credit for the course. If you miss an in-class assignment due to absence, you must make it up as a take-home assignment. All assignments must be handed in by the last day of class (Dec 11th) or you will not receive credit for the course. If you hand in all (or some) of your assignments on Dec 11th and they are incorrect, you will not get credit for the course, so please get your work in early so that you will have plenty of time to make corrections. I will stop assigning work shortly after Thanksgiving Break so that you have a substantial amount of time to hand in make-up or corrected assignments. Again, please write legibly or utilize a music notation program for take-home assignments. Illegible work will be failed.

Take Home Quizzes

8 Quizzes from the Horvit text will be assigned as take home work. These will be graded on the 100 point scale with a 70 being required to pass. I will drop your lowest quiz grade and take the average score of the remaining 7 quizzes. This will represent 30% of your final grade. Quizzes must be turned in on time. I will deduct 10% per day for late quizzes. Dictation will be included on every quiz and legibility counts! If your manuscript is illegible your grade will suffer. Please write neatly.

Exams

4 Exams will be given, most of them on Thursdays. I will drop the lowest score and take the average score of the remaining 3 exams. This score will comprise 50% of your grade for the course. An Assessment Exam will also be given but it will not be part of your grade for the class. In terms of difficulty, the assessment test will be much like the final exam, or the entrance exam you took. The other Exams will be cumulative – for example, exam #1 will cover material discussed in the first three weeks of class only, and the Final Exam will cover all material discussed in the course.

If your composite class score is 70 or higher, you will get credit for the course and your Aural Skills requirement will be fulfilled.

9/4 – Assessment Test

9/25 - Exam #1

10/16 - Exam #2: Midterm

11/13 - Exam #3

12/16 - Exam #4: Final (Aural Skills Exit Exam)

Grading for quizzes and exams is based on the 100 point system:

97-100 = A+

94-96 = A

90-93 = A-

87-89 = B+

84-86 = B

80-83 = B-

77-79 = C+

74-76 = C

70-73 = C-

67-69 = D+

64-66 = D

60-63 = D-

0-59 = F

Participation

Sightsinging will be a daily class activity. We will sightsing as a group, but you will also be called upon to sightsing by yourself. This is a necessary part of the course and it will help to prepare you for the Aural Skills Exit Exam, therefore you are expected to participate when called upon to sightsing in class.

Attendance Policy

You are granted up to five unexcused absences. Absences after that will only be excused for extreme or unavoidable circumstances (ie., illness, tragedy, school ensemble performance.) Please inform me by email ahead of time if you will be absent from class and why.

Webpage:

I will post the syllabus, course plan, assignments, due date reminders, and supplemental material on my personal webpage, here: www.karlsoukup.com/206.html

Extra Practice

I may be available for some extra one-on-one practice, if you need it. To ensure time for this, please schedule a meeting with me, preferably by email. I strongly encourage you to get together with your classmates to drill one another too.