

**MUSC 2131: Semester 4 Aural Skills**  
Course Syllabus  
Spring Semester 2006  
(ALL ITEMS SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

**Section 003: T/R 9:00-9:50 AM (N180D)**

Instructor: Tim Buckman  
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**Class Website:** [www.colorado.edu/music/Courses/musc2131](http://www.colorado.edu/music/Courses/musc2131)

**REQUIRED MATERIALS:**

- Ottman, Robert. MUSIC FOR SIGHT SINGING (6th ed). New Jersey: Prentice Hall.
- Kazez, Daniel. RHYTHM READING (2nd ed). New York: Norton.
- Staff paper, pencils, a correcting pen, erasers, headphones.
- IdentiKey and CAML access *or* internet connection and computer capable of MIDI and MP3 audio file playback.

**DESCRIPTION:**

Continuation of MUSC 2121. Studies sight singing of chromatic and atonal melodies. Includes dictation of one- and two-voice examples. Identifies sonorities studied in MUSC 2111. Considers detection of pitch and rhythm performance errors.

**GOALS:**

1. To further develop an accurate sense of inner hearing and musical memory.
2. To acquire aural understanding of the theoretical concepts presented in MUSC 2111.
3. To demonstrate fluency of these skills via sight singing and written dictation.

**STRUCTURE AND REQUIREMENTS:**

The course will consist of four separate month long cycles. Each will incorporate in-class drills, computer lab assignments and a unit dictation test. In addition, a private sight-singing exam will be administered on an individual basis on four occasions.

All students are expected to sing at-sight or prepared materials individually and in groups at every session, and to perform keyboard assignments in class when called upon.

**APPROXIMATE EVALUATION:**

Homework Assignments 10%  
Lab Assignments 20%  
Cycle Exams 35%  
Recitations 35%  
Attendance *Variable*

Attendance will be factored in your final grade (either positively or negatively depending on the circumstances). You will be permitted three unexcused absences per semester. Each unexcused absence beyond three will lower your grade by half a letter. We will spend a significant amount of time in class addressing issues that relate directly to exams and recitations. It is in your best interest attend class regularly in order to note pertinent information. In the case of absence due to illness, emergency, etc., you will be required to provide adequate documentation regarding your circumstances.

## **GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF GRADED ASSIGNMENTS:**

Homework: You will be assigned a relatively short dictation assignment twice per cycle. This will be an activity that you will complete by visiting the class website. All due dates are listed at the end of this document.

Computer-Based Dictation Labs: You are required to complete two labs for each cycle. Labs are posted on our class website. Labs may be treated as practice exams or as diagnostic tools to pinpoint potential problems you may have with concepts introduced early in the cycle. You will not be penalized for errors on the labs and will receive full credit provided you: 1) attend class on the due date; 2) actively participate in a class discussion about the lab (including writing your results on the board if called upon); and 3) note and correct your errors with a colored pen for your own later reference. All due dates are listed at the end of this document.

Lab formats may occasionally vary, but will usually consist of four activities: solfege mapping, short harmonic dictations, standard harmonic dictations, and either a melodic dictation or a rhythmic dictation. The REQUIRED lab worksheets are posted on the website for your convenience. In the case that you are unable to print one from a computer, there will always be worksheets posted on my office door that you may copy and replace. Labs not completed on the printed worksheet will NOT be accepted.

### Dictation Exams

A unit dictation exam will be given during the second class meeting of the third week of each cycle. These tests will cover concepts discussed in class and applied in your lab work. The exams will be written in a format similar to the labs. Therefore, you should find your completed lab worksheets very helpful in reviewing for the exams. Normal time allotted for the exams is 50 minutes. Repetitions of each exercise will be limited and at the instructor's discretion. All exam dates are listed at the end of this document.

### Recitations

You will attend three private meetings with your instructor in which you sing melodies from the Ottman text, rhythms from Kazez, and perform keyboard exercises or unprepared melodies. You will be assigned an unchanging recitation time that will take place during our normal class time. Recitations will be held once every four during the semester. You will be given 5 minutes to complete a set of prescribed requirements that will demonstrate your mastery of various sight-singing topics. There will be no time for coaching during your 5 minutes. It is expected that you will come to your recitation fully prepared. ***If you are having a problem with any component of the assignment, you should make an appointment with the instructor for extra drill or to discuss performance strategies prior to the recitation.*** You will receive guidelines several weeks before the recitation. Please be familiar with the requirements well in advance of your scheduled time. All recitation dates are listed at the end of this document.

*Note that during a week when recitations are being held, you are required to attend only your scheduled recitation time. We will not meet as a class during that fourth week of each cycle.*

## **LATE/INCOMPLETE ASSIGNMENTS AND MISSED EXAMS/RECITATIONS:**

Students are expected to complete all assignments by prescribed due dates. Assignments handed in past the due date (up to one week) will be assessed a 10% per class meeting penalty (e.g. handing in a lab a day late will automatically drop it a letter grade). Assignments more than one week past due will not be accepted.

However, should you be unable to fully complete an assignment on time, you are strongly encouraged to submit partially completed work, or, preferably, take the penalty on *completed* work handed in late. DO NOT simply "blow off" your assignments. Partial credit is always better than none. Also, keep in mind that the assignments are designed to directly prepare you for exams and auditions (items that are heavily weighted in your assessment).

Normally make up exams and recitations will not be given. Only in the case of a genuine emergency will a make exam or recitation be permitted. Also, please notify me as soon as possible if such a situation should arise.

## **LEGAL STATEMENTS:**

If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit to your instructor a letter from Disability Services in a timely manner so that your needs may be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities. 303-492-8671, Willard 322, [www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices](http://www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices)

Teaching faculty shall make every effort to accommodate all students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments or attendance, provided they notify their instructor well in advance of the scheduled conflict. Whenever possible, students should notify faculty at least two weeks in advance of the conflict to request special accommodation. [http://www.colorado.edu/policies/fac\\_relig.html](http://www.colorado.edu/policies/fac_relig.html)

Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. Students who fail to adhere to such behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. Faculty have the professional responsibility to treat all students with understanding, dignity and respect, to guide classroom discussion and to set reasonable limits on the manner in which they and their students express opinions. Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with differences of race, culture, religion, politics, sexual orientation, gender variance, and nationalities. Class rosters are provided to the instructor with the student's legal name. I will gladly honor your request to address you by an alternate name or gender pronoun. Please advise me of this preference early in the semester so that I may make appropriate changes to my records. See policies at <http://www.colorado.edu/policies/classbehavior.html> and at [http://www.colorado.edu/studentaffairs/judicialaffairs/code.html#student\\_code](http://www.colorado.edu/studentaffairs/judicialaffairs/code.html#student_code)

All students of the University of Colorado at Boulder are responsible for knowing and adhering to the academic integrity policy of this institution. Violations of this policy may include: cheating, plagiarism, aid of academic dishonesty, fabrication, lying, bribery, and threatening behavior. All incidents of academic misconduct shall be reported to the Honor Code Council ([honor@colorado.edu](mailto:honor@colorado.edu); 303-725-2273). Students who are found to be in violation of the academic integrity policy will be subject to both academic sanctions from the faculty member and non-academic sanctions (including but not limited to university probation, suspension, or expulsion). Other information on the Honor Code can be found at <http://www.colorado.edu/policies/honor.html> and at <http://www.colorado.edu/academics/honorcode/>

The University of Colorado at Boulder policy on Discrimination and Harassment (<http://www.colorado.edu/policies/discrimination.html>), the University of Colorado policy on Sexual Harassment and the University of Colorado policy on Amorous Relationships applies to all students, staff and faculty. Any student, staff or faculty member who believes s/he has been the subject of discrimination or harassment based upon race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, religion, sexual orientation, or veteran status should contact the Office of Discrimination and Harassment (ODH) at 303-492-2127 or the Office of Judicial Affairs at 303-492-5550. Information about the ODH and the campus resources available to assist individuals regarding discrimination or harassment can be obtained at: <http://www.colorado.edu/odh>

**All class meetings, assignment, exam and recitation dates are listed below.**

**Also, I have provided a breakdown of the grading evaluation percentages so that you are able to calculate your own grade throughout the semester. I only calculate percentage totals at the end of the semester so please do not accost me at any point before then to ask for your current semester grade.**

### **MUSC 2131 T/R Schedule of Due Dates**

1/17 <b>Cycle I:</b> Review Concepts from MUSC 2121; Intro to Augmented 6 <sup>th</sup> Chords	1/19 Continue w/ Aug. 6 <sup>th</sup> chords; Simple Meter Rhy. Concepts; <b><i>Homework 1.1 DUE</i></b>
1/24 Modulation w/ Aug. 6 <sup>th</sup> chords; Melodic fragments; <b><i>Lab 1.1 DUE</i></b>	1/26 Compound Meter Rhy. Concepts; Cont. Aug. 6 <sup>th</sup> s in Modulation; <b><i>Homework 1.2 DUE</i></b>
1/31 Rhythm Transcription - Compound Meter; <b><i>Lab 1.2 DUE</i></b>	2/2 <b><i>Exam I</i></b>
2/7 <b><i>Individual Recitations</i></b>	2/9 <b><i>Individual Recitations</i></b>
2/14 <b>Cycle II:</b> Transcription Unit; Harmonic “Leftovers”	2/16 <b><i>Homework 2.1 DUE</i></b>
2/21 <b><i>Lab 2.1 DUE</i></b>	2/23 <b><i>Homework 2.2 DUE</i></b>
2/28 <b><i>Lab 2.2 DUE</i></b>	3/2 <b><i>Exam II</i></b>
3/7 <b><i>Individual Recitations</i></b>	3/9 <b><i>Individual Recitations</i></b>
3/14 <b>Cycle III:</b> Elements of Form	3/16 <b><i>Homework 3.1 DUE</i></b>
3/21 <b><i>Lab 3.1 DUE</i></b>	3/23 <b><i>Lab 3.2 DUE</i></b>
<b>SPRING BREAK - NO CLASS</b>	
4/4 Review of Form & Recovery of Lost Brain Cells from Spring Break	4/6 <b><i>Exam III</i></b>
4/11 <b><i>Individual Recitations</i></b>	4/13 <b>Cycle IV:</b> Modes & Synthetic scales; Pop & Jazz Harmonies
4/18 <b><i>Homework 4.1 DUE</i></b>	4/20 <b><i>Lab 4.1 DUE</i></b>
4/25 <b><i>Lab 4.2 DUE</i></b>	4/27 <b><i>Exam IV</i></b>
5/2 <b><i>Individual Recitations</i></b>	5/4 <b><i>Individual Recitations</i></b>