

AURAL SKILLS 1

MUT 1241L, 1 credit hour

-FALL 2024 Syllabus-

Instructor

Dr. Shannon Lowe (she/her/hers)

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Office: 355 MUB

Office Hours: As posted on Canvas and office door; also by appointment (can meet over Zoom if needed)

Graduate Teaching Assistant (TA)

Anna Higgins

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Office Hours: By appointment

Course Description

First of a sequence of four courses that develop skills in sight singing and ear training. Singing techniques are taught at the beginning of the course.

Course Objectives

- To develop and reinforce skills such as dictation, sight singing, rhythmic sight reading, meter, and notational practice.
- An understanding of the common elements and organizational patterns of music and their interaction, the ability to employ this understanding in aural, verbal, and visual analyses, and the ability to take aural dictation. **(NASM VIII B. 2.a)**

Required Software

Auralia⁷ Ear Training Student Cloud Program*

Purchase the 12-month subscription for Auralia only **for \$39** at below link:

<https://www.risingsoftware.com/shop/cloudstudent/buy?sku=AUCEC>

1. School Code: **UFL**
2. School PIN: **HQ9P**

Required Textbooks

*A New Approach to Sight Singing** (Berkowitz, Kraft, Fontrier), Seventh Edition, 978-1324071563

**(will use in Spring 2025 Aural Skills 2 course)*

Recommended Materials

Staff paper/pencil (visit this site for free printout: <https://www.blanksheetmusic.net/>)

Course Fee

None

Weeks	COURSE OUTLINE**
1 August 22 nd (T/R sections)	Review Syllabus and Introduce Moveable Do Solfege Introduction
2 August 26 th – August 29 th	Review Syllabus and Introduce Moveable Do Solfege Introduction In-class: drills Assignment(s): No assignments due this week; make sure to purchase textbook and subscription to Auralia
3 September 2 nd – September 5 th	NO CLASS-MONDAY, 9/2—LABOR DAY HOLIDAY In-class: Drills/Singing and Rhythm Practice Assignment(s): Singing Assignment 1/Rhythmic Assignment 1 due by 11:59pm on Sunday, September 8th
4 September 9 th – September 12 th	In-class: Drills/Singing and Rhythm Practice Assignment(s): Auralia Assignment 1 due by 11:59pm on Sunday, September 15th
5 September 16th – September 19th	In-class: Drills/Singing and Rhythm Practice Quiz: Ear Training Quiz 1 (Wednesday, 9/18; Thursday, 9/19) Assignment(s): Singing Assignment 2/Rhythmic Assignment 2 due by 11:59pm on Sunday, September 22nd
6 September 23rd – September 26th	Singing and Rhythmic Sight-Reading Test 1 Week Assignment: Auralia Assignment 2 due by 11:59pm on Sunday, September 29th
7 September 30 th – October 3 rd	In-class: Drills/Singing and Rhythm Practice Assignment(s): Singing Assignment 3/Rhythmic Assignment 3 due by 11:59pm on Sunday, October 6th
8 October 7 th – October 10 th	In class: Drills/Singing and Rhythm Practice Assignment(s): Auralia Assignment 3 due by 11:59pm on Sunday, October 13th
9 October 14th – October 17th	In-class: Drills/Singing and Rhythm Practice Quiz: Ear Training Quiz 2 (Wednesday, 10/16; Thursday, 10/17) Assignment(s): Singing Assignment 4/Rhythmic Assignment 4 due by 11:59pm on Sunday, October 20th
10 October 21st – October 24th	Singing and Rhythmic Sight-Reading Test 2 Week Assignment(s): Auralia Assignment 4 due by 11:59pm on Friday, October 27th
11 October 28 th – October 31 st	In-class: Drills/Singing and Rhythm Practice Assignment(s): Singing Assignment 5/Rhythmic Assignment 5 due by 11:59pm on Sunday, November 3rd
12 November 4 th – November 7 th	In-class: Drills/Singing and Rhythm Practice Assignment(s): Auralia Assignment 5 due by 11:59pm on Friday, November 10th
13 November 11 th – November 14 th	In-class: Drills/Singing and Rhythm Practice Assignment(s): Singing Assignment 6/Rhythmic Assignment 6 due by 11:59pm on Sunday, November 17th
14 November 18th – November 21st	Singing and Rhythmic Sight-Reading Test 3 Week Assignment(s): Auralia Assignment 6 due by 11:59pm on Friday, November 22nd
15 November 25th – November 28th	Thanksgiving Break—No Classes
16 December 2 nd – December 4 th	Quiz: Ear Training Quiz 3 (Monday, 12/2; Tuesday, 12/3) No assignments due this week **No class will be held on Wednesday, 12/4** THERE IS NO FINAL EXAM FOR THIS COURSE!

****Note, course schedule and assignment deadlines subject to change.**

Topics for the semester*:

Identification of all diatonic simple intervals (melodic and harmonic), Chord Quality Identification, cadence identification, introduction to harmonic dictations and simple chord progressions, melodic and rhythmic error detection, sight singing (melodies in a major mode with stepwise motion, melodies in a minor mode with step-wise motion, major/minor triads in melodies), rhythmic sight reading, pitch awareness, melodic and rhythmic dictation.

**not limited to the list above. Topics could be adjusted depending on pacing of course and overall ability of students in class.*

Course Components for Evaluation

- **Singing Assignments (6 TOTAL)**

Singing assignment examples and the assignment instructions will be posted to CANVAS in a corresponding assignment module at the beginning of each week they are due. Students can upload their audio files to or record directly in the assignment portal. Students **are required to use the moveable do system (including do-based minor) and a metronome** for all assigned examples. A more detailed grading rubric will accompany each singing assignment. **Video files will not be accepted and will result in an assigned zero!**

- **Rhythm Assignments (6 TOTAL)**

Rhythm assignment examples and the assignment instructions will be posted to CANVAS in a corresponding assignment module at the beginning of each week they are due. Students can upload their audio files to or record directly in the assignment portal. Students **are required to use a metronome** at the assigned tempo during recording and execute the rhythm by counting or other verbal method as assigned by the instructor for all assigned examples. A more detailed grading rubric will accompany each rhythm assignment. **Video files will not be accepted and will result in an assigned zero!**

- **Auralia Ear Training Assignments (6 TOTAL)**

Students will complete ear training assignments in the Auralia ear training cloud-based program. On the Monday of each week an assignment is due, the instructor will post assignment instructions to Canvas. To be prepared for these assignments, students are highly encouraged to review practice material set up in the Auralia program, review any supplementary instructional resources posted to Canvas as well as participate in class.

- **Singing and Rhythmic Sight-Reading Tests (3 TOTAL)**

During testing weeks (*see course outline*), students will take a singing and rhythmic sight-reading test during class time (a specific class day and appointment time will be assigned the week before the test and posted to CANVAS). These tests will assess students' ability to sing melodies and verbally execute rhythms at sight. Students are required to use moveable do (do based minor included) solfege on the sight singing portion of the test and can transpose the key to better fit their voice, if necessary. For the rhythmic sight-reading portion of the test, students can "tah," count, or use any other verbal method to execute rhythms. Students will be required to conduct utilizing a basic pattern (in the meter of the example) while singing and executing the rhythm examples.

- **Ear Training Quizzes (3 TOTAL)**

Students will take three quizzes over the course of the semester that assess the progress of their ear training skills. These quizzes will feature components such as melodic dictations, interval identification, chord quality identification, rhythmic dictations, etc. Ear training exercises and drills completed in class as well as assignments/practice completed on the Auralia platform will help prepare students for these quizzes.

Evaluation

Singing Assignments (6)	18%
Rhythm Assignments (6)	18%
Auralia Ear Training Assignments (6)	18%
Singing and Rhythmic Sight-Reading Tests (3)	23%
Ear Training Quizzes (3)	23%
Total	100%

Grading Scale**

Grade	Percent Grade	Points
A	93.4-100	4.00
A-	90.0-93.3	3.67
B+	86.7-89.9	3.33
B	83.4-86.6	3.00
B-	80.0-83.3	2.67
C+	76.7-79.9	2.33
C	73.4-76.6	2.00
C-	70.0-73.3	1.67
D+	66.7-69.9	1.33
D	63.4-66.6	1.00
D-	60.0-63.3	0.67
E	0-59.9	0.00

***You must receive at least a C or better to advance on to next course in sequence, per baccalaureate music degree requirements.

****Important grading clause: the instructor reserves the right to not round up final grades to the next letter grade.**

*More information on grades and grading policies can be found here:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/>

Course Policies

- **ATTENDANCE:** Students are expected to attend and participate in class for their singing, rhythm, and ear training skills to successfully progress. Students will be allotted a fixed number of unexcused absences to use at their discretion (see below).
 - For an absence to be **excused**, the student will need to email the instructor as well as the Teaching Assistant (TA) **BEFORE** class starts and provide valid documentation (for example: doctor's note, appointment confirmation, etc.) for missing class (religious holidays, school sponsored trips, or absences cleared/approved in advance by the instructor count as excused)
 - **4 UNEXCUSED absences are allotted to students to use at their discretion (that's two weeks of class!). The instructor/TA does not need to be notified for these types of absences.**
 - Each additional unexcused absence after the student acquires 4 unexcused absences will result in the following:
 - **5 unexcused absences:** Final grade drops by half a letter grade
 - **6 unexcused absences:** Final grade drops by an entire grade
 - **7 unexcused absences:** Final grade drops by a letter grade and a half
 - **8 unexcused absences:** Final grade drops by two letter grades
 - **9 or more unexcused absences:** Failing grade assigned
 - Students are responsible for meeting assignment deadlines during weeks they have unexcused absences.
 - Students who have attendance accommodations through the Disability Resource Center must present the instructor with their official letter from the DRC and complete a contract with the instructor in the beginning of the semester for attendance accommodations to be honored.
 - If a student encounters a personal/medical difficulty that will impact their ability to attend class, it is imperative that the student reaches out to the instructor as soon as possible for a solution to be worked out.

- **Late arrivals to class:** the student will be permitted **three (3) late arrivals** to class without penalty. On the 4th late arrival, a student will be assigned an **unexcused absence**. If a student foresees an issue with arriving to class on time or is encountering a barrier with on-time arrival, it is imperative they reach out to the instructor/TA as soon as possible to discuss a path forward.
- **ELECTRONIC DEVICES:** Tablets may be utilized during class time for notational and/or textbook (i.e. PDF version of singing textbook) reading purposes. However, cell phones, laptop computers, and other electronic devices are **not to be used during class instruction** as they disrupt students' attention and distract both fellow classmates and the instructor.
 - If students need to use their phone, they are welcome to quietly leave the classroom and return when finished.
 - If a student is found using their phone during class during instruction, the instructor/TA will deliver a verbal warning to the student as well as a request to put away the device. Multiple warnings from the instructor/TA will result in a required meeting to take place between the student and instructor/TA to discuss healthy classroom habits and an agreement from the student to stop this behavior. If the student continues to utilize their device during instruction after this meeting, they will receive assigned unexcused absence for each class period they are observed using their phone.
 - Any student who has a documented disability through the DRC that requires use of an electronic device apart from a tablet during class must notify the instructor as soon as possible.
- Students are expected to come to class on time and prepared from sufficient work/practice outside of class.
- Students are expected to come to class prepared with the appropriate materials (i.e. pencil/manuscript paper/textbooks). *During testing weeks and ear training quiz days textbooks are not required for class.*
- Students are strongly encouraged to use online resources and lectures (as shared and posted on Canvas by the instructor), programs in the Music Computer Lab (MUB 147), the Auralia program, and any other ear training resources to aid in their understanding of the course material and to aid in their ability to successfully complete assignments.
- **COMMUNICATION POLICIES:**
 - The instructor and graduate teaching assistant will utilize email and Canvas as the main form of communication. Students are expected to respond to their instructor and TA's emails in a timely manner.
 - **It is expected that students check their email and Canvas multiple times a week** to not miss important announcements, postings, assignment instructions/deadlines, etc.
 - **Students are strongly urged to confer with the instructor on their progress or any issues or questions regarding the course.** Also, students are encouraged to seek help from the instructor and/or graduate teaching assistant (TA) as soon as they encounter any difficulties. **Do not wait** until the end of the semester to consult the professor and/or TA if you are having troubles! **To communicate with your instructor, use your UF email account or Canvas. Students can meet with the instructor or TA during scheduled office hours, or with the instructor/TA during a mutually agreed upon outside office hour appointment (over zoom or in-person).**
 - If the instructor/TA finds that students are being disruptive to the teaching environment, the following may occur:
 - Assigned seating for the entire class
 - Dismissal of disruptive students from the classroom
 - Follow up with Dean of Student Office/Incident report

- **ASSIGNMENT AND TESTING POLICIES:**

- All assignment guidelines and most submittals will be available and take place on Canvas. The Auralia assignments will be completed in the Auralia
- **Flexible Deadline Offering:** The instructor recognizes that some weeks are more challenging than others for students and will extend a flexible deadline for **two (2) assignments**. The following conditions must both be met in order for a flexible deadline to be extended:
 - **BEFORE** the assignment's deadline, the student must request a flexible deadline by posting in the assignment portal's message box.
 - The student must include in the posting a reasonable deadline* (exact day/time) when they believe it will be possible to complete the assignment (*reasonable deadline will be at the discretion of the instructor/TA and will be discussed with the student if any issues)
- **Late assignment policy:** For each day an assignment is submitted late it will lose an entire letter grade off the overall earned grade. If not submitted by the end of the third day *after* the assignment deadline, a zero will be assigned.
- **Unexcused Late arrival to Singing and Rhythmic testing appointment:** Students, if arriving late, will be extended **ONE** opportunity to make up a singing and rhythmic sight-reading test immediately after the class period has ended or during the class period if a testing time slot is available (if not possible, the student will need to arrange to come in during the instructor's scheduled office hours that same week). Any unexcused late arrivals to a testing appointment after the first time will result in the student forgoing their ability to make up the test.
- **Unexcused Late arrival to an Ear Training Quiz:** If students arrive late to an ear training quiz, will be permitted ONE opportunity **within a week's time** to schedule an appointment with the Teaching Assistant (or instructor if available) to have missed examples played for them (no other completed sections can be played/repeated—only sections that were missed from the late arrival). The appointment will need to take place during an office hour (no outside times will be arranged) and if this is not possible, students will forfeit their ability to have a missed examples played for them. Any unexcused late arrivals to a subsequent ear training quizzes after the first time will result in students forgoing their ability to make up sections they missed.
- To make up a **missed test or quiz due to an absence**, the following conditions must all be met:
 - The instructor will require timely notification (**BEFORE the test or quiz**) through email
 - A documented excuse note
 - Initiative on the student's part to schedule a makeup test within a timely manner.

HEALTH INFORMATION (RE: COVID-19)

In response to COVID-19, the following practices are in place to maintain your learning environment, to enhance the safety of our in-classroom interactions, and to further the health and safety of ourselves, our neighbors, and our loved ones.

- Visit coronavirus.ufl.edu for up-to-date information about COVID-19 and vaccination.
- Visit <https://shcc.ufl.edu/services/covid19/> (UF Student Health Care Center) to find out about testing and other helpful covid-19 resources for students.
- During high transmission of COVID-19 in the UF community/Alachua County, it is recommended that you wear face coverings within buildings and on public transportation even if you are vaccinated.
- Please continue to follow healthy habits, including best practices like frequent hand washing. Following these practices is our responsibility as Gators.

Students Requiring Accommodations

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the Disability Resource Center. [Click here to get started with the Disability Resource Center](#). It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.

Course Evaluation

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

University Honesty Policy

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, "We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment." The Honor Code (<https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-student-conduct-code/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

Campus Resources

Health and Wellness

- *U Matter, We Care*: If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu, 352-392-1575, or visit [U Matter, We Care website](#) to refer or report a concern and a team member will reach out to the student in distress.
- *Counseling and Wellness Center*: [Visit the Counseling and Wellness Center website](#) or call 352-392-1575 for information on crisis services as well as non-crisis services.
- *Student Health Care Center*: Call 352-392-1161 for 24/7 information to help you find the care you need, or [visit the Student Health Care Center website](#).
- *University Police Department*: [Visit UF Police Department website](#) or call 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).
- *UF Health Shands Emergency Room / Trauma Center*: For immediate medical care call 352-733-0111 or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608; [Visit the UF Health Emergency Room and Trauma Center website](#).

Academic Resources

- *E-learning (CANVAS) technical support*: Contact the [UF Computing Help Desk](#) at 352-392-4357 or via e-mail at helpdesk@ufl.edu.
- *Career Connections Center*: Reitz Union Suite 1300, 352-392-1601. Career assistance and counseling services.
- *Library Support*: Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.
- *Teaching Center*: Broward Hall, 352-392-2010 or to make an appointment 352-392-6420. General study skills and tutoring.
- *Writing Studio*, 302 Tigert Hall, 352-846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers.
- *Student Complaints On-Campus*: [Visit the Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code webpage for more information](#).

Agreement

By remaining in this class beyond the drop/add deadline, you *acknowledge and accept* the terms of this syllabus.

Course evaluation, components, and class policies are subject to change at the instructor's discretion. Students will be given due notice through email if any changes are made.