

**MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY  
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION**

**DEPARTMENT of MUSIC  
COURSE SYLLABUS**

**Course Prefix and Number:** MU 2921

**Course Title:** Ear Training IV

**Credit Hours:** One (1) credit hour

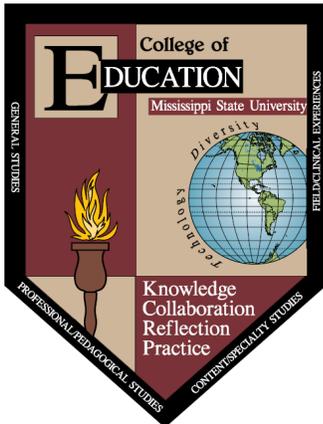
**Course Type:** Laboratory

**Prerequisites:** C or better in MU 2613 and MU 2721

**Co-requisite:** MU 2813 or consent of instructor. Music majors and music minors enrolled in this music theory course are required by the Music Department to be simultaneously enrolled in, or have already earned a C in, the corresponding ear-training course, Music Theory IV.

**Catalog Description:** Two hours laboratory. Aural identification, singing and dictation of diatonic melodies with chromatic inflection, seventh chords, and rhythms.

**College of Education Conceptual Framework:**



The faculty in the College of Education at Mississippi State University are committed to assuring the success of students and graduates by providing superior learning opportunities that are continually improved as society, schools, and technology change. The organizing theme for the conceptual framework for the College of Education at Mississippi State University is educational professionals - dedicated to continual improvement of all students' educational experiences. The beliefs that guide program development are as follows:

1. **KNOWLEDGE** - Educational professionals must have a deep understanding of the organizing concepts, processes, and attitudes that comprise their chosen disciplinary knowledge base, the pedagogical knowledge base, and the pedagogical content knowledge base. They must also know how to complement these knowledge bases with the

appropriate use of technology.

2. **COLLABORATION** - Educational professionals must continually seek opportunities to work together, learn from one another, forge partnerships, and assume positions of responsibility.

3. **REFLECTION** - Educational professionals must be willing to assess their own strengths and weaknesses through reflection. They must also possess the skills, behaviors, and attitudes necessary to learn, change, and grow as life-long learners.

4. **PRACTICE** - Educational professionals must have a rich repertoire of research-based strategies for instruction, assessment, and the use of technologies. They must be able to focus that array of skills on promoting authentic learning by all students or clients, while exhibiting an appreciation and commitment to the value and role of diversity.

### **Course Objectives:**

**Ear Training IV** is designed to help you:

- enhance aural skills (CFPO #3, 7; InTASC #4, 5)
- develop vocal skills (CFPO #3, 9; InTASC #4, 5)
- increase rhythmic skills (CFPO #3; InTASC #4, 5)
- grasp the contrapuntal nature of musical structure (CFPO #3; InTASC #4, 5)
- help build the discipline and responsibility needed for success in music (CFPO #1, 11; InTASC #9, 10)

### **Topics Covered:**

- Aural perception (CFPO #3, 7; InTASC #4, 5)
- Vocal skills (CFPO #3, 9; InTASC #4, 5)
- Rhythm (CFPO #3; InTASC #4, 5)
- Counterpoint in music (CFPO #3; InTASC #4, 5)
- Professionalism in music (CFPO #1, 11; InTASC #9, 10)

### **Required Texts:**

Berkowitz, S., Fontrier, G., Kraft, L., Goldstein, P., Smaldone, E. (2010). *A new approach to sight singing*, 5<sup>th</sup> ed. New York, NY: Norton.

Kasez, D., (1997). *Rhythm reading: Elementary through advanced training*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. New York, NY: Norton.

### **Required Computer Software:**

Blombach, A. (2013). *MacGAMUT 6*. Gahanna, OH: MacGAMUT Music Software International.

### **Methods of Instruction:**

- Lecture
- Rehearsal
- Dictation

### **Student Activities:**

- take aural dictation (CFPO #3, 7; InTASC #4, 5)
- acquire vocal solfège skills (CFPO #3, 9; InTASC #4, 5)
- practice rhythmic drills (CFPO #3; InTASC #4, 5)
- perform duets and keyboard accompanied melodies (CFPO #3; InTASC #4, 5)

- submit computer-based assignments, 3 transcriptions, and take tests on time (CFPO #1, 11; InTASC #9, 10)

**Honor Code:**

**“As a Mississippi State University student I will conduct myself with honor and integrity at all times. I will not lie, cheat, or steal, nor will I accept the actions of those who do.”**

The Mississippi State Honor Code can be found at <http://www.honorcode.msstate.edu/>

Your signature, affixed to all written material handed in for evaluation, is understood to affirm that your submission represents solely your own work. This means that all assignments and examinations are not to be completed with the knowing or unknowing collaboration of other people, and are to conform to the specific directions given by your professor.

Cheating, plagiarism, and other forms of academic dishonesty will be dealt with in accord with the Mississippi State University Academic Misconduct Policy ([http://www.msstate.edu/web/student\\_policies.html](http://www.msstate.edu/web/student_policies.html)), and will invoke the formal consequences described therein, including the "XF" or "Dishonesty F" grade as the normal sanction for a first offense. All students should be familiar with the details this policy. **Simply put... DO NOT CHEAT!**

**Technology:**

This course utilizes the *MacGAMUT 6* software for the completion of course assignments.

**Disability:**

If you have a recognized learning disability and need accommodation, you should provide appropriate notification and documentation by the end of the second week of classes. For more information on this subject, contact the Student Support Services Office (325-3335).

**Diversity:**

Diversity is welcomed, encouraged, and nurtured in this class, though not explicitly addressed via objectives, topics, or assignments, given its nature and curricular function.

**Field Experience:**

None

**Evaluation of Student Progress:**

<u>Components</u>			
	Aural Test	1 @ 50 points	50 points
	Skills Tests	2 @ 50 points	100 points
	Final Aural Test	1 @ 50 points	50 points
	Final Skills Test	1 @ 50 points	50 points
	MacGAMUT Proficiencies	3 @ 25 points	75 points
	Transcription Projects	3 @ 25 points	<u>75 points</u>

			400 points total
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<u>Grading Scale</u>			
	360 – 400 points	(90% – 100%)	<b>A</b>
	320 – 359.5 points	(80% – 89.5%)	<b>B</b>
	280 – 319.5 points	(70% – 79.5%)	<b>C</b>
	240 – 279.5 points	(60% – 69.5%)	<b>D</b>
	0 – 299 points	(0% – 59.5%)	<b>F</b>

### Course Policies

Achievement: According to the Bulletin of Mississippi State University:

“To be eligible for student teaching, the student must have completed a minimum of 18 semester credit hours in the major subject with a minimum of a **2.75 G.P.A.** or higher at the time of application. Final eligibility (**2.75 G.P.A.**) is determined through screening at the end of the semester prior to student teaching. The student must also have completed all professional education and methods courses with a minimum grade of “**C**” prior to student teaching.”

You are encouraged to request an appointment to discuss your current achievement in this class. Grades are recorded in *myCourses*.

Assignments: Assignments are samples of achievement, not costs paid to obtain a grade, and you should demonstrate the level of accomplishment you hope to see in your final course grade in every submission. All assignments will be announced in class, and you are expected to prepare and submit them on the scheduled date. If you miss class, aren’t sure about an assignment, or want some advice, just ask—that’s what office hours are for! You also can e-mail your questions! Late assignments *will not* be accepted and will earn the score of 0 points. All assignments are understood to represent *solely* your own work, completed according to the directions specified in class. In submitting an assignment for evaluation, you effectively assert that you “have neither given nor received unauthorized assistance on this academic work,” as the MSU Honor Pledge states. Assignments must be legible—communicate clearly!

Attendance: To acquire the discipline and knowledge necessary for success in music, as well as this course, **you are expected to attend ALL scheduled class sessions.** As per the MSU theory area policy, attendance will be taken during the first five minutes of class. Anyone not present after that time will be considered absent for that day. The door will be closed after attendance is taken, and students will not be allowed to interrupt the class after it has started, as per music theory area policy. Absence due to illness, extreme circumstances, or official University academic activities *may* be excused upon the presentation and acceptance of appropriate documentation, which may include letters of explanation from professional medical personnel (i.e., a doctor or a nurse), law enforcement officials, and University professors. Phone calls or e-mails are not acceptable for documentation. Absences for other reasons, such as duties of a part-time job, fraternity/sorority activities, studying for a test in another class, oversleeping, a family vacation, possession of a plane ticket, etc., *will* be considered unexcused. **Students who accumulate more than three (3) unexcused absences will have their final grade lowered by one grade level.** *If you are unsure of your attendance status on a given day, you may*

*consult me immediately after that particular class.* With any absence, it is *your* responsibility to learn what was missed, prepare new work, and submit it by the deadline specified in class. Simply put: **DON'T SKIP CLASS and DON'T COME LATE!**

Cell Phone, iPad, and Laptop policy: In this interactive music class, cell phones, iPads, and laptops represent a distraction to the student using them, their fellow students, and the professor. NO student has the right to disrupt the learning process of classmates with these electronic devices. ALL OF THESE ELECTRONIC DEVICES MUST BE TURNED OFF AND PUT OUT OF REACH AS SOON AS CLASS STARTS – THEIR USE IS COMPLETELY PROHIBITED DURING CLASS AND WILL NOT BE TOLERATED.

Conduct: Courtesy and respect for your classmates is crucial to a cooperative learning environment. You are expected to arrive *before* the scheduled start of class and be ready to contribute. Cell phones, iPads, and laptops *must* be turned off and put away during class. Eating and drinking in the classroom ARE NOT permitted for any reason. Private conversation during class—disruptive to the learning process, unfair to other class members, and generally disrespectful—is not permitted, and individuals who cannot control themselves may be asked to leave. **NOTE: IF YOU ARE BEING DISTRACTED BY PRIVATE CONVERSATION DURING CLASS—WHICH OFTEN LEADS TO LOWER GRADES—DO NOT HESITATE TO ALERT YOUR PROFESSOR!**

Help: People learn at different rates, have different learning preferences, and may need a little or a lot of direction. However, getting the help you need is *your* responsibility. If you have questions, want to discuss class material, need advice about assignments or examinations, you are welcome to see me during office hours, e-mail me, or ask for an appointment.

Music Theory Curriculum: Class members should download a copy of the MSU Music Theory Curriculum (<http://www.music.msstate.edu/areas/theory/>) for an overview of Music Theory Area policies and the place of this course in music major studies, as well as specific information regarding all theory and musicianship courses.

myCourses: This class takes advantage of the online *myCourses* system to share course materials, record and post grades, administer certain tests, enable electronic submission, and facilitate communication. For more information, see the *myCourses* channel by logging in at *myState*: <https://my.msstate.edu/cp/home/displaylogin>

Participation: Active participation—through discussion, questions, in-class exercises, homework, quizzes, and examinations—is and essential for success in this one. **Participation is absolutely and unquestionably mandatory.**

Preparation: Active preparation—through completion of assigned readings and homework before class—is and essential for success in this one. **Do not assume that everything on examinations will be exhaustively drilled on in class, for outside preparation corresponds to the discipline and responsibility objectives of this class! Simply put: DO THE WORK!**

Progress: A grade of **C** is required by the Music Department for this course to count for a music degree, and a **C** is required for progress to more advanced theory courses. Students also are expected to have fully passed BOTH halves of the Music Theory Upper Division Proficiency Examination for progress to more advanced theory courses., which correspond to the final exams in Music Theory III and Ear Training III; for more on this prerequisite, see the professor and the MSU Music Student Handbook.

Readings: Readings associated with a class period must be done in advance and you should plan on coming to class prepared to discuss them—do not assume that everything of value within them will be laid out in a lecture! Successful musicians are independent learners! Quizzes and exams will test how well you have read—DO NOT neglect class readings!

Standards: This course is an advanced music major course, designed to prepare serious musicians for the competitive profession they hope to enter. Non-music majors should recognize that course standards, intended to maximize the success of future music professionals, cannot and will not be relaxed for those not pursuing music careers. Similarly, since the majority of students in the Music Department of MSU pursue the BME degree, education-related activities are required of ALL students.

Supplies: You should bring pencils, an eraser, music paper, and your course books to each class.

Syllabus: As in any university class, this syllabus represents a contract whose terms are implicitly accepted by all students who remain in the class beyond the first day. Equally important, it specifies what a student can expect and what is expected of them. Details in the syllabus are subject to change by the professor, but will be announced in class in advance.

Transcription Projects: Three transcriptions of compositions, based on recordings that will be available in *myCourses* and from the instructor, are required assignments for this course. Transcriptions must be clearly notated by hand using pencil (not Finale!), eraser, and music manuscript paper, as well as a ruler for all straight lines like stems, bar lines, etc., and must represent solely your own effort. Details will be specified in class. In submitting this assignment for evaluation, you effectively assert that you “have neither given nor received unauthorized assistance on this academic work,” as the MSU Honor Pledge states.

Upper Division Proficiency Examination: The final exam in Music Theory III corresponds to the written theory test component of the MSU Upper Division Proficiency Examination in Music Theory. For more on this examination, see the MSU Music Theory Curriculum (<http://www.music.msstate.edu/areas/theory/>) as well as the current MSU Student Handbook (<http://www.music.msstate.edu/students/handbook/>). Simply put: students will want to pass the final examination in the Music Theory III course with 70% or above to complete the written theory component of the MSU Upper Division Proficiency Examination in Music Theory. In addition, they will want to pass the Aural Dictation and Musicianship Skills tests corresponding to the Final Exam in Ear Training III, to fully satisfy the requirements of the MSU UDPE. Students who do not pass one or more of these three components this semester may attempt them again in August of next year.

Web Resources: Three web documents, including *Secrets of Academic Success*, *Strategies for Test-Taking*, and *Suggestions for Writing About Music*, written by your professor and available on the MSU Music Theory Area webpage (<http://www.music.msstate.edu/areas/theory/>), offer insights on how to excel at the university as well as in this class, express expectations had by most professors as well as this one, and convey common sense that you need to know. A few hints... download copies of all three for close study *right now*, refer to them as soon as you start struggling with course requirements, and review them from time to time.

Exams: Exams are samples of achievement, not costs paid to earn a grade, and you should demonstrate the level of accomplishment you hope to see in your final course grade in every one. To ensure fairness

of the testing process, as well as help you acquire the responsibility and discipline necessary for success in music, **you are expected to submit and complete all portions of all exams at their scheduled class periods.** Specific content of all exams will be announced at least two class periods before the administration of the exam. Final exams are scheduled by the university. Specific content of all exams will be announced at least two class periods before the administration of the exam. Make-up exams *will not* be possible for any reason. Failure to take a scheduled exam due to an unexcused absence will result in a score of zero (0) for that exam. In the event of absence at the administration of an exam, the equivalent grade earned on the final exam (the equivalent % of 70 points) will replace the missing exam grade at the end of the semester. In the event of two or more missed exams, *only one* missing exam grade will be replaced by the grade of the final exam, and the other(s) will remain zero (0). Unexcused absence at the final exam will earn a zero (0) for that exam.

### **Bibliography:**

Benward, B., Kolosick, T.J. (2009). *Ear training*, revised ed. Columbus, OH: McGraw-Hill.

Damschroder, D. (1995). *Listen and sing: Lessons in ear training and sight-singing*. Independence, KY: Cengage.

Ottman, R., Rogers, N. (2008). *Music for sightsinging*, 7<sup>th</sup> ed. Old Tappan, NJ: Pearson.