

**SYLLABUS**

**MUSI 3111: Aural Skills III, Sections 1 + 2**

(Fall 2025, College of the Arts, Bailey School of Music)

Dr. Ben Wadsworth Office Hours: Mondays 10am–11am

[bwadswo2@kennesaw.edu](mailto:bwadswo2@kennesaw.edu) Or by appointment

Wilson Building 214

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**Statement of Purpose**

Working from the introduction to harmonic dictation in Aural Skills II, Aural Skills III helps you hear tonal music through singing (using solfège) and dictation (writing down music that you hear), introducing a wide range of chromatic techniques. We work on more advanced melodic dictation incorporating arpeggiations and chromaticism. We do harmonic dictations using more advanced diatonic chords (i.e., 6/4s) and a wide range of applied chords (V7/V to V7/III). In addition, we do dictation of triads and seventh chords using a variety of inversions. We apply these skills to gig-like situations (singing) and transcriptions (dictation).

**Meeting Locations, Times, Modality**

Section 1: CRN 87742; MW 8:00am-8:50am, WB 103

Section 2: CRN 87743; MW 9:05am–9:55am, WB 119

This course is face-to-face only. Attendance to class is only in person.

The university reserves the right to shift teaching modalities at any time during the semester, if health and safety guidelines require it to do so.  Some teaching modalities that may be used are F2F, Hyflex, Hybrid, or online, both synchronous and asynchronous instruction.

Aural Skills Coordinator: Dr. Jeff Yunek ([jyunek@kennesaw.edu](mailto:jyunek@kennesaw.edu))

Preferred methods of communication: email, text (until 10 pm at night; response during week of under 24 hours, 48 hours on weekend)

**Course Description**

For music majors. Foundation work in sight singing including rhythmic, melodic, and harmonic dictation. Practical application includes some composition and improvisation. (2 Class Hours; 1 Credit Hour)

**Course Materials**

There is no required textbook, as the textbook is no-cost and available online: <https://www.freemusicdictations.net>.

In this course, you will need internet access and a digital device with high-quality audio (headphones preferred).

Optional: Ottman, Robert and Nancy Rogers. *Music for Sight Singing*, any edition. Pearson Press, Boston.

* This book contains hundreds of sight-singing melodies for outside sight-singing practice.

**Learning Outcomes**

* Students will be able to perform musical excerpts including chromaticism, triplets and duplets, and syncopation with little to no preparation.
* Students will be able to retain and write down musical excerpts (both melodic and harmonic) involving chromaticism (primarily secondary function chords), triplets and duplets, and syncopation.
* Students will be able to identify intervals, triads, and seventh chords in all inversions.

**Course Requirements and Assignments**

**Course Requirements**

Being an accepted music major or minor; passing MUSI 2212 (Aural Skills II); and having taken (or currently taking) MUSI 3121 (Theory III) or higher.

**Assignments**

Online Dictation Assignments: These assignments involve some form of dictation. Make sure all harmonic dictations include the melodic line, bass line, and Roman numerals.

The website for the dictation assignments is: <https://www.freemusicdictations.net/>

Sight-Singing Assignments:

* In general, you can expect to perform a sample of these individually or in small groups during class.
* Only when I have announced it, we will experiment a couple of times with you uploading a video performance of the assigned sight-singing excerpts on D2L in the Assignments folder. Follow the specific instructions in the appropriate folder.

Chord Quizzes: This quiz involves identifying chords and harmonic intervals.

Dictation Exams: These are comprehensive dictation exams involving melodic dictation, harmonic dictation, and chord identification.

Sight-Singing Exam: These quizzes involve pure sight singing and improvisation. The student has three attempts to take the exam, and the instructor will take the highest grade. (Accordingly, a student who does well on an earlier attempt does not need to take it again.)

**Evaluation and Grading Policies**

**Grading Distribution**

35% Dictation Exams

30% Written Homework

15% Sung Homework

10% Chord Quizzes

10% Sight-Singing Exam

**Grading Scale**

A: 100-90; B: 89-80; C: 79-70; D: 69-60; F: 59 and below.

**Passing Grade**

You must achieve at least a C (or 70/100 points) in this course to move on to Aural Skills IV.

**Homework Return Policy**

All written assignments are typically returned within two class periods. All sung assignment grades are typically posted on D2L within a week.

**Course Policies**

* Attendance is mandatory, and counted after the end of Add/Drop. You are permitted up to 2 absences without penalty. 3 tardies (more than 5 minutes late) will be equal to 1 absence. Arriving in class 20 or more minutes late equals an absence. After 2 absences for any reason, the next absence will lower your semester grade by 5 points; thereafter, any more absences will lower your semester grade by 10 points each. The only exceptions are absences worked out and approved by me in advance, and those for which you have given documentation (e.g., doctor’s note, photo of incident). I keep a D2L Assignments folder with your attendance information in it. You may also upload documentation to this folder.
* Written assignments (all dictations) in this course are short. You can generally expect two written exercises per week to turn in at the beginning of each class. They may be turned in (hard copy) in class or turned into the corresponding folder in D2L Assignments. Due to this reason, all assignments are due on the requested date and by the first five minutes of class. Work turned in after this point will receive a 0.
* Let’s discuss a common “crutch” used with dictation assignments. Sometimes struggling students try to play each individual note on a piano to “hear” the melody/progression. Don’t do this. Instead, do a singback of each voice. If you are then struggling to write down each line, you may play the complete melodic line back on keyboard or your instrument (if not piano), or input it into music notation software, then do a playback through it.
* Extra credit: up to 10 points per assignment if you use notation software. The point is to use the playback feature to confirm your answer.
* All electronic devices (including cell phones and laptops) are not permitted in class unless given permission by the professor (e.g., for a piano app for more difficult dictation/sight-singing exercises).
* During dictation exercises, you may only sing during the approved sing-backs.
* During tests, do not use any outside materials except pencils and erasers. It is your responsibility to contact me by the TIME OF THE TEST if you have an unavoidable condition that prevents you from taking it on time. I will then decide whether your submitted documentation qualifies you to take the test (no: 0; yes: no penalty). You will then be asked to take the test under a time limit, usually no later than 24 hours after the original test date. This retest will be according to my schedule, not yours; you may have to miss classes or a shift of your job. If you do not show up to the retake within the time period I request, you will receive a grade of a 0.

* Bring **pencils**, **staff paper**, erasers, and textbooks to every class.
* I need to know about any requests for special learning needs within the first week of class.

**Institutional Policies**

**Federal, BOR, & KSU Course Syllabus Policies:** <http://curriculum.kennesaw.edu/resources/federal_bor_ksu_student_policies.php>

[**Student**](http://curriculum.kennesaw.edu/resources/ksu_student_resources_for_course_syllabus.php) **Resources:**<http://curriculum.kennesaw.edu/resources/ksu_student_resources_for_course_syllabus.php>**Academic Integrity Statement:**   
<http://scai.kennesaw.edu/codes.php>

**The implementation of the Academic Honesty Policy in this class:**

*You are expected to do your own work on all written assignments. If you are caught giving or receiving help on exams or any assignment, this will be treated as cheating. Each instructor may assign a “0” grade to work that represents an initial attempt at confirmed cheating. In second attempts, accused students will be prosecuted through official judicial avenues according to Kennesaw State University policies and procedures.* ***All assignments must be done independently: assignments showing collaboration between students will be considered cheating.***

**KSU Student Resources**

This link contains information on help and resources available to students: <https://curriculum.kennesaw.edu/resources/ksu_student_resources_for_course_syllabus.php>

**Course Schedule**

**Tentative Schedule of Assignments**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Day | Class Date | Assignment(s) |
| 1 | 8/18 | No Homework |
| 2 | 8/20 | Online Dictations 26.1 and 26.2 |
| 3 | 8/25 | Online Sight Singing 26.1 and 26.2; ATTENDANCE NOW COUNTED |
| 4 | 8/27 | Online Dictations 27.1 and 27.2 |
| 5 | 9/3 | **Chord Quiz #1** |
| 6 | 9/8 | Online Dictations 28.1 and 28.2 |
| 7 | 9/10 | Online Sight Singing 27.1 and 27.2 |
|  | 9/15 | **Dictation Exam #1** |
| 8 | 9/17 | Online Dictations 29.1 and 29.2 |
| 9 | 9/22 | Online Sight Singing 29.1 and 29.2 |
| 10 | 9/24 | Online Dictations 30.1 and 30.2 |
| 11 | 9/29 | **Chord Quiz #2** |
| 12 | 10/1 | Online Dictations 31.1 and 31.2 |
| 13 | 10/6 | Online Sight Singing 30.1 and 30.2 |
|  | 10/8 | **Dictation Exam #2** |
| 14 | 10/13 | No Homework; midpoint survey |
| 15 | 10/15 | Online Dictations 32.1 and 32.2 |
| 16 | 10/20 | Online Sight Singing 32.1 and 32.2 |
| 17 | 10/22 | Online Dictations 33.1 and 33.2 |
|  |  | 10/24: MIDTERM GRADES DUE |
| 18 | 10/27 | Online Sight Singing 34.1 and 34.2 |
|  | 10/29 | **Sight-Singing Quiz Appointments (First Attempt)** |
|  |  | 10/31: LAST DAY TO WITHDRAW WITH W |
| 19 | 11/3 | Online Dictations 34.1 and 34.2 |
| 20 | 11/5 | Online Dictations 35.1 and 35.2 |
| 21 | 11/10 | **Chord Quiz #3** |
| 22 | 11/12 | Online Dictations 36.1 and 36.2 |
| 23 | 11/17 | Online Dictations 37.1 and 37.2; survey on new sight-singing melodies and improvisations |
| 24 | 11/19 | Online Sight Singing 36.1 and 36.2 |
| 25 | 12/1 | No Homework |
|  | 12/3 | **Dictation Exam #3** |
|  | 12/8 | **Sight-Singing Quiz Appointments (Optional Second Attempt)** |
|  | 12/10 | **Sight-Singing Quiz Appointments (Optional Final Attempt, by appointment)** |

**Disclaimer:** This represents my current plans and objectives. As we go through the semester, those plans may need to change to enhance the class learning opportunity. Such changes, communicated clearly, are not unusual and should be expected.

D2L will serve as the official schedule for the class. Any changes to the schedule will be updated on D2L and announced during class.

**Breaks:**

* Monday, September 1st: Labor Day
* All Week, November 24–28: Fall Break

**Important Dates:**

* Drop/Add Ends: Friday, August 22
* Last Day to Withdraw Without Academic Penalty: Wednesday, October 31