SIGHT SINGING AND EAR TRAINING I

**Course Information**

Course Number: MUSI 1116 – 02 & MUSI 1116 – B  
Time: M & W: 9:25am – 10:40am  
Course Location: Eidman 216

**Instructor Information**

Name: Prof. Adam Decker  
Office Location: Eidman 213  
Email Address: adam.decker@utrgv.edu  
Office Hours: W: 11:00am – 1:00pm

**Course Syllabus**

This syllabus, along with the course schedule (see *Course Schedule*, p. 3) serves as your guide to all policies and requirements of this course. Consult this document carefully before asking the instructor any question that could be easily answered by reading its contents. No exceptions will be made for missed deadlines, assignments, misunderstandings about policies, etc. that are clearly spelled out in the syllabus and course schedule.

The syllabus is subject to change during the semester at the instructor’s discretion. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in class and also through the *Announcements* feature on the course’s Blackboard site, which will also be sent to your registered university email address.

**Course Description**

*Sight Singing and Ear Training I* is an introductory lab-based study and development of aural skills and sight singing in a diatonic framework through the study and application of moveable do solfege and systemized rhythm. Classes, assignments, and exam will cover the following components:

- Aural identification of scales, intervals, and triads.  
- Sight Singing and Sight Reading Rhythms  
- Rhythmic and Melodic Dictation  
- Rhythmic and Melodic Error Detection  
- Introductory Harmonic Dictation
This course will cover Units 1 – 5 of the sight singing textbook and Units 1 – 4 of the ear training textbook.

Note that you must be concurrently enrolled in MUSI 1116 – 02 (the lab component of this course), Music Theory I (or another theory class as assigned), and in Piano Class for Music Majors I (or another piano class as assigned, unless you have passed the Piano Proficiency).

You must earn a minimum final grade of C in SSET I to advance to SSET II. In addition you must earn Singing, Rhythm, and Dictation grades higher than C.

**Learning Outcome**

The student will demonstrate knowledge and practical skills in sight singing and ear training.

The student will be able to sing the major scale, most basic intervals, and simple melodies. In rhythm, students will learn basic simple meters. Students will dictate intervals, triad qualities, scales, rhythms in simple meter, short diatonic melodies, and basic harmonic progressions.

**Required Text**

**Sight Singing Text (SS):**


by Thomas E. Benjamin, Michael Horvit, Robert S. Nelson.

Cengage Learning, 2013.


[Amazon Link]

*Used copies and eTextbooks are permitted.*

**Ear Training Text (ET):**

*Music for Ear Training*, 4th Edition

by Michael Horvit, Timothy Koozin, Robert Nelson.

Cengage Learning, 2013.


[Amazon Link]

*You are required to purchase a brand – new copy of this text if you do not already have it. Used copies will not be permitted.*

*Possession of Instructor Editions is illegal.*

The textbooks are required for all students. You will have great difficulty in this course without them. Always have your textbooks handy for class.

We will also be using the website that comes with Music for Ear Training for assignments for this course. To access the online software, go to [http://login.cengagebrain.com](http://login.cengagebrain.com) and use the access code that comes with your textbook to create an account. You will have free access to the online service for 720 days, after which point you will need to purchase more time.

*N.B:* Be sure to download the software as a backup! The publisher's website does occasionally go down.
**ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS**

- Pencil with eraser  
  *I will not accept anything in pen: you will automatically receive a zero.*
- 8½ x 11 (music) manuscript paper
- Notebook paper
- Binder or folder to keep all your notes and assignments
- Regular internet access, including email and Blackboard
- Optional in – class technology at the instructor’s discretion

**COURSE SCHEDULE**

A detailed course schedule that includes class dates, topics, readings, assignments, exam dates, etc. is available under the **Course Documents** tab on the course’s Blackboard site. Please refer to the course schedule often in order to avoid missing any important dates.

The course schedule is subject to change during the semester at the instructor’s discretion. Any changes made to the course schedule will be announced in class and also through the Announcements feature on Blackboard.

**COURSE POLICIES AND EXPECTATIONS**

**CLASS PREPARATION**

Students are expect to be prepared for each class by preparing assigned singing, completing assignments, as well as practicing aural skills outside of the classroom.

**ATTENDANCE POLICY**

**Attendance is mandatory** and will be taken at each class meeting. Missing class will directly affect your ability to succeed on exams and assignments.

You will only be allowed **five (5) absences** for this course; **with your sixth absence, you will immediately be dropped from the course**. It is your responsibility to keep track of your absences. When you are no longer allowed to drop the course, you will automatically receive an F instead.

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**Tardiness Policy**

Each class period starts promptly at 9:25am. Anyone arriving past 9:25am will be counted as late. For every two (2) instances of tardiness, a student will receive an unexcused absence.

**Anyone arriving past 9:45am will be counted as absent.**

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**Excused Absence Policy** *(see Attendance, p. 8)*

Inevitably, there will be instances in which you cannot attend class, and can therefore be granted an excused absence under certain circumstances. Examples of excused absences are:

- Severe illness which would require a doctor’s care or hospitalization.
• Deaths in the family or other extreme family medical emergencies.
• Home disasters such as fires, burglaries, floods, etc.
• University-related functions, such as events with UTRGV ensembles.
• Military service or Religious observance.

All instances above will require documentation, such as corroboration from other faculty, doctor’s notes, police reports, etc. **Excused absences are at the discretion of the instructor.**

The excused absence policy may also apply to tardiness in some situations.

**Whenever possible, please inform the instructor in advance of an upcoming conflict via email or in person at least 24 hours prior the absence. This especially applies to university-related conflicts.**

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**Unexcused Absence Policy**

Examples of unexcused absences include:

• Oversleeping or poor time management.
• Car trouble, transportation issues, or other failure to plan ahead.
• Work schedules, both on and off campus.
• Studying for or doing homework for other classes.
• Minor illnesses such as the common cold.
• Cold or inclement weather unless the university has decided to cancel class.
• The Cowboys playing the day before.
• Any other irresponsible or unprofessional decisions.

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**ASSESSMENT**

Success in SSET I will be based on homework, participation, and exams. There will be no cumulative final exam.

**EXAMS**

Three (3) exams will be given throughout the semester, following each unit of study. Each of the exams will consist of two stages:

**Sight Singing** – The sight singing portion of the exam will be given outside of class during a scheduled window of time. You will be responsible for signing up for an individual time during that window or another time at the instructor’s discretion.

**Dictation** – This portion of the exam will take place during class during a second scheduled date.

Three separate components of the course will be included in each exam. Each of the three is averaged together equally to determine your exam grade:

**Singing** – Determined by the sight singing portion of the exam, minus rhythmic components.

**Dictation** – Determined by the dictation portion of the exam, minus rhythmic components.

**Rhythm** – Determined by the rhythmic components of the sight singing and dictation exams.
In addition to your final grade, which is determined using the percentages listed above, students are required to maintain at least a 70% in each of the three primary graded components of this course; Singing, Dictation, and Rhythm. These grades are determined by exams.

Because it is essential that students are proficient in all three areas before moving on to Sight Singing and Ear Training II, it is possible for a student to have a passing final grade (70% or higher) but still fail the course because their Singing, Dictation, or Rhythm grades are below 70%. In this case, the student will receive a 69% as their final grade, and will need to repeat the course before moving on to further levels on the aural skills program.

Exam Policies

Absolutely no make-up exams will be given unless in the most dire of circumstances. In the event that you have an unavoidable scheduling conflict with an exam, it is your responsibility to bring it to the instructor’s attention well ahead of time that appropriate arrangements can be made. If a student should miss an exam for any reason, that exam grade will be recorded as a zero (0).

If the course schedule is adjusted at any point and exams are rescheduled, the instructor will announce it in class, on Blackboard and re-publish the course schedule online so that there is no confusion.

You are not allowed to leave the room during an exam. If you leave the room, you will not be allowed back in.

Untimed exams for students covered by the Americans with Disabilities Act must be arranged in advance. Additional information regarding the ADA and UTRGV’s Disability Services may be found later in this syllabus. (see Students With Disabilities, p. 7)

Assignments

In addition to singing and rhythm assignments, written dictation assigns will be given on a regular basis, utilizing the online software that accompanies Music for Ear Training (see p. 2) as well as the text itself.

Assignments are due at the start of class on the due date. If they are not turned in by the time class begins (9:25 a.m.), you will receive a zero (0%). The instructor will be happy to check anything you turn in, but you will not receive any credit for it.

You are still responsible for submitting an assignment in the event of an excused absence.

If there is any sign of cheating on exams or assignments, you will immediately receive an F in the class and be referred to Academic Affairs. (see Scholastic Integrity, p. 8)

Grading

Your final course grade will be determined as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assignments</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam 1</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam 2</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam 3</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Grade</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
All grades will be regularly updated once items are graded. Students may access their grades live via the course’s Blackboard site by using the MyGrades module. Bear in mind that while your Final Course Grade is calculated as a running total in MyGrades, it may not reflect what you could expect your current grade in the class if items are pending grading.

Please ignore Blackboard’s system of assigning points to items and totals. All grading in this class is done with weighted percentages.

Any question about grades should be directed to the instructor privately. Backup copies of all grades will be kept elsewhere in case of Blackboard failure.

### ADDITIONAL POLICIES

#### Communication

All communication between students and the instructor outside of class or during office hours will take place via official UTRGV Email accounts. You are encouraged to use your @utrgv.edu email account for all of your UTRGV business, however for this course it is required. If you prefer to have your UTRGV emails forwarded to your personal email account, or vice versa, please see the Help Desk to set up email forwarding.

Students are expected to exhibit professional emailing skills when contacting a professor. The following article from Insidehighered.com will be helpful in learning how to properly communicate not only in the university setting, but in the professional world as well:

Re: Your Recent Email to Your Professor

#### Policy on Electronic Devices

Please turn off all pagers, beepers, and cell phones before you come into class.

Cell phone use will not be permitted under any circumstances.* This includes using a cell phone for text messaging, listening to voice mail, game playing, listening to music, internet surfing, photographing, video or calling. If you break this policy you will be asked to leave the class and will be given an unexcused absence.

*If you have young children, and need to be reachable by cell phone in emergency situations, please discuss it with the instructor at the start of the semester.

#### Classroom Policies

No eating or drinking in the classroom. This is university policy.

Please respect the rights of everyone in the class to a learning environment befitting a university. Disruptive behavior will not be tolerated and individuals who fail to meet standards of professional behavior will be referred to the Department Chair or the Dean of Students.

You should not hesitate to ask questions both in and out of class. Be proactive. If there is a concept or topic that you do not feel that you fully understand, please contact the professor as soon as possible for clarification or to arrange a meeting.
SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY

Posting of photographs of quizzes, exams, assignments, or other course materials, graded or ungraded, in public social media forums such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Reddit, etc. will be considered an attempt to pose an unfair advantage for the student. This will result in receiving a zero (0) grade for the assignment, quiz, exam, or other course material in question, as well as referral to the Department Chair and/or Dean of Students. Violation of this policy may include but not be limited to removal from the course, loss of scholarship, academic probation, or even expulsion from the university.

In addition, comments made by university students on social media outlets that are unprofessional or disparaging in nature to the university, department, course, instructor, or other students will be considered a breach of appropriate academic etiquette, and will once again result in referral to the relevant channels for disciplinary action within the university.

IMPORTANT DATES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 19</td>
<td>Classes Begin</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 3</td>
<td>Census Day, Last day to drop a class before it appears on the transcript and counts toward the “6-drop” limit. Last day to receive a 100% refund for dropped classes (other policies apply when a student is withdrawing from all classes)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 14 – 18</td>
<td>Spring Break; university closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 13</td>
<td>Drop/Withdrawal Deadline; last day for students to drop the course and receive a DR grade. After this date, students will be assigned a letter grade for the course that will count on the GPA.</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 4</td>
<td>Last day of classes</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 5</td>
<td>Study Day; no classes</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 7</td>
<td>Final Exam 9:25 – 10:50am</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 14</td>
<td>Commencement</td>
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SYLLABUS ADDENDUM: UTRGV POLICIES

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

If you have a documented disability (physical, psychological, learning, or other disability which affects your academic performance) and would like to receive academic accommodations, please inform your instructor and contact Student Accessibility Services to schedule an appointment to initiate services. It is recommended that you schedule an appointment with Student Accessibility Services before classes start. However, accommodations can be provided at any time. Brownsville Campus: Student Accessibility Services is located in Cortez Hall Room 129 and can be contacted by phone at (956) 882-7374 (Voice) or via email at accessibility@utrgv.edu. Edinburg Campus: Student Accessibility Services is located in 108 University Center and can be contacted by phone at (956) 665-7005 (Voice), (956) 665-3840 (Fax), or via email at accessibility@utrgv.edu.

MANDATORY COURSE EVALUATION PERIOD

Students are required to complete an ONLINE evaluation of this course, accessed through your UTRGV account (http://my.utrgv.edu); you will be contacted through email with further instructions. Online evaluations will be available Nov. 18 – Dec. 9, 2015. Students who complete their evaluations will have priority access to their grades.

ATTENDANCE

Students are expected to attend all scheduled classes and may be dropped from the course for excessive absences. UTRGV’s attendance policy excuses students from attending class if they are participating in officially sponsored university activities, such as athletics; for observance of religious holy days; or for military service. Students should contact the instructor in advance of the excused absence and arrange to make up missed work or examinations.

SCHOLASTIC INTEGRITY

As members of a community dedicated to Honesty, Integrity and Respect, students are reminded that those who engage in scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and expulsion from the University. Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to: cheating, plagiarism, and collusion; submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person; taking an examination for another person; any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student; or the attempt to commit such acts. Since scholastic dishonesty harms the individual, all students and the integrity of the University, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced (Board of Regents Rules and Regulations and UTRGV Academic Integrity Guidelines). All scholastic dishonesty incidents will be reported to the Dean of Students.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT, DISCRIMINATION, AND VIOLENCE

In accordance with UT System regulations, your instructor is a “responsible employee” for reporting purposes under Title IX regulations and so must report any instance, occurring during a student’s time in college, of sexual assault, stalking, dating violence, domestic violence, or sexual harassment about which she/he becomes aware during this course through writing, discussion, or personal disclosure.
More information can be found at www.utrgv.edu/equity, including confidential resources available on campus. The faculty and staff of UTRGV actively strive to provide a learning, working, and living environment that promotes personal integrity, civility, and mutual respect in an environment free from sexual misconduct and discrimination.

**Course Drops**

According to UTRGV policy, students may drop any class without penalty earning a grade of DR until the official drop date. Following that date, students must be assigned a letter grade and can no longer drop the class. Students considering dropping the class should be aware of the “3-peat rule” and the “6-drop” rule so they can recognize how dropped classes may affect their academic success. The 6-drop rule refers to Texas law that dictates that undergraduate students may not drop more than six courses during their undergraduate career. Courses dropped at other Texas public higher education institutions will count toward the six-course drop limit. The 3-peat rule refers to additional fees charged to students who take the same class for the third time.