

AURAL SKILLS 2

MUT 1242L, 1 credit hour

-SPRING 2026 Syllabus-

Instructor

Dr. Shannon Lowe
slowe@arts.ufl.edu

352.273.3185

Office: 301 MUB

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

Graduate Teaching Assistant

Ethan Kaminsky
ethankaminsky@ufl.edu

Office Hours: By appointment

Course Description

Second of a sequence of four courses that develop skills in sight singing and ear training.

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

Auralia⁶ Ear Training Student Cloud Program *[note: assignments will be assigned/completed through this program]*

Purchase the 12-month subscription **for \$39** at below link: *(if you were enrolled in Fall 2025 Aural Skills 1, your subscription is still current—any new students joining in for first time will need to purchase)*

<https://www.risingsoftware.com/shop/aucec>

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

Required Textbooks

A New Approach to Sight Singing (Berkowitz, Kraft, Fontrier)-7th Edition; ISBN: 978-1324071563

Recommended Materials

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

Course Fee

None

Course Outline**

Weeks	Assignments/Schedule
1 January 12 th – 15 th ***	Review Syllabus and Moveable Do Solfege Review Aural Skills 2 Intro Diagnostic Quiz (In-class on Wednesday and Thursday)
2 January 19 th – 22 nd	NO CLASS-MONDAY, 1/19: Martin Luther King Day In-class Drills/Singing and Rhythm Practice
3 January 26 th – 29 th	In-class Drills/Singing and Rhythm Practice Weekly Assignments 1: Auralia/Singing/Rhythm due by 11:59pm on Sunday, February 1st
4 February 2 nd – February 5 th	In-class Drills/Singing and Rhythm Practice Weekly Assignments 2: Auralia/Singing/Rhythm due by 11:59pm on Sunday, February 8th
5 February 9 th – 12 th	Singing and Rhythmic Sight-Reading Test 1 Week No assignments due
6 February 16 th – 19 th	In-class Drills/Singing and Rhythm Practice Weekly Assignments 3: Auralia/Singing/Rhythm due by 11:59pm on Sunday, February 22nd
7 February 23 rd – 26 th	In-class Drills/Singing and Rhythm Practice Weekly Assignments 4: Auralia/Singing/Rhythm due by 11:59pm on Sunday, March 1st
8 March 2 nd – 5 th	In-class Drills/Singing and Rhythm Practice Weekly Assignments 5: Auralia/Singing/Rhythm due by 11:59pm on Sunday, March 8th
9 March 9 th – 12 th	Singing and Rhythmic Sight-Reading Test 2 Week No assignments due
10 March 16 th – 20 st	NO CLASSES—SPRING BREAK
11 March 23 rd – 26 th	In-class Drills/Singing and Rhythm Practice: Monday, 3/25 and Tuesday, 3/26 Weekly Assignments 6: Auralia/Singing/Rhythm due by 11:59pm on Sunday, March 29th
12 March 30 th – April 2 nd	In-class Drills/Singing and Rhythm Practice Weekly Assignments 7: Auralia/Singing/Rhythm due by 11:59pm on Sunday, April 5th
13 April 6 th – 9 th	In-class Drills/Singing and Rhythm Practice Weekly Assignments 8: Auralia/Singing/Rhythm due by 11:59pm on Sunday, April 12th
14 April 13 th – 16 th	In-class Drills/Singing and Rhythm Practice Singing and Rhythmic Sight-Reading Test 3 Partial Testing Week (Thursday, 4/16) No assignments due
15 April 20 th – 22 nd	Singing and Rhythmic Sight-Reading Test 3 Testing Week No assignments due THERE IS NO FINAL EXAM FOR THIS COURSE!!

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

Topics for the semester*:

Review 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, 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

- **Weekly Singing Assignments (8 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!**

- **Weekly Rhythm Assignments (8 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!**

- **Weekly Auralia Assignments (8 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. 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 will count or use assigned alternate 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.

Evaluation

Weekly Singing Assignments (8)	25%
Weekly Rhythm Assignments (8)	25%
Weekly Dictation Assignments (8)	25%
Singing and Rhythmic Sight-Reading Tests (3)	25%
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.

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

Academic Policies and Student Resources

Students can access the University of Florida's academic policies and student resources at the following link:

<https://go.ufl.edu/syllabuspolicies>

Course Policies

- 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 textbooks are not required for class.*
- Students are strongly encouraged to use online resources and lectures (as shared in Canvas by the instructor), 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.
- **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 an attendance 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, 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.
 - A student may use their tablet or computer if they possess an electronic copy of the book; **however, for notation, paper must be utilized.**
 - If a student is found using their phone/tablet during class during instruction (unless using it to consult an electronic copy of the singing textbook), 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.

- **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 take place on Canvas. Auralia assignments will be completed in the Auralia cloud program.
- **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 Sight Reading test 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.
- To make up a **missed test 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.

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.