

**AURAL HARMONY I**  
**MUS 121**  
**FALL 2004**

Instructor: Atossa Kramer  
Office: 405 Presser  
Telephone ext: 3469

Meeting time: MWF 11:00 AM  
Meeting place: 407 Presser  
Office hours: TBA  
T.A.: Cassie Redcorn

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

The overall goal for studying music theory is to develop musical literacy and to enrich your musical understanding. This is a life-long process and an exciting journey. All of you have some form of musical background and will draw on your own "stockpile" of musical experience. However, this may be the first time that you have systematically studied the various elements of music. We want to be able to perceive (listen), organize (analyze), and conceptualize (think about and understand) what we hear in order to enrich our own experience as listeners and, ultimately, to learn how to create musical expression.

**Aural Harmony** deals primarily with the perceptual (listening) part of this learning. However, it is always related to the conceptual (thinking and understanding) part of the learning that you will do in Materials of Music. The short-term goals of this course include being able to hear, reproduce, and notate simple melodies and rhythm patterns and to sing simple melodies on sight (without hearing them first). There will be many activities designed to achieve these goals. You are on your way to developing your "seeing ear" and your "hearing eye". Bon Voyage!

**REQUIRED MATERIALS**

Berkowitz et al, A New Approach to Sight Singing. 4th edition  
Hall, Anne , Studying Rhythm. 2<sup>nd</sup> edition  
folder or notebook for hand-outs and notes  
music staff paper  
pencils (not pens!)  
blank CD disk

## **COURSE COMPONENTS**

### **THEORY LAB and T.A.s**

It is essential to practice your ear training and sight singing skills daily if you are to make satisfactory progress. Some of this practice can be done in the computer lab. The lab, computers, and T.A.s are there to help you work on your problem areas. A schedule of times the lab will be open will be posted outside the room. There may also be the opportunity for individual appointments with a T.A. outside of these hours.

For each hour spent working with a T.A. or on the computer, you may earn 5 points – up to a total of 50 points during the semester.

### **SIGHT SINGING**

Approximately once every two weeks, each student will have an appointment with Ms. Kramer to check on progress in sight singing. Specific assignments will be given. A record of your progress will be maintained.

### **WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS AND QUIZZES**

There will be some written assignments from recorded material that will be handed in and graded. These assignments will give you the opportunity to practice the skills on which you will be tested.

There may also be some in-class quizzes.

### **ASSIGNMENTS TO BE PRESENTED IN CLASS**

We will be working with reading and performing rhythms from your text book. There will also be some sight singing assignments to be presented in class. You will have the opportunity to choose a group of 2 or 3 people to prepare and present these assignments. More detailed instructions will be given in class.

### **EXAMS**

There will be two hour-long ear training exams in addition to the final exam. There will also be two individually scheduled 15-minute sight singing exams with Ms. Kramer - one around midterm and one at the end of the semester.

## GRADING SYSTEM

In class assignments.....	100 pts.....	10%
Ear Training exams.....	150pts.....	15%
Final E.T. exam.....	150pts.....	15%
Sight Singing exams.....	200pts.....	20%
E.T. assignments/quizzes.....	200pts.....	20%
S.S. appointments.....	<u>200pts</u> .....	<u>20%</u>
Total.....	1,000 pts.....	100%

Exact scores required for specific grades will be determined somewhat by the relative scores of those in the class. However, in general, a score in the 900's will be an A, 800's a B, 700's a C etc.( See specific %'s at the end of this document)

**Final exam – 10:00 AM Wed., Dec. 15**

## COURSE CONTENT AND LEARNING GOALS

The following represents a summary of skills to be mastered during the course of the semester.

Repeat short melodies after one listening

Identify the tonic aurally from short melodies

Identify the scale degrees of pitch patterns and short melodies

Understand, notate, and perform basic rhythm patterns

Notate pitch and rhythm of short melodies

Learn and use hand gestures including the Kodaly hand signals to reinforce pitch awareness and accuracy

Sing major scales from any given pitch using solfege syllables, numbers, and note names

Read and sing simple melodies, both prepared and unprepared, using solfege syllables, numbers, note names, and "count-and-sing"

Learn and use duple and triple conducting patterns while listening to and performing musical selections

Identify possible meters of short melodies and other musical examples

Introduce different ways of listening to, moving to, and experiencing music

Perform simple improvisations

### **ATTENDANCE POLICY and COURSE EXPECTATIONS**

It is assumed that students will attend class regularly. Attendance will be taken. If you know in advance that you will miss class, please try to notify the teacher. You are responsible for getting notes and assignments if you do miss. **There will be no make-up exams given for unexcused absences.** An excused absence is one approved by the teacher in advance or is an emergency situation that can be verified to the satisfaction of the teacher.

All assignments must be handed in on time. It is your responsibility to communicate with the teacher if you have a reasonable excuse for not having it done. **The grade will be decreased by 10% if the assignment is one class period late. Any assignments later than that will not be accepted without prior arrangement with the teacher.**

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**The Berea College Faculty adopted the following definitions of letter grades in the spring of 2003. Note that the weights of plus and minus grades for the computation of GPA have changed since last term. I WILL assign the plus or minus distinction to your grade in MUS 121.**

**Grade Point Average:** For purposes of computing the Grade Point Average (GPA), the following weights are used: A=4.0; A-=3.7; B+=3.3; B=3.0; B-=2.7; C+=2.3; C=2.0; C-=1.7; D+=1.3; D=1.0; D- = 0.7, and F=0.0 (Note: Prior to Fall Term 2003, the following weights were used to calculate GPA: A=4; B=3; C=2; D=1; and F=0. These weights will remain in effect for grades earned prior to Fall Term 2003.)

**Grading Scale-** there are 1000 points possible in MUS 121:

A 1000-920 pts	A- 919-900 pts	B+ 899-880 pts	B 879-820 pts
B- 819-800 pts	C+ 799-780 pts	C 779-700 pts	C- 699-680 pts
D+ 679-660 pts	D 659-620 pts	D- 619-600 pts	F <600

