Contact Information

Instructor: Dr. Michael Adduci

Office Location: Music 105

Telephone: 408-924-4679

Email (preferred contact): michael.adduci@sjsu.edu

Office Hours: T/Th 8:30-9:15 am, and by appointment

Class Days/Time: M/W 10:30-11:20 am

Classroom: Music 250

Prerequisites: This course assumes little or no previous experience in aural skills, however, the class is only open to music majors and music minors who have qualified for MUSC 1A by placement exam.

Course Fees: Music majors and minors must pay a music equipment use fee of $30 each semester. The fee must be paid directly to the Cashier’s Office, and you must bring the receipt to the Music Office before completing registration. Applied music instruction will not be authorized until this fee is paid.

Course Description

Music Systems is a multi-semester course sequence containing two areas of study: written analytical skills and aural skills. MUSC 1B is the first course in this sequence which focuses on aural skills acquisition. Skill areas include dictation, sight-singing, rhythm, conducting, and aural analysis. Examples for study are drawn primarily from the Renaissance through early twenty-first century compositions of the Western European and American traditions, with supplementary examples drawn from other musical practices when appropriate.

Course Schedule: Important Dates

- September 7: NO CLASS (Labor Day)
- October 12: Midterm Dictation Exam
- October 14: Midterm Singing Exams
- October 19: Midterm Singing Exams, continued
- November 11: NO CLASS (Veterans Day)
- December 7: Final Dictation Exam (last class day)
- Tuesday, December 15, 9:45 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.: Final Singing Exams (final exam period)

Faculty Web Page

We will be using Canvas this semester. The course schedule and copies of course materials such as the syllabus, assignments, handouts, etc. will be posted on the Canvas page for MUSC 1B, available at http://www.sjsu.edu/at/ec/canvas/. Please check Canvas frequently throughout the semester.
Course Goals and Learning Objectives

My task as a teacher is to point my students in the right direction and guide their learning; progress, comprehension and growth are the students’ responsibilities. Provided students apply themselves to this course, including attending class, studying assigned readings and music examples, completing assignments on time, asking questions when the material is not yet understood, studying regularly outside of class time, and working with tutors as needed, upon successful completion of this course students will be able to:

**Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)**

CLO 1 Demonstrate increased proficiency in maintaining rhythmic and pitch relationships during performance.

CLO 2 Demonstrate increased proficiency in active/participatory listening.

CLO 3 Demonstrate increased proficiency in taking rhythmic, melodic and harmonic dictation through the application of the above.

**Required Texts/Readings**

**Textbooks**


3. Please bring the Berkowitz text, manuscript paper and a pencil to every class meeting.

**Classroom Protocol**

1. Class will start every day on time.

2. All electronic devices must be turned off while in class (for example: cell phones, iPods, laptop computers, etc.). There are no exceptions to this rule.

3. Attendance at all class sessions is absolutely essential. I expect your active class participation and discussion, because comprehension and critical thinking are vital aspects of being a professional musician.

4. Success in this course will not come from merely attending lectures and completing assignments. To master this material, you must spend sufficient time outside of class for preparation, listening and study. In particular, many students find aural dictation a very challenging skill to acquire. As a professional musician, I have discovered that a well-trained ear is my most valuable asset. That makes aural skills one of the most important subjects you will study during your degree. Treat it accordingly.

   1. SJSU classes are designed such that in order to be successful, it is expected that students will spend a minimum of 45 hours for each unit of credit (normally three hours per unit per week), including preparing for class, participating in course activities, completing assignments, and so on. More details about student workload can be found in University Policy S12-3 at http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf.

5. Use of the computer lab and/or personal computer software for aural skills development is greatly encouraged. The Music Department maintains a subscription to Aurelia, an excellent ear training program. Others are Practica Musica and MacGAMUT (www.macgamut.com). There are many Internet sites designed to help with dictation and ear training, for example, MusicTheory.net (www.musictheory.net), Teoria (www.teoria.com), and the Theta Music Trainer (www.trainer.thetamusic.com).
Course Requirements, Assignments and Grading Policy

1. With better than 70% accuracy, students will be expected to:
   1. Take dictation from exercises of a beginning level of difficulty (up to four simultaneous voices).
   2. Sight-sing and/or sight-perform (with approximately one minute of preparation) melodies and rhythms of a beginning degree of difficulty.
   3. Complete comprehensive midterm and final examinations in both dictation and singing/rhythm.

2. Weekly performance in dictation, sight-singing, rhythmic accuracy, sight-reading and aural analysis will be graded. Since students may be called upon at any time to sing, perform, or notate a passage from selections under study, attendance is essential. If a student is absent, they will receive a grade of 0 (zero) for all graded in-class activities taking place during that class period. Missed in-class grades will not be made up; if the absence was excused by the instructor in advance (see #4, below), the missed grades will not count towards the student’s final semester grade.

3. Assignments are due at the beginning of class on the due date. Assignments with loose pages that are not stapled together will receive a 5% penalty, and any assignment submitted late (unless excused in advance by the instructor) will receive a 15% penalty. Late assignments will only be accepted up to the beginning of the next class period after the due date. However, please note that mid-semester and/or final semester projects will not be accepted late for any reason.

4. Absence does not grant special privileges regarding material covered in class. Students are responsible for all material discussed in class, whether present or not. The due dates for assignments do not change because of an absence. Missed performances, quizzes and exams will not be made up except as described below:
   1. Documented absences due to illness or family emergency, or for an excused school function, will be handled at the instructor’s discretion.

5. Individual extra credit work is not available in this class.

6. The mid-term and final exams will each consist of an in-class dictation portion and an individual singing portion, each worth half of the total exam grade. See exam dates and times listed below.

7. Course work weightings:

   In-Class Assessment and Written Work: 60%
   Midterm Exam (combined): 20%
   Final Exam (combined): 20%

8. Final semester grades will be assigned using the following table:

   Table 1. Grading breakdown.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>100-97%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>96-93%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>92-90%</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>89-87%</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>86-83%</td>
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<tr>
<td>B-</td>
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<td>C+</td>
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<td>69-67%</td>
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<td>66-63%</td>
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<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>62-60%</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>59-0%</td>
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</tbody>
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University Policies

Academic Integrity

Your commitment as a student to learning is evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University. The University Academic Integrity Policy S07-2 at http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S07-2.pdf requires you to be honest in all your academic course work. Faculty members are required to report all infractions to the office of
Student Conduct and Ethical Development. The Student Conduct and Ethical Development website is available at http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/. Instances of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Cheating on exams or plagiarism (presenting the work of another as your own, or the use of another person’s ideas without giving proper credit) will result in a failing grade and sanctions by the University. For this class, all assignments are to be completed by the individual student unless otherwise specified. SJSU’s Academic Integrity Policy S07-2 requires approval of instructors if you plan to use or reuse the same assignment material in multiple classes.

Dropping and Adding

Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drop, grade forgiveness, etc. Refer to the current semester’s Catalog Policies section at http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html. Add/drop deadlines can be found on the current academic year calendars document on the Academic Calendars webpage at http://www.sjsu.edu/provost/services/academic_calendars/. The Late Drop Policy is available at http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latestops/policy/. Students should be aware of the current deadlines and penalties for dropping classes. Information about the latest changes and news is available at the Advising Hub at http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/.

Consent for Recording of Class and Public Sharing of Instructor Material

University Policy S12-7, http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-7.pdf, requires students to obtain instructor’s permission to record the course.

- Common courtesy and professional behavior dictate that you notify someone when you are recording him/her. You must obtain the instructor’s permission to make audio or video recordings in this class. Such permission allows the recordings to be used for your private, study purposes only. The recordings are the intellectual property of the instructor; you have not been given any rights to reproduce or distribute the material.
- In classes where active participation of students or guests may be on the recording, permission of those students or guests should be obtained as well.
- Course material developed by the instructor is the intellectual property of the instructor and cannot be shared publicly without his/her approval. You may not publicly share or upload instructor generated material for this course such as exam questions, lecture notes, course handouts or homework solutions without instructor consent.

General Expectations, Rights and Responsibilities of the Student

As members of the academic community, students accept both the rights and responsibilities incumbent upon all members of the institution. Students are encouraged to familiarize themselves with SJSU’s policies and practices pertaining to the procedures to follow if and when questions or concerns about a class arise. See University Policy S90–5 at http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S90-5.pdf. More detailed information on a variety of related topics is available in the SJSU catalog, at http://info.sjsu.edu/web-dbgen/narr/catalog/rec-12234.12506.html. In general, it is recommended that students begin by seeking clarification or discussing concerns with their instructor. If such conversation is not possible, or if it does not serve to address the issue, it is recommended that the student contact the Department Chair as a next step.

Campus Policy in Compliance with the American Disabilities Act

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you need to make special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible, or see me during office hours. Presidential Directive 97-03 at http://www.sjsu.edu/president/docs/directives/PD_1997-03.pdf requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with the Accessible Education Resource Center (AEC) at http://www.sjsu.edu/aec/ to establish a record of their disability.