

MUSICIANSHIP I – Fall Semester 2009
Tuesdays and Thursdays

Instructor: Peter Browne

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Phone: (607)692-7663 (This is my home phone: because of my schedule and shared office assignments, the best way to reach me is by email or, if necessary, at my home. Please don't use the campus phone number – it will not reach me.)

Office hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11:05 - 11:40 and 12:40 – 1:15 in FA 166, or by appointment.

Our course will aim at developing skills in understanding and organizing musical sounds, as well as reading, performing and writing music accurately. Various exercises will be utilized, involving singing, dictation and keyboard work. At the beginning of the semester, we will focus on singing basic melodic patterns derived from the major scale, performing simple rhythms in various combinations, and developing proficiency in singing solfege syllables (Do, Re, Mi, etc.) in the movable Do system. Each class will consist of activities in these areas, as well as in melodic and rhythmic dictation and interval recognition. Development of inner hearing skills will be stressed. As the semester progresses, rhythmic and melodic exercises will increase in complexity; chromatic intervals will be introduced; recognition and performance of basic chords (triads and seventh chords) will be required; and you will be required to recognize, sing, and play at the keyboard major, natural minor, harmonic minor and melodic minor scales. Towards the end of the semester, exercises will include simultaneously singing one part while playing another at the keyboard. The final dictation exam will include recognition of intervals up to and including the octave, notation of both simple and compound rhythms, and notation of melodies in both major and minor keys.

Please note that classwork accounts for 40% of your grade; this includes attendance and participation in classroom activities as well as homework assignments. Beginning the third week of the semester you'll be scheduled for a weekly individual audit with our Graduate Teaching Assistant. These audits will take place outside the regular class time; you will sign up for regular weekly meeting time with our TA. At that time you'll be expected to perform individually an assignment that you've prepared ahead of time. **These audits constitute a sizable portion of your grade; regular attendance and satisfactory performances are a requirement of this course.**

It goes without saying that the skills being taught in this class will be more difficult for some students than for others. Some of you will have to spend considerably more time than others in preparation for class and audits. If you find yourself struggling with any aspect of classroom or audit work, please let me know promptly. If we can catch

difficulties early on, there's a good chance we can prevent cumulative problems from developing over the course of the semester.

It's expected that students attend every class, and that they arrive on time. Only illness and religious holidays constitute excused absences. Please let me know in advance if you know that you're going to be absent. You'll then be given an opportunity to make up missed work.

Grades: Assignments, tests and quizzes will be given letter and/or number grades: 92-100=A; 90-91.9=A-; 88-89.9=B+; 82-87.9=B; 80-81.9=B-; 78-79.9=C+; 72-77.9=C; 70-71.9=C-; 65-69.9=D; below 65=F.

Final grades will be based on: 1.) Classwork (40%), including melodies, rhythms, conducting, dictation, and sightsinging; 2.) Audits (15%); 3.) Midterm dictation exam (15%); 4. Final dictation exam (15%); and Final performance exam (final audit with me) (15%). A final grade of D, although passing, is not considered satisfactory and can't be used to fulfill the requirements of a major or minor in music.

The textbook for this class (required) is: Music for Sightsinging, 5th ed.; Benjamin, Horvit and Nelson. It's available in the campus bookstore. **Please bring your textbook, pencils and manuscript paper to every class.**