

# Ball State University College of Fine Arts/School of Music/Music Theory

## MUST 101- Course Syllabus

**Coordinator: Dr. Brett Clement (bgclement@bsu.edu)**

**Section 1: 8:30am-9:20am, TR, Room MU 301**

**Section 2: 9:30am-10:20am, TR, Room MU 301**

Instructor: Prof. Joey Lavarias

Phone: N/A

Office: MI 125

e-mail: joey.lavarias@bsu.edu

Office Hours: Fridays 11am-12pm and via appointment

### Required Materials

*Music for Sight Singing*, 10<sup>th</sup> ed., by Nancy Rogers and Roger Ottman

Hard copy (recommended) or e-copy on tablet with writing implement (no phones/laptops)  
Staff paper and **pencils** (no pens!), hard copy or e-copy on tablet with writing implement

### Course Description

MUST 101 offers an in-depth study and application of sight singing techniques, dictation, chord recognition, error detection, and related activities.

### Course Objective/Student Learning Objectives

Students will be able to:

- Aurally identify all intervals up to the octave.
- Differentiate between the four triad types in all positions.
- Perform rhythms in simple and compound meter types.
- Sing melodies in major and minor keys featuring stepwise motion and tonic triad skips.
- Upon hearing, notate short melodies with leaps from the tonic triad.
- Upon hearing, notate short harmonic progressions featuring the primary triads (I, IV, V).

### Rationale

Developing the “mind’s ear” is one of the most important tasks for all professional musicians. This course is the first in a sequence that provides students with strategies for attaining this goal. Sight-singing exercises will test the ability of students to imagine the sound of written music, while dictation exercises will focus on the skill of notating sounds as heard.

### COURSE EXPECTATIONS

#### Attendance policy (please read very carefully!)

All BSU Aural Skills students are allowed a **total of 5 absences**. There is **no** distinction made between “excused” and “unexcused” absences. At the sixth absence, you will **fail automatically**. This policy is non-negotiable. **Three tardy arrivals** will equal **one absence**. Arriving 25 (or more) minutes after class begins will also count as an absence.

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### Make-up Policy

Tardy/absent students will not be allowed to retake any missed quizzes/exams unless the instructor has been informed prior to the date of the quiz. In case of illness, email your instructor immediately. Do not assume you will be allowed to retake a quiz without instructor approval.

### Grade Distribution

In-class quizzes: 40%

Dictation exams (3): 30% (10% each)

Individual hearings (3): 30% (10% each)

### Quizzes

Quizzes will be given daily (with the exception of days reserved for review/tests). These quizzes will be administered at the beginning of class, so it is imperative that you avoid tardiness. Two general types of quiz will be given: (1) materials assigned from O/R for sightsinging, which will be performed in class for a grade by individuals chosen "at random" by the instructor; (2) short dictation quizzes. All quizzes will be weighted the same. The lowest quiz grade will be dropped.

### Dictation exams

Three (3) dictation exams will be given in class throughout the semester.

### Individual hearings

Three (3) individual hearings will occur (outside of class) throughout the semester. Students will receive a list of assigned materials (etc.) to prepare for the hearing. Unprepared (on the spot) sightreading will also be required for this grade.

### Grading Scale

A = 95–100%	B+ = 89–91%	C+ = 79–81%	D+ = 69–71%
A– = 92–94%	B = 85–88%	C = 75–78%	D = 65–68 %
	B– = 82–84%	C– = 72–74%	there is no D–

**Students who earn a grade of C- or lower must retake the course.**

Grading rubric for singing quizzes (not applicable to all quizzes):

Criteria	Ratings
General pitch accuracy	20
Rhythm/tempo	20
Performance on current unit objective	20
Solfege	20
Conducting	10
Readiness/Preparation	10
	Total: 100

20 -point system: 20 (perfect), 14 (good), 10 (does not meet expectations), 6 (poor)

10-point system: 10 (perfect/good), 5 (does not meet expectations)

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### PHONE POLICY

Phones are not permitted in class unless expressly allowed by the instructor for a certain activity. They must be stowed and out of sight during class time.

### Tutoring and Extra Help

If you fall behind in this class or do not understand the material, it is your responsibility to seek additional help. You are encouraged to speak to your instructor during office hours. The graduate students assigned as tutors for this course will be announced in class. Additionally, tutoring for all 100- and 200-level music theory courses is available through the Learning Center, 285–1006, [www.bsu.edu/universitycollege/learningcenter](http://www.bsu.edu/universitycollege/learningcenter). You must contact them to request help.

### Academic Integrity

Plagiarism will result in a zero grade for that assignment. Continued instances of plagiarism may result in failure of the course.

### Disability

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, please contact me as soon as possible. Ball State's Disability Services office coordinates services for students with disabilities; documentation of a disability needs to be on file in that office before any accommodations can be provided. Disability Services can be contacted at 765.285.5293 or [dsd@bsu.edu](mailto:dsd@bsu.edu).

### University Statement

We are committed to ensuring that all members of the community are welcome, through valuing the various experiences and worldviews represented at Ball State and among those we serve. We promote a culture of respect and civil discourse. If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, please contact the instructor of record as soon as possible. Ball State's Disability Services office coordinates services for students with disabilities; documentation of a disability needs to be on file in that office before any accommodations can be provided. Disability Services can be contacted at 765-285-5293 or [dsd@bsu.edu](mailto:dsd@bsu.edu).

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**Preliminary Course Calendar (subject to change at instructor's discretion)**

WEEK 1	Begin Unit 1
WEEK 2	
WEEK 3	
WEEK 4	Hearing 1 assigned
WEEK 5	<b>Dictation Exam 1 (Thurs, Feb. 5)</b>
WEEK 6	Begin Unit 2
WEEK 7	
WEEK 8	<i>Spring Break: Mar. 2-6</i>
WEEK 9	Hearing 2 assigned
WEEK 10	
WEEK 11	<b>Dictation Exam 2 (Tues, Mar. 17); Begin Unit 3</b>
WEEK 12	
WEEK 13	
WEEK 14	
WEEK 15	
WEEK 16	Hearing 3 assigned; <b>Dictation Exam 3 (Thurs, Apr. 23)</b>

If your class is at ...	8:30, your final exam is ... 9:30	Tues., Apr. 28, at 7:30 AM Fri., May 1, at 9:45 AM
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