

**San José State University**  
**School of Music and Dance**  
**MUSC 4B, Music Systems 4B, Section 01, Spring 2020**

**Contact Information**

<b>Instructor:</b>	Dr. Brian Belet
<b>Office Location:</b>	Music Building, Room 104
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<b>Office Hours:</b>	Office Hours occur during my posted advising times: (TBA) (use sign-up sheet posted next to my office door)
<b>Class Days/Time:</b>	Tuesday & Thursday / 11:30 am – 12:20 pm
<b>Classroom:</b>	Music Building, Room 210
<b>Prerequisites:</b>	Music Major, and successful completion of MUSC 3B with a grade of ‘C’ or better, placement by transfer articulation, or special permission from the Area Coordinator.
<b>Final Exam:</b>	Wednesday, May 13, 2020, 9:45 am – 12:00 noon
<b>Course Website:</b>	<a href="http://www.BeletMusic.com/sjsu-courses.html">www.BeletMusic.com/sjsu-courses.html</a>
<b>Course Fees:</b>	\$30 Music Use Fee. 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.

**Faculty Web Page and MYSJSU Messaging**

Course materials (syllabus, assignment instructions, course handouts, etc.) are posted on my professional music web page at <http://www.beletmusic.com/sjsu-courses.html>. Students are responsible for regularly checking this web site for updates throughout the semester. Students are also responsible for checking your email regularly, as course updates are sent to the course enrollment email list.

## Course Description

Music Systems is a multi-semester course sequence containing two areas of study: written analytical skills and aural skills. **MUSC 4B** is the fourth course in this sequence, which focuses on advanced aural skills acquisition, with a specific focus on post-tonal music structures of the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries. Skills areas include dictation, sight-singing, sight-reading performance, and aural analysis; with an increased level of complexity over MUSC 3B. Examples for study are drawn primarily from the Renaissance through late Twentieth-Century compositions of the Western European and American traditions, with supplementary examples drawn from other musical practices when appropriate.

## Course Goals and Learning Objectives

1) Notate dictation exercises of an intermediate to advanced degree of difficulty. 2) Sight sing &/or sight perform (with approximately one minute preparation) melodies and rhythms of an intermediate to advanced degree of difficulty. 3) Complete comprehensive midterm and final examinations in both aural dictation and sight-singing.

## Course Content Learning Outcomes

There is a teaching proverb that states: *‘Teachers open the door. You enter by yourself.’* Provided a student applies himself/herself to this course — including attending class, practicing sight-singing and dictation daily, completing assignments on time, asking questions when the material is not yet understood, working with tutors as needed (tutors are provided by the music program at no charge to the student) — the following outcomes can be expected:

- 1) Students will understand the concepts and procedures of advanced tonal and post-tonal voice-leading and harmony.
- 2) Students will gain a deeper understanding of the music they hear and perform that utilizes these highly chromatic techniques.
- 3) Students will be able to competently analyze music that employs these highly chromatic techniques.
- 4) Students will be able to sight-sing melodies and take aural music dictation that employs these highly chromatic techniques.

## Required Texts/Readings

### Required Textbooks

*A New Approach to Sight Singing*, 5<sup>th</sup> edition (or new 6<sup>th</sup> edition). Berkowitz, Fontrier, & Kraft. (W. W. Norton & Company)

*Music for Ear Training*, 4<sup>th</sup> edition. Horvit, Koozin, & Nelson (Cengage Learning [Schirmer Books])

NOTE: These two texts are also used for MUSC 1B, 2B, 3B, and 4B.

### Optional (Recommended) Resource

Students have access to the Music Building’s CAI Lab upon payment of the Music Use Fee. The lab computers include aural skills practice software.

## **Course Requirements and Assignments**

SJSU classes are designed such that in order to be successful, it is expected that students will spend a minimum of forty-five hours for each unit of credit (normally three hours per unit per week), including preparing for class, participating in course activities, completing assignments, studying scores and audio recordings, and preparing for exams.

Primary course activities include in-class sight-singing and aural dictation, with supplementary assignment dictation exercises from the text, as established in MUSC 1B, 2B, & 3B. There will also be comprehensive Midterm and Final Exams. Both exams have two parts: a timed aural dictation (one full class period) and an individual five-minute sight-singing exam. These activities directly relate to and support the course learning objectives listed above.

All assigned work will have clear due dates. No late homework will be accepted, and no make-up exams will be permitted unless cleared with the instructor. Possible reasons for late work include verifiable emergency illness and hospitalization, and family emergencies. Late / missed work will receive a grade of 'F' unless otherwise determined by the instructor.

Course documents will be posted to the course website. Students are responsible to regularly check the site for document updates, and all items posted on the site are considered regular course materials.

Active class participation is expected, and is graded (see below).

Co-registration in Music 013, Music Technology, or equivalent skills mastery, is expected. If Piano Proficiency has not yet been passed, co-registration in MUSC 25B (or 25C) is required.

## **Classroom Protocol**

Attend each class session and participate in the aural skills exercises.

Complete assigned readings and homework on time. NOTE: No late homework will be accepted, and no make-up exams will be permitted unless cleared with the instructor. Possible reasons for late work include verifiable emergency illness and hospitalization, and family emergencies. Late / missed work will receive a grade of 'F' (0%) unless otherwise determined by the instructor.

Active class discussion is expected on all topics presented in class.

Course documents, including some assignments, will be posted to the course website. Students are responsible to regularly check the site for document updates, and all items posted on the site are considered regular course materials.

All cell phones must be turned off while in class. Google Glass (and related cameras) are not permitted in class. Since most cell phones have photo, video, and text messaging capabilities, any student seen with a cell phone during class will be considered to be cheating and will automatically fail the course. Larger tablet and laptop computers may be used when specific music score and/or audio examples are being referenced.

Listening Hour: Students who are scheduled to perform on a Listening Hour concert (Tuesday, Thursday, 12:30 pm) may be excused from class a maximum of ten minutes early (12:10 pm) on the day of performance, provided Instructor has been notified at least

one class period in advance (one week or more notice requested), and provided no major exam is scheduled for that class period (e.g., midterm exam).

## Grading Policy

Weekly performance in dictation, sight-singing, sight-reading, aural analysis, and use of the computer lab will be graded. Since students will be called upon at any time to sing, perform, or notate a passage from selections under study, attendance is essential. An “F” grade will be recorded if a student is called upon and is absent. When graded dictation is being performed late students will not be admitted to the classroom, and these students will receive an ‘F’ for that dictation. Absence does not grant special dispensations regarding written assignments and material covered in class. Students are responsible for all material discussed in class, whether present or not. There are no provisions for extra credit in this course. Evaluation details will be discussed in each individual section.

Course work weightings:

Midterm Dictation Exam	10%
Midterm Sight-singing Exam	5%
Final Dictation Exam	20%
Final Sight-singing Exam	10%
Quizzes (in-class & take-home)	40%
Class Participation	15%

Letter grades are assigned on a 10-point scale, with “+” and “-” used as appropriate. All assignments, quizzes, and exams are graded on a normalized 100-point basis, so that letter grades correspond to the following GPA and percentage points:

(see next page for grading chart)

Letter Grade	GPA	%
A+	4.0	99 - 100
A	4.0	93 - 98
A-	3.7	90 - 92
B+	3.3	88 - 89
B	3.0	84 - 87
B-	2.7	80 - 83
C+	2.3	78 - 79
C	2.0	74 - 77
C-	1.7	70 - 73
D+	1.3	69 - 69
D	1.0	64 - 67
D-	0.7	60 - 63
F	0.0	0 - 59

NOTE: Effective Fall 2017, all MUSC courses carry a final course grade requirement of C or better (not C-) to be considered a passing grade within the School of Music and Dance.

## **University Policies**

Per University Policy S16-9, university-wide policy information relevant to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, etc. will be available on Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs' [Syllabus Information web page](http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/) at [www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/](http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/)