

The University of Texas at El Paso
MUSA 1271, Piano Class I
Fall 2023 / 2 Credits

Tuesday, Thursday 1:30-2:50 / Room 443 (Digital Keyboard Lab)

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Dominic Dousa OFFICE: FFA 401C OFFICE HOURS: (TBA)
OFFICE PHONE: (915) 747-7819 EMAIL: ddousa@utep.edu

For information about the instructor, please click [here](#) (UTEP Department of Music website).

Co-requisites: MUST 1313 (Music Theory IV) *and* MUST 1111 (Aural Skills I)

COURSE MATERIALS

- **Textbook:** *Alfred's Group Piano for Adults Book 1, Second Edition*, by E. L. Lancaster and Kenon D. Renfrow.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course in keyboard musicianship is the first of a four-semester track of piano class. The course focuses on the development and improvement of keyboard skills including technique, sight-reading, improvisation, harmonization, score reading, and transposition. It is also intended to reinforce students' understanding of both written and aural theoretical concepts.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The goals of the course are to prepare music majors to:

- understand and apply fundamentals of keyboard technique, including the execution of skills such as five-finger patterns, melody harmonization, and performance of short repertoire pieces appropriate for the level of the student.
- receive introductory instruction on how keyboard skills can and should accompany music theory and performance study.
- employ the necessary keyboard skills to enhance performance, teaching and/or learning practice of music expression and communication.

COURSE POLICIES

- Attendance is required and will be taken at the beginning of each class meeting.
- You are allowed 3 unexcused absences during the semester. Your overall semester grade will be dropped 1% for every unexcused absence beyond the 3 allowed.
- Each tardy will be considered 1/2 absence.
- Skill checks are due at the date and time indicated. **No late assignments will be accepted** unless **prior** arrangements are made with the instructor.
- Excused absences should be, if possible, notified to the instructor in advance, and followed by a note documenting the absence.

- Attendance is required for all examinations and in-class skill checks. No make-ups will be given unless the instructor is notified in advance or provided with a note documenting the absence. Attendance at the Final Exam is mandatory. *Missing the final exam will result in failing the class.*

- No food is allowed in the classroom. Any devices that may cause a disturbance (pagers, cell phones, etc.) must be turned off prior to class.

- Please treat instruments and headphones with care. It is for your benefit that they are in good shape and work properly. You are responsible for any damage to the headsets we provide you.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- There will be 7 skill checks (either on-the-spot performance or video recordings) that will assess your progress throughout the semester, along with two midterm exams and a comprehensive final exam.

- A minimum of 30 minutes of practice a day is suggested.

TENTATIVE SEMESTER SCHEDULE

WEEK	DATES	CLASS TOPIC	SKILL CHECKS / EXAMS
1	August 29, 31	Introduction to the DKL / Unit 1	Skill Check 1
2	September 5, 7	Unit 2	
3	September 12, 14	Unit 3	Skill Check 2
4	September 19, 21	Unit 4	
5	September 26, 28	Unit 5	Skill Check 3
6	October 3, 5	(EXAM)	Midterm Exam 1
7	October 10, 12	Unit 6	
8	October 17, 19	Unit 7	Skill Check 4
9	October 24, 26	Unit 8	
10	October 31, November 2	Unit 9	Skill Check 5
11	November 7, 9	(EXAM)	Midterm Exam 2
12	November 14, 16	Unit 10	

13	November 21	Unit 11	Skill Check 6
14	November 28, 30	Unit 12	
15	December 5, 7	Unit 13	Skill Check 7
FINALS WEEK	December 11-15	Thursday, December 14 1:00 AM-3:45 PM	Final Exam

GRADING

Your grade will be based on your class participation and attendance, assignments, skill checks, and examinations. Each component will be calculated as a percentage score. These scores will be weighted according to the following outline in determining your final grade. A sample semester grade calculation is provided.

Grading Scale

Skill Checks	30%	90% and above	A
Midterm Exam 1	20%	80% up to 90%	B
Midterm Exam 2	20%	70% up to 80%	C
Final Exam	30%	60% up to 70%	D
		Below 60%	F

For students with final scores within 1% of the next grade level (59%, 69%, 79%, 89%), the instructor may assign a higher grade if the student has (1) attended class regularly, (2) not missed skill checks and exams, (3) demonstrated *consistent* effort in mastering class material, and (4) shown improvement throughout the semester.

SAMPLE SEMESTER GRADE CALCULATION

Skill Checks: 85.7%
 Midterm Exam #1: 86.1%
 Midterm Exam #2: 94.7%
 Final Exam: 87.2%

Final Grade: $.30 \times 85.7\% + .20 \times 86.1 + .20 \times 94.7 + .30 \times 87.2 = 88.0 = B$

- Census Day is the last day to drop a course without a grade of 'W'. A grade of 'W' will be reported only if the student withdraws from the course by the Course Drop Deadline. Please check UTEP's Academic Calendar for specific dates.
- A grade of 'I' will be reported only if extenuating circumstances (extended illness, legal matters, emergency) prevent the student from completing the course. An 'I' will not be given as a substitute for a failing grade. The student and instructor will determine a timetable for completion of all course requirements in a time frame that is in accordance with UTEP policy.

- *Academic Dishonesty.* Cheating is unethical, not acceptable, and a serious matter. Students found to be cheating will be subject to disciplinary action according to UTEP policy. For more information, please see <https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/osccr/student-conduct/academic-integrity.html>.
- *Special Needs.* I will make any reasonable accommodations for students with limitations due to disabilities, including learning disabilities. Please see me personally before or after class in the first two weeks or make an appointment to discuss any special needs you might have. If you have a documented disability and require specific accommodations, you will need to contact the Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) at 747-5148 or at cass@utep.edu, or stop by at Room 106 in the Union East Building.

****PLEASE NOTE: The information on this syllabus is subject to change. Any changes will be announced in class and/or via email.**