

The University of Texas at El Paso
MUSA 2271, Piano Class III
Fall 2018 / 2 Credits
10:30-11:50 TR / FFA 443 (Digital Keyboard Lab)

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Dominic Dousa OFFICE: Fox Fine Arts 337 OFFICE HOURS: TBA
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For information about the instructor, please visit the following website: <http://faculty.utep.edu/ddousa>

Prerequisite: MUSA 1272 **Corequisite:** MUST 2313

COURSE MATERIALS

- **Textbook:** *Alfred's Group Piano for Adults Book 2, Second Edition*, by E L. Lancaster and Kenon D. Renfrow.
- Manuscript paper.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course in keyboard musicianship is the third 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 GOALS

To provide students with basic knowledge of keyboard skills, applied harmony, and keyboard technology that is essential for the development of students as musicians and educators.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- demonstrate technical skills: e.g., movement over the entire keyboard, sound production, pedaling, arpeggios, articulations.
- perform all major and harmonic minor scales two octaves, hands together.
- perform triads and 7th chords (with inversions) in all major and minor keys.
- perform excerpts for ensembles (band/choral/orchestral) that involve transposing instruments.
- create and perform a two-hand accompaniment.
- harmonize melodies using the harmonic structures studied in class, with and without chord symbols provided (Roman numerals and letter symbols).
- improvise simple melodies on a given harmonic progression and scale (major, minor, pentatonic, whole-tone, blues, chromatic, modes), and improvise different styles of accompaniments (block chords, arpeggios, Alberti bass, waltz, etc) on the harmonic structures studied in the course.
- perform solo and ensemble repertoire from a variety of styles and periods.
- perform examples involving sight reading and transposition.

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 45 minutes a day is suggested. There are 3 locked practice rooms with the same instruments as the DKL.

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 semester grade will be dropped 3% 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.

TENTATIVE SEMESTER SCHEDULE

WEEK	DATES	CLASS TOPIC	SKILL CHECKS / EXAMS
1	August 28, 30	Introduction to the DKL, Unit 1	Skill Check 1
2	September 4, 6	Unit 2	
3	September 11, 13	Unit 3	Skill Check 2
4	September 18, 20	Unit 4	
5	September 25, 27	Unit 5	Skill Check 3

(WEEK)	(DATES)	(CLASS TOPIC)	(SKILL CHECKS / EXAMS)
6	October 2, 4	(EXAM)	Midterm Exam 1
7	October 9, 11	Unit 6	
8	October 16, 18	Unit 7	Skill Check 4
9	October 23, 25	Unit 8	
10	October 30, November 1	Unit 9	Skill Check 5
11	November 6, 8	(EXAM)	Midterm Exam 2
12	November 13, 15	Unit 10	
13	November 20	Unit 11	Skill Check 6
14	November 27, 29	Unit 12	
15	December 4, 6	Unit 13	Skill Check 7
FINALS WEEK	December 10-14	Thursday, December 13 10:00 AM-12:45 PM	Final Exam

Information on the content and due dates for skill checks will be announced in class.

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: $.30*85.7\% + .20*86.1 + .20*94.7 + .30*87.2 = 88.0 = B$

OTHER COURSE INFORMATION

- Census Day is Wednesday, September 12. This 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 (November 2).
- 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.**