

MUSA 1269

Class Piano I

Syllabus*

Class Meets: Monday - Friday
11:40 a.m. to 1:50 p.m.
Piano Class Lab

Instructor: Dr. Dena Kay Jones
Office: 436 Music Building, Fox Fine Arts
Email: dkjones@utep.edu
Telephone: 747-6625
Office Hour: I am available to schedule office hour meetings upon request

Course Description: an active study in learning to read and perform the most basic, beginning-leveled music, to understand the introductory principals of harmonic structure, and to achieve an adequate facility with the keyboard

Goals: to introduce basic fundamentals to keyboard technique, to introduce music theory study, and to provide the beginning level non-music major with the necessary keyboard skills to enhance performance, teaching and/or learning practice. Prerequisite: none

Objectives:

- All notes on the keyboard
- All basic notational markings
- Basic rhythms
- Major and Minor Five-Finger Patterns
- Basic chord spellings and inversions
- Select scales in major keys, two octaves, hands together
- Collaborative techniques
- Repertoire and basic performances of easy piano pieces

Required Textbook:

Lancaster, E. L. and Kenon D. Renfrow. *Alfred's Piano 101: An Exciting Group Course for Adults Who Want to Play Piano for Fun!* Alfred Publishing Co., Inc.: Van Nuys, CA. 1999.
Available at the UTEP Bookstore. Book is required by day two of class.

Final Exam:

Part A) In Class Performance = July 3, 2018, DKL

Part B) Online: July 5-6, 2018

***Subject to change**

Grading:

TESTS

There will be five tests given throughout the semester, with the final exams being labeled as tests four and five. Each test will be weighted as 20% of your total grade. When combined, these tests will make up 100% of your total grade. The tests will be primarily performance tests, where the instructor will hear the student perform. There may be, however, written parts included in these tests as well. These tests are to be a representation of the student's comprehension and preparation of the subjects introduced in class.

SUMMARY:

Tests (5 @ 20% each) = 100%

The instructor will base each grade on a point system, following the University of Texas at El Paso's grading system: 90-100 =A/80-89=B/70-79= C/60-69=D/below 60=F

Your attendance is vital, and if more than two absences occur within the semester, this will affect your unit grade (see information below on **Attendance**).

HOW DOES THE INSTRUCTOR GRADE MY WORK?

Although music, when performed, is not always "objectified," it is in the policy of this piano lab to work on concrete ideas in the learning arena. Each student will not be graded on how well he/she can perform IN COMPARISON TO other students' ability. This class encourages individual growth. Certain aspects, which will help students to reach their best potential, are (and things the instructor will be looking for when grading the students' exams, quizzes, and homework):

--How well does the student comprehend the subject presented in class?

--How prepared is the student in doing his/her best for his/her level?

--How confident is the student when performing?

Although speed is not of importance, facility is. The student should feel comfortable and confident in whatever is being performed. Please do not hesitate in contacting the instructor if something is "tripping you up." This is the instructor's job and the two of you can work on making problems resolve and playing to become easier.

Attendance

- Attendance is required and will be taken at the beginning of each class meeting. .
- Absences: you are allowed to have 2 unexcused absences during the semester. Your grade will be dropped 3% points for every unexcused absence beyond the 2 allowed.
- Each tardy will be considered 1/2 absence
- Excused absences should be, if possible at all, notified to the instructor in advance, and followed by a note from the Music Department's Chair, Dean of the college, appropriate professor or doctor, if required by professor.
- Attendance is required for all examinations. No make-ups will be given, unless there is an emergency. If you miss a class, please contact your class colleague to ask about anything missed. It is your responsibility to take care of understanding the topic presented: contact the instructor if necessary. If too much time has passed, the instructor may decide whether or not it is appropriate to allow a make-up. Late work will automatically be dropped by two letter grades. **Attendance to Final Performance Examination is mandatory.** An absence in final examination will result in failing the class.

Practice Requirement:

Although some class time will be given for practicing, each student needs to develop a routine to promote individual progress through practice outside of class. The UTEP Music Department houses many pianos, available for your practice use on each of the four floors of the building.

Thirty to Forty-five minutes per day of individual practice time will be required from each student.

Rules for the piano lab:

- **No** food or drink allowed near the keyboards. Please leave all food and drink (this includes water bottles) in the back of the classroom.
 - **No** cell phones, laptops or other wireless electronic devices allowed in class. You should turn off all devices before entering the classroom.
 - **Please** treat instruments and headphones with care.
 - **Please** do not erase over the keyboards as the shavings may drop into the keys. Erase behind or to the side of the keyboards.
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