

Class Piano One

Fall 2017 Semester (syllabus subject to change at any point)

MUSA 1271 for Music Majors

Class Meets: Monday, Wednesday and Friday

Digital Keyboard Lab (DKL)

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Office Hours:

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. These skills will coincide with Theory and Aural Skills I and prove useful and beneficial to anyone fostering a career in music.

Goals

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

- Understand basic fundamentals to keyboard technique
- 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

Pre-requisite

None, except to be a music major!

Objectives

At the completion of the course, the student will be able to:

1. employ basic keyboard skills such as: sitting properly at the instrument, know all note names and placement of keys, follow all basic notational markings, use basic rhythm and read/perform music in both the treble and bass clef...at the same time!
2. identify major and minor intervals.
3. rapidly execute major and minor five-finger patterns.
4. utilize major, minor, augmented and diminished chords—choosing from select chords to accompany a melody.

5. correctly use the instrument's damper pedal.
6. perform all major scales and arpeggios on the keyboard.
7. understand, play and explain the functions of diatonic triads. These chords will also be performed in their inversions – in all 24 keys.
8. prepare, perform and enjoy more complex piano repertoire (appropriate for student level).
9. incorporate collaborative techniques.

Texts (required)

Lancaster, E. L. and Kenon D. Renfrow. *Alfred's Group Piano for Adults: An Innovative Method Enhanced with Audio and MIDI Files for Practice and Performance*. Book I. Van Nuys, CA: Alfred Publishing Co., 2004.

YOU MUST BUY A NEW BOOK! NO USED BOOKS PERMITTED!

(Optional)

A ream of staff paper for note taking—available at the UTEP Bookstore.

Grading:

Tests

There will be four tests given throughout the semester, with the final accumulative exam being test four. Each test will be weighted as 23.75% of your total grade. When combined, these tests will make up 95% 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.

Quizzes

The number of quizzes given during the semester will not be pre-determined. The instructor may (and will) give "pop" quizzes. These quizzes will be smaller representations of comprehension and preparation. When all quiz scores are combined at the end of the semester, they may make up 2.5% of your grade.

Homework

Although not much written homework will be assigned throughout the semester (if at all), these assignments are important to the learning process. These scores, when combined at the end of the semester, will make up 2.5% of your grade. All homework expectations and submission dates will be explained in class time throughout the semester.

SUMMARY:

--Tests (4 @ 23.75% each) = 95%

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**).

--Quizzes = 2.5%

---Homework = 2.5%

Expectations and Grading

Grades are based on

- Attendance and punctuality for class; and if absence is necessary, the amount of effort shown toward notifying me if unable to attend.

- **Quality and quantity of practice as evidenced by progress from test to test.**

- **Completing all assigned pieces and technical studies by the end of the semester.**

- Completing all assigned homework as required by class instructor.

"A": Consistent work and continued progress throughout the semester

"B": As above, but reflecting less than consistent work throughout the semester, poor preparation that has the potential for improvement

"C": Inconsistent work, poor attendance or punctuality, and/or lack of participation.

"D": Inability to produce any positive results regarding performance or homework assignments.

"F": Failure to attend class, or failure to show any work or preparation.

Grade Scale

A=100-90 B=89-80 C=79-70 D=69-60 F=59-0

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 to assist you, and together we can work on making problems resolve and playing to become easier.

Attendance Policy

- 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 final 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.
- Attendance is required for all examinations. No make-ups will be given, unless there is an emergency. If you miss a class, please contact a colleague to ask about anything missed. It is your responsibility to take care of understanding the topic presented and handing in missed homework/quizzes/or exams. If too much time has passed, the instructor may decide whether or not it is appropriate to allow a make-up. Late work for unexcused absences will automatically be dropped by two letter grades. **Attendance to Final 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) on the side 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.

Copyright Statement

Some of the materials in this course are copyrighted. Violation of US copyright law can result in civil damages up to \$100,000 for each work copied. Copying of textbooks is not "fair use" under the Copyright Act. The "fair use doctrine" only permits non-commercial copying of part (in general, not more than 10%) of a copyrighted work. Do not bring a copied textbook to this class. Your cooperation is expected.

1.3 Student Conduct: [From the Handbook of Operating Procedures: Student Affairs]

Each student is responsible for notice of and compliance with the provisions of the Regents **Rules and Regulations**, which are available for inspection electronically at <http://www.utsystem.edu/bor/rules/homepage.htm>.

1.3.1 Scholastic Dishonesty: [From the Handbook of Operating Procedures: Student Affairs]

It is the official policy of the University that all suspected cases or acts of alleged scholastic dishonesty must be referred to the Dean of Students for investigation and appropriate disposition. It is contrary to University policy for a faculty member to assign a disciplinary grade such as an "F" or zero to an assignment, test, examination, or other course work as a sanction for admitted or suspected scholastic dishonesty in lieu of normally charging the student through the Dean of Students. Similarly, students are prohibited from proposing and/or entering into an arrangement with a faculty member to receive a grade of "F" or any reduced grade in lieu of being charged with scholastic dishonesty. Any student who commits an act of scholastic dishonesty is subject to discipline. Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts.

1.3.12 Plagiarism: [From the Handbook of Operating Procedures: Student Affairs]

"Plagiarism" means the appropriation, buying, receiving as a gift, or obtaining by any means another's work and the unacknowledged submission or incorporation of it in one's own academic work offered for credit, or using work in a paper or assignment for which the student had received credit in another course without direct permission of all involved instructors.

Students with Disabilities Policy

If you have or suspect a disability and need an accommodation you should contact the Center for Accommodations and Support Services Office (CASS) at 747-5148 or at cass@utep.edu or go to Room 106 Union East Building.

WEEK	CONTENT	ASSIGNMENTS
Week One: August 28, 30, Sept. 1	Introduction, Syllabus, Unit One, into Unit Two	
Week Two: Sept. 6, 8	Unit Two and into Unit Three	No Class on Sept. 4th = LABOR DAY
Week Three: September 11, 13, 15	Unit Three and Unit Four	
Week Four: September 18, 20, 22	TEST ONE	
Week Five: September 25, 27, 29	Unit Five and into Six	
Week Six: October 2, 4, 6	Unit Six	
Week Seven: October 9, 11, 13	Unit Six and into Seven	
Week Eight: October 16, 18, 20	Unit Seven	
Week Nine: October 23, 25, 27	TEST TWO	
Week Ten: October 30, November 1, 3	Unit Eight	
Week Eleven: November 6, 8, 10	Unit Nine	
Week Twelve: November 13, 15, 17	Unit Ten and into Eleven	
Week Thirteen: November 20, 22	Unit Eleven + Twelve	No Class on Nov. 24 th = THANKSGIVING

Week Fourteen: November 27, 29, Dec. 1	TEST THREE	
Week Fifteen: Dec. 4, 6	Unit Thirteen	
December 8: Dead Day		
Week Sixteen: FINAL EXAM	See UTEP Finals' Schedule online	