

MUSA 1271, Piano Class I

Dr. Nayeli Dousa
University of Texas at El Paso
Music Department
Fall 2019

Course Syllabus

T and Th 1:30-2:50pm Digital Keyboard Lab – Fox Fine Arts Building – Room 444

Dr. Nayeli Dousa, Fox Fine Arts Building – Office 337

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Phone: (915)747-7819

Office hours: TBA

Textbooks:

Alfred's *Group Piano for Adults Book 1*, 2nd edition, by E. L. Lancaster and Kenon D. Renfrow

Course Description

This course for music majors, is the first of a four-semester track of Class Piano. It is designed to develop functional piano skills such as keyboard orientation, reading skills in treble and bass clef, introduction to harmonization and improvisation, and beginning technical skills. These skills are essential for the development of the student as musician and educator. All these areas are covered with a variety of musical selections of all styles including solo and ensemble pieces.

Course Goal

Students will demonstrate basic keyboard skills necessary for careers as professional musicians and educators.

Objectives

Students who successfully complete the course will be able to:

- Develop correct body posture and hand position
- Learn to read, recognize, and interpret basic music notation
- Learn keyboard topography and different keyboard positions
- Learn basic rhythmic values (whole, half, quarter, and eighth notes, and dotted rhythms).
- Perform major and minor five-finger patterns
- Play the primary chord progression in major and minor keys (I, IV, V, I)
- Play major scales and arpeggios
- Play and recognize intervals
- Perform solo and ensemble repertoire
- Sight read, improvise, and harmonize simple melodies

Attendance

- Attendance is required and will be taken at the beginning of each class meeting
- Attendance is imperative to do well in the class. Students are allowed only 2 unexcused absences are allowed during the semester. The final grade will be dropped by 5 points for every unexcused absence thereafter.
- Notification of excused absences should be, if possible, given to the instructor in advance. Proper documentation is necessary for excused absences. Each tardy will be considered $\frac{1}{2}$ absence.
- Attendance is required for all examinations. No make-ups will be given unless the instructor is notified in advance, with proper documentation
- **Attendance at the final examination is mandatory.** An absence at the final examination will result in failing the class.

Examinations and Grading

Your grade will be based on skill checks, two tests and the final exam, which will be calculated as follows:

Skill checks – 20%
Test I – 25%
Test II – 25%
Final examination – 30%

Grading Scale

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

Practice expectations

Everyday practice is expected. At least 30 minutes per day is recommended.

Rules and regulations

- No food is allowed in the classroom.
- No cell phones and/or electronic devices will be allowed during class. All electronic devices should be turned off before entering the class.
- Headphones are not to be unplugged at any time.
- It is expected that all students treat the instruments and headphones with care in order to keep them in good shape and working properly.

Tentative calendar

WEEK	CONTENT	TESTS / ASSIGNMENTS
Week 1: Aug 27, 29	Introduction, Unit 1	Skill check 1
Week 2: Sep 3, 5	Unit 1	
Week 3: Sep 10, 12	Unit 2	Skill check 2
Week 4: Sep 17, 19	Unit 3	
Week 5: Sep 24, 26	Unit 4	Skill check 3
Week 6: Oct 1, 3	Review	Test 1
Week 7: Oct 8, 10	Unit 5	
Week 8: Oct 15, 17	Unit 6	Skill check 4
Week 9: Oct 22, 24	Unit 7	
Week 10: Oct 29, 31	Unit 8	Skill check 5
Week 11: Nov 5, 7	Review	Test II
Week 12: Nov 12, 14	Unit 9	
Week 13: Nov 19, 21	Unit 10	Skill check 6
Week 14: Nov 26	Unit 11-12	
Week 15: Dec 3, 5	Unit 12-13	Skill check 7
Thursday, Dec 12	1:00-3:45pm	Final Exam

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.

* The above information is subject to change. In such a case, the instructor will provide details in class or via email.