The University of Texas at El Paso
Department of Music
Course Syllabus

Course Information

MUSA 2271: Piano Class III
CRN: 15459
Term: Fall 2026
Delivery Method: In-person
Location: Fox Fine Arts - Music (FFA-Music), Room 443, Digital Keyboard Lab (DKL)
Meeting times: Tue/Th 12:00-1:20pm

Instructor Information

Instructor: Dr. Nayeli Dousa
Written Communication: Email and Blackboard
Email: nayelil@utep.edu
Office Location: Fox Fine Arts Building, M338
Office Hours:

- Face-to-face: TBA
- Virtual: Through Zoom, by appointment only.

Prerequisite: MUSA 1272
*This course **is not available** for Graduate level credit.*

Course Materials

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

Course Description

This course for music majors is the third of a four-semester track of Class Piano. It is designed to develop and improve functional keyboard skills such as harmonizing melodies, sight reading, improvising, score reading, and transposition. It is also intended to reinforce students' understanding of both written and aural theorical concepts.

Course Goals

To provide students with basic knowledge of keyboard skills, applied harmony, and keyboard technology essential and necessary for careers as professional musicians and educators.

Course Objectives

Students who successfully complete the course will be able to:

- Demonstrate correct technical skills, such as movement over the entire keyboard, sound production, pedaling, arpeggios, articulations, as well as body posture and hand position.
- 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 lead-sheet 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.

Attendance

Attendance is required. Go to class and be on time! It is your responsibility every day to mark yourself present through the iClicker system. Be on-time and in the classroom when you check in. If you do not have an iClicker account, create one at **join.iclicker.com** . The **iClicker code** that you will use to mark yourself present for this course during the semester is: **THWX**.

Only 2 unexcused absences are allowed during the semester. Your semester grade will drop by 1 point for every unexcused absence beyond the 2 allowed. Each tardy will be considered 1/2 absence. Attendance is required for all examinations. No make-up 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***.

Examinations and Grading

Your grade will be based on your performance on 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.

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

Skill Checks (SC)

There will be seven Skill Checks for the semester. They are graded assignments of the material that we will cover during the current and/or previous week(s) of its due date. The description for each will be posted on Blackboard. You will record a YouTube video in one take (no editing is allowed), of the performance of the items and upload the link on the assignments section on Blackboard (refer to the 'how to submit SC videos' document). To get credit for these assignments, it is imperative that I can have a full view of both of your hands, torso, and face in all videos. Please be sure to try out the camera every time that you record, so that it is in the correct position for me to grade fingering, technique, hand position, etc. Plan with time to avoid uploading your videos at the last minute, so you do not run into technical issues that could delay the delivery of the items. Failure to turn in a SC assignment will result in a grade of zero for that SC. **No late assignments (SC) will be accepted** unless **prior** arrangements are made with the instructor. Prepare ahead of time and mark the due dates listed on the tentative calendar. All SC will be due Fridays at 11:59 MDT (Mountain Daylight Time).

Practice Expectations

A minimum of 45 minutes of daily practice is expected (in addition to the time that it will take you to look, go over, understand the material (textbook/videos), practice the assigned weekly material, and complete and submit assignments and tests). I strongly recommend that you write and follow a daily practice schedule for this class.

Blackboard and Email

Documents for this class will be posted on the UTEP Blackboard platform; please check it daily as well as your email daily for any updates. Also, you will be sending your skill checks assignments via Blackboard. If you need to schedule an appointment with me, please send me an email or Blackboard message so we can set up a time.

Practice Rooms and Practice Keyboards

Practice rooms will be available at the Fox Fine Arts building. However, if you have a piano/keyboard at home, you are welcome to use it to practice and record your class assignments. Be sure to have a pedal if the piece(s)/exercises(s) involve pedal markings, so you can receive credit for it. If you do not have a pedal on your keyboard, plan to record at the UTEP practice rooms those assignments that involve pedal use.

Tentative Calendar

NOTE: All assignments will be due at 11:59pm MDT.

WEEK	CONTENT	TESTS / ASSIGNMENTS
Week 1: Aug 25 & 27	Introduction, Unit 1	**Skill check 1 - Due 8/28**
Week 2: Sep 1 & Sep 3	Unit 2	
Week 3: Sep 8 & 10	Unit 3	**Skill check 2 - Due 9/11**
Week 4: Sep 15 & 17	Unit 4	
Week 5: Sep 22 & 24	Unit 5	**Skill check 3 - Due 9/25**

Week 6: Sep 29 & Oct 1	Review	**Test 1 – 10/1**
Week 7: Oct 6 & 8	Unit 6	
Week 8: Oct 13 & 15	Unit 7	**Skill check 4 - Due 10/16**
Week 9: Oct 20 & 22	Unit 8	
Week 10: Oct 27 & 29	Unit 9	**Skill check 5 - Due 10/30**
Week 11: Nov 3 & 5	Review	**Test II – 11/5**
Week 12: Nov 10 & 12	Unit 10	
Week 13: Nov 17 & 19	Unit 11	**Skill check 6 - Due 11/20**
Week 14: Nov 24	Unit 12	
Week 15: Dec 1 & 3	Unit 13	**Skill check 7 - Due 12/5**
FINAL EXAM	**Tuesday, Dec 8**	**1:00-3:45pm**

**** Failure to attend the final exam will result in failing the class.***

Academic Integrity

Please read UTEP policies regarding academic integrity at the following website: https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/osccr/student-conduct/academic-integrity.html.

Accommodations Policy

The University is committed to providing reasonable accommodations and auxiliary services to students, staff, faculty, job applicants, applicants for admissions, and other beneficiaries of University programs, services and activities with documented disabilities in order to provide them with equal opportunities to participate in programs, services, and activities in compliance with sections 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 and the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA) of 2008. Reasonable accommodations will be made unless it is determined that doing so would cause undue hardship to the university. Students requesting an accommodation based on a disability must register with the UTEP Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS). Contact the Center for Accommodations and Support Services at 915-747-5148, or email them at cass@utep.edu, or apply for accommodations online via the CASS portal.

UTEP Student Resources

UTEP provides a variety of student services and support:

Technology Resources

- Help Desk: Students experiencing technological challenges (email, Blackboard, software, etc.) can submit a ticket to the UTEP Helpdesk for assistance. Contact the Helpdesk via phone, email, chat, website, or in person if on campus.

Academic Resources

- UTEP Library: Access a wide range of resources, including online, full-text access to thousands of journals and eBooks plus reference service and librarian assistance for enrolled students.
- University Writing Center (UWC): Submit papers here for assistance with writing style and formatting, ask a tutor for help and explore other writing resources.
- History Tutoring Center (HTC): Receive assistance with writing history papers, get help from a tutor and explore other history resources.
- RefWorks: A bibliographic citation tool; check out the RefWorks tutorial and Fact Sheet and Quick-Start Guide.

Individual Resources

- Military Student Success Center: Assists personnel in any branch of service to reach their educational goals.
- Center for Accommodations and Support Services: Assists students with ADA-related accommodations for coursework, housing, and internships.
- Counseling and Psychological Services: Provides a variety of counseling services including individual, couples, and group sessions as well as career and disability assessments.

Please refer to the following QR code for a listing of campus resources or visit https://www.utep.edu/advising/student_resources/student-success-resource-hub.html.