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

Course Information

MUSL 2272: Class Piano IV
CRN: 20803
Term: Spring 2026
Delivery Method: In-person
Meeting Days and Time: Tuesdays and Thursdays 9:00-10:20am
Location: Fox Fine Arts - Music (FFA-Music), Room 443, Digital Keyboard Lab (DKL)

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 by appointment only.
- Virtual: Through Zoom, by appointment only.

Prerequisite: MUSA 2271
*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

Voice Majors: one selection of the following

- Twenty-Four Italian Songs & Arias of the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries, or
- Gateway to German Lieder, to French Melodies, to Italian Melodies, etc. by John Glenn Paton.

Instrumental Majors:
Strings

- A selection from Suzuki Violin, Viola or Cello School Vol. 3 or 4, Piano Accompaniment.

Woodwinds and Brass

- A selection from Suzuki Flute School, Vol. 2 or 3 Piano Part (adapt the flute part to your instrument).

Percussion

- Any of the above adapted to your instrument, or other selection from an accompanied work for your instrument approved by Dr. N. Dousa.

Solo repertoire:

- Clementi: Sonatina Op. 36 No. 1 (available in the supplementary repertoire in your textbook, pp. 354-355)

Course Description

This course for music majors is the last one of a four-semester track of Class Piano. It focuses on the development and improvement of functional keyboard skills such as harmonizing melodies, sight-reading, solo repertoire, improvising, score reading, transposition, and the use of technology. It is also intended to reinforce students' understanding of both written and aural theoretical concepts.

The class includes two main components: Skill Checks (SC) and Tests. Class attendance is mandatory, as we will practice and work together on the exercises for the current week's unit/content and/or prepare for upcoming SC and tests. Daily practice is imperative to reinforce and develop the targeted skills and needed to perform at the required level the selected exercises and repertoire. SC and tests are both part of the "Proficiency Exam." Each Skill Check is designed to check your proficiency in a specific area such as transposition, score reading, accompaniment, harmonization, solo repertoire, etc. Each test is designed to cover more than one area and to expand the skill checks' scope. All these areas will be covered with a wide variety of musical selections.

Piano Proficiency Portfolio

Since this semester you will be working towards fulfilling the piano proficiency requirement for your degree, you will prepare as best as you can each SC and the in-class performance of all exams. All these will demonstrate your various keyboard skills developed in the four semesters of piano class. **You must submit all SCs,** as all your work will be part of your portfolio.

Accompaniment requirement

An important component of the piano proficiency portfolio is the accompaniment that you will perform in its entirety in front of the class the last week of classes. You will work with a classmate on this duo and record it to be submitted as the last SC of the semester. You must select this accompaniment and the student who you will work with early in the semester (you will list it as part of SC2). Be sure to plan and organize rehearsal times throughout the semester so you are ready to perform in front of the class.

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 in eighth notes (minimum tempo: quarter note=50, eighth note=100).
- Perform triads and 7th chords (with inversions) in 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 late elementary to intermediate level standard accompaniments for your instrument or voice.
- 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 join code** that you will use to mark yourself present for this course during the semester is:

https://join.iclicker.com/FWVZ

Only 2 unexcused absences are allowed during the semester. Your semester grade will drop by 1% for every unexcused absence beyond the 2 allowed. Attendance is required for all examinations. 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***.

Examinations and Grading

Your grade will be based on attendance and participation, 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 – 30%
Test I – 20%
Test II – 20%
Final examination – 30%

Grading Scale

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

Practice Expectations

A minimum of 45 minutes of daily practice is expected. You must go over the assigned weekly material, review major and minor scales and arpeggios, practice sight-reading, and prepare for upcoming assignments. I strongly recommend that you write and follow a daily practice schedule for this class.

Skill Checks (SC)
There will be six Skill Checks for the semester. They will be graded assignments of the material that we will cover during the current and/or previous week of its due date. Failure to turn in a SC assignment will result in a grade of zero for that SC.

Blackboard and Email
Materials for this class (syllabus, guidelines to submit videos for assignments, assignment descriptions) will be posted on the UTEP Blackboard platform — please check it daily. The description for all assignments and tests will be posted on Blackboard, and you will submit all SC's via Blackboard. Also, check your email daily for any updates. If you need to schedule an appointment with me, please send me an email.

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 it has a pedal if the piece(s)/exercises(s) involve pedal markings, so you can receive credit for that component. If you do not have a pedal on your keyboard, plan to record at the UTEP practice rooms those assignments that involve pedal use.

Submission of YouTube Videos for SC's
To receive satisfactory grades on the SC and tests, it is imperative that I have a full view of both of your hands in all videos that you send and that I can see your face when you introduce the video. 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. **No late assignments will be accepted** unless **prior** arrangements are made with the instructor. ***Failure to complete the final exam on the due date and time will result in failing the class.*** Plan to avoid sending your videos at the last minute, so you do not run into technical issues that could delay the delivery of the items.

Tentative Calendar

NOTE: All **SC's** will be due **Fridays at 11:59pm** MDT.

WEEK	CONTENT	TEST / ASSIGNMENTS
Week 1: Jan 20-23	Review / Unit 14	**SC 1 - Due 1/23** (Presentation, Daily Schedule, Vocal warm-ups)
Week 2: Jan 26-30	Unit 15	
Week 3: Feb 2-6	Unit 16	**SC 2 - Due 2/6** (Harmonization and transposition, accompaniment selection)
Week 4: Feb 9-13	Unit 17	
Week 5: Feb 16-20	Review for Test 1	**Test 1 – 2/20** (Solo repertoire p. 208, harmonization and

		transposition, transposing instrument, and sight reading)
Week 6: Feb 23-27	Unit 18	
Week 7: Mar 2-6	Unit 19	**SC 3 – Due 3/6** (Three-part score reading)
Week 8: Mar 9-13	Unit 20	
Spring Break: Mar 16-20		
Week 9: Mar 23-27	Unit 21	**SC 4 – Due 3/28** (Reading and improvisation)
Week 10: Mar 30-Apr 2	Review for Test 2	**Test 2- 4/2** (4-part score reading, chord progressions with +6 chords transposed, and sight reading)
Week 11: Apr 6-10	Unit 22	
Week 12: Apr 13-17	Unit 23	**SC 5– Due 4/17** (Sonatina pp. 354-355)
Week 13: Apr 20-24	Unit 24	In class practice for SC6
Week 14: Apr 27-May 1	Unit 25	**SC 6 – Due 5/1** (Accompaniment - from Suzuki, 24 Italian Songs and Arias, etc.)
Week 15: May 4-7	Review for Final Exam	
Tuesday May 12	**FINAL EXAM** (All major and minor scales and arpeggios, sight-reading, modes-transposed, 4-part vocal/instrumental score reading, harmonization and transposition, band score reading pp. 388-389)	**10:00am-12:45am**

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

Special Needs

I will make any reasonable accommodation for students with limitations due to disabilities, including learning disabilities. Please contact me 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.

UTEP Resources for Students

UTEP provides a variety of student services and support. Please refer to the QR code below for a listing of campus resources or visit https://www.utep.edu/advising/student_resources/student-success-resource-hub.html.