

MUSA 2272, Piano Class IV(Online)
Dr. Nayeli Dousa
University of Texas at El Paso
Music Department
Spring 2021
Course Syllabus

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

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Office hours: By appointment

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 three main components: Weekly Practice Assignments (WPA's), Skill Checks (SC) and Tests. WPA's are assignments in which you will present your practice and work on the exercises for the current week's unit/content and/or preparation for upcoming SC and tests. 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, your proficiency portfolio will be reviewed and graded by Dr. Oscar Macchioni, Keyboard Area Coordinator, and myself. Your portfolio will consist of your performance of an accompaniment that will be submitted as the last SC of the semester (this will show your proficiency in accompanying and working with a soloist), and the final exam items, which will demonstrate your various keyboard skills developed in the four semesters of class piano.

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).
- 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 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.

Examinations and Grading

Your grade will be based on weekly practice assignments, 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.

Weekly practice assignments – 10%

Skill checks – 20%

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 (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). Since this is an online class and you will be able to work on the material at your own pace, I strongly recommend that you write and follow a daily practice schedule for this class.

Weekly Practice Assignments (WPA)

There will be **two** WPA's required **every week** starting the second week of classes. There will be a total of 26 WPA (refer to the Tentative Calendar section). Students will record assigned material for the week on a YouTube video and upload the link in the assignments section on Blackboard. Guidelines to submit those will be posted on Blackboard as well. WPA will be **due every Tuesday and Thursday at 11:59pm MDT** (Mountain Daylight Time). You will receive credit for turning in these assignments if all components are completed. I will be checking them to monitor your daily practice, and to ensure that you are making progress and keeping up with the class. Failure to send a WPA will result on a grade of zero for that WPA.

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

All materials for this class will be posted on the UTEP Blackboard platform — please check it daily. The description for all assignments (WPA, SC, and tests) will be posted on Blackboard, and you will submit all 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 WPA, SC and Tests

To receive credit for your WPA and 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 (WPA and SC) and tests will be accepted** unless **prior** arrangements are made with the instructor. **Failure to submit the final exam on the due date and time will result in failing the class.** Plan in advance 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 assignments (SC, WPA) and tests will be due at 11:59pm MDT.

WEEK	CONTENT	TEST / ASSIGNMENTS
Week 1: Jan 19-23	Review / Unit 14	SC 1 - Due 1/23 (Presentation, Daily Schedule, Vocal warm-ups)
Week 2: Jan 24-30	Unit 15	WPA 1 – Due 1/26 WPA 2 – Due 1/28
Week 3: Jan 31-Feb 6	Unit 16	SC 2 - Due 2/6 (Harmonization and transposition, accompaniment selection) WPA 3 – Due 2/2 WPA 4 – Due 2/4
Week 4: Feb 7-13	Unit 17	WPA 5 – Due 2/9 WPA 6 – Due 2/11
Week 5: Feb 14-20	Review for Test 1	WPA 7 – Due 2/16 WPA 8 – Due 2/18 Test 1 - Due 2/20 (Solo repertoire p. 208, harmonization and transposition, transposing instrument)
Week 6: Feb 21-27	Unit 18	WPA 9 – Due 2/23 WPA 10 – Due 2/25
Week 7: Feb 28-Mar 6	Unit 19	SC 3 – Due 3/6 (Three-part score reading and harmonic minor scales and arpeggios) WPA 11 – Due 3/2 WPA 12 – Due 3/4
Week 8: Mar 7-13	Unit 20	WPA 13 – Due 3/9 WPA 14 – Due 3/11
Spring Break: Mar 14-20		
Week 9: Mar 21-27	Unit 21	SC 4 – Due 3/27 (Reading, improvisation, and major scales) WPA 15 – Due 3/23

		WPA 16 - Due 3/25
Week 10: Mar 28-Apr 3	Review for Test 2	Test 2 – Due 4/3 (4-part score reading and chord progressions with +6 chords transposed) WPA 17- Due 3/30 WPA 18 – Due 4/1
Week 11: Apr 4-10	Unit 22	WPA 19 – Due 4/6 WPA 20 – Due 4/8
Week 12: Apr 11-17	Unit 23	SC – Due 4/17 (Sonatina pp. 354-355) WPA 21 – Due 4/13 WPA 22 – Due 4/15
Week 13: Apr 18-24	Unit 24	WPA 23 – Due 4/27 WPA 24 – Due 4/29
Week 14: Apr 25-May 1	Unit 25	SC 6 – Due 5/1 (Accompaniment - from Suzuki, 24 Italian Songs and Arias, etc.) WPA 25 – Due 4/27 WPA 26 – Due 4/29
Week 15: May 2-8	Review for Final Exam	
Thursday, May 13	FINAL EXAM (Major and minor scales and arpeggios, modes-transposed, 4-part vocal/instrumental score reading, harmonization and transposition, band score reading pp. 388-389)	DUE at 11:59pm MDT

Special Needs

I will make any reasonable accommodations 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.

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