Instructor: Dr. Mario Ajero  
Email: ajeromp@sfasu.edu  
Phone: (936) 468-1389  
Office: FA 309 (Fine Arts Building)  
Office Hours: MWF (12:00-2:00), TR (9:30-11:30)  
Department: Music  
Class meeting place: FA 302 (Fine Arts Building)  
Class meeting times: Fridays 9:00-9:50 a.m.  

Description of Course  
Class instruction for beginning pianists. Aimed at non music majors. Content is focused on improving keyboard skills through reading music notation, playing chords, rhythmic awareness, and establishing music foundations of the fundamentals of music theory.  

Students Learning Outcome  
Students will demonstrate keyboard proficiency by reading and performing music in both the treble and bass staves, performing various rhythms, scales, and chords in order to play music for their own enjoyment.  

Text and Materials:  
Alfred’s Piano 101, Book 1  
by E.L. Lancaster and Kenon Renfrow  

Course Requirements:  
Students will be required to perform numerous performance quizzes at the piano throughout the semester.  

33% UNIT 1 QUIZZES - Scheduled during weeks 1-5 (see Blackboard for dates).  
33% UNIT 2 QUIZZES - Scheduled during weeks 6-10 (see Blackboard for dates).  
33% UNIT 3 QUIZZES - Scheduled during weeks 11-Finals Week (see Blackboard for dates).
Grading Policy:
Each performance quiz will receive a grade between 0-10. Grades are averaged based on the following scale:

A = 9.0 and above
A- = 8.0 - 8.99
B+ = 7.5 - 7.99
B = 7.0 - 7.49
B- = 6.5 - 6.99
C+ = 6.0 - 6.49
C = 5.0 - 5.99
C- = 4.5 - 4.99
D = 3.0 - 4.49
F = under 3.0

Instructors reserve the right to add other graded material such as assignments, projects, participation, or practice grades. Any additions will be averaged in with quiz grades.

Acceptable Student Behavior

Classroom behavior should not interfere with the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or the ability of other students to learn from the instructional program (see the Student Conduct Code, policy D-34.1). Unacceptable or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Students who disrupt the learning environment may be asked to leave class and may be subject to judicial, academic or other penalties. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including electronic, classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The instructor shall have full discretion over what behavior is appropriate/inappropriate in the classroom. Students who do not attend class regularly or who perform poorly on class projects/exams may be referred to the Early Alert Program. This program provides students with recommendations for resources or other assistance that is available to help SFA students succeed.

Attendance Policy:

Attendance to all classes is required.
3 unexcused absences will result in the final grade being lowered one letter.
4 unexcused absences will result in the final grade being lowered two letters.
5 unexcused absences will result in the final grade being lowered three letters.

The instructor will excuse absences at his or her discretion. Proper documentation such as a doctor’s note will be required for requests to excuse an absence. All students are expected to arrive to class on time ready with their textbook. Repeated tardiness or coming to class without a textbook may be applied as absences and could lead to failure of the course.
Academic Integrity (A-9.1)

Academic integrity is a responsibility of all university faculty and students. Faculty members promote academic integrity in multiple ways including instruction on the components of academic honesty, as well as abiding by university policy on penalties for cheating and plagiarism.

Definition of Academic Dishonesty

Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes but is not limited to (1) using or attempting to use unauthorized materials to aid in achieving a better grade on a component of a class; (2) the falsification or invention of any information, including citations, on an assigned exercise; and/or (3) helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism. Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were your own. Examples of plagiarism are (1) submitting an assignment as if it were one’s own work when, in fact, it is at least partly the work of another; (2) submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from an Internet source or another source; and (3) incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one's paper without giving the author due credit.

Please read the complete policy at: http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_integrity.asp

Withheld Grades Semester Grades Policy (A-54)

Ordinarily, at the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F. If students register for the same course in future terms the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average.

Students with Disabilities

To obtain disability related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, and Room 325, 468-3004 / 468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to: http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices
PRACTICE ROOMS:

In order to be successful in piano class, students should practice on either an acoustic piano or a digital piano with weighted key action on a regular basis. All performance quizzes will be performed on a piano with weighted key action, so regular practice on a similar instrument is highly recommended. Practice rooms with pianos are located on the second floor of the music building and are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Locked practice rooms with grand pianos are reserved for keyboard majors. The digital pianos in the MIDI Lab (Fine Arts Building 310) are also free to be practiced on when the lab is open, and there is no other class going on in it.

Unit 1 Quizzes (Weeks 1-5; see Blackboard for dates):
1. Rhythm Reading (p. 17)
2. Be able to quickly identify and play notes in C position and Middle C position
3. Prepared Reading (pp. 40, 42, 43)
4. Solo Repertoire: When the Saints Go Marching In (p. 47)

Unit 2 Quizzes (Weeks 6-10; see Blackboard for dates):
1. Play Major Five-Finger Patterns and Chords starting on any white key (p. 72)
2. Play the C Major Scale (p. 80) and the G Major Scale (p. 86) without reference to the book
3. Prepared Reading (p. 57, 73, 82)
4. Solo Repertoire: Mary Ann (p. 81) or Morning Classic (p. 84)

Unit 3 Quizzes (Weeks 11-Finals Week; see Blackboard for dates):
1. Play Minor Five-Finger Patterns and Chords on any white key (p. 97)
2. Play the F Major Scale (p. 121) without reference to the book
3. Play I - IV - V7 chord progression in the key of C, G, and F
4. Harmonizing melodies from a lead sheet (p. 109 or 117)
5. Prepared Reading (p. 91, 124, 131)
6. Solo Repertoire: Summer Memories (p. 115), A Classic Tale (p. 125), or Toccatina (p. 134-135)

*Students who miss quizzes due to absence will be assigned a ZERO for that quiz. Students may only be allowed to take a makeup quiz at the instructor’s discretion.