Instructor: Dr. Mario Ajero  
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Phone: (936) 468-1389 (office), (936) 205-1881 (mobile/text/iMessage)  
Office: Music Building Room 274  
Office Hours: MW (1-2), TR (Between classes), F (10-11, 2-3), or email for appointment  
Department: Music  
Class meeting place: BOYT 223 (see mySFA or D2L Brightspace for class times)

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.

Semester Hour Justification  
(1 credit) typically meets once each week in 50-minute segments for 15 weeks. This also meets for a 2-hour final examination. Students develop their musicianship and functional keyboard skills including transposition, harmonization, technique, and score reading through collaborative group practice and individual practice. Performance tests are given approximately once per week in class. Preparation and practice for performance tests require a minimum of 2 hours of work each week outside of classroom hours.

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 D2L Brightspace for dates).  
33% UNIT 2 QUIZZES - Scheduled during weeks 6-10 (see D2L Brightspace for dates).  
33% UNIT 3 QUIZZES - Scheduled during weeks 11-Finals Week (see D2L Brightspace 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.

Student Code of Conduct: Policy 10.4
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. 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 policy 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.

Phones and mobile devices should be turned off and put away. The only acceptable use of devices is to check grades and comments on D2L. Students who do not attend class regularly or who perform poorly on class projects/exams may be referred to the iCare: Early Alert Program at SFA. Information regarding the iCare program is found at http://www.sfasu.edu/judicial/earlyalert.asp or call the office at 936-468-2703.

Special Class Piano Policies:
The normal attendance policy has been waived for the Fall 2020 semester. However, students are strongly encouraged to attend class either in person or in virtual environments to be as prepared as possible for performance quizzes. Face-to-Face group piano classes will rotate students on different class days when necessary so the labs are limited to 50% capacity in order to maintain social distancing.

Students are required to wear a face covering at all times in the piano labs and to sanitize all contact points (keyboard, control panel, and bench) upon entry to the lab. Headphones have been removed from the piano lab for sanitary purposes. Students will be required to bring in their OWN headphones for use in the lab for class meetings and practice. The headphones should either have a ¼-inch plug with possibly a ⅛-inch adapter to work properly with the piano labs. If students forget to bring in headphones, the instructor can NOT provide one.
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

Course Evaluations

Near the conclusion of each semester, students electronically evaluate courses taken at SFA. As you evaluate this course, please be thoughtful, thorough, and accurate in completing the evaluation. Please know that the SFA faculty is committed to excellence in teaching and continued improvement. Therefore, your response is critical.
Practicing Piano

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. Budgeting at least 30 minutes per day for four days out of the week for piano practice is recommended. Practice rooms with pianos are located on the second floor and on the first floor (between band hall and choir room) of the Wright Music Building. The digital pianos in Room 259 of the Music Building are free to be practiced on when the lab is open, and there is no other class present in it. Please treat all pianos with care. If there is a problem with an instrument, report it to your instructor or the music office.

For students who cannot or choose not to utilize the pianos in the practice rooms or piano labs, they are required to have access to either a digital piano keyboard or acoustic piano for practice and to record assignments and quizzes. These keyboards should be comparable to the digital pianos found in the piano labs and practice rooms (88 touch-sensitive keys with weighted action is recommended. 61 keys is required). Even students who utilize the piano lab or practice room pianos should consider having another keyboard instrument in their dorm, apartment, or home as a backup in case of a campus shutdown or quarantine.

Unit 1 Quizzes (Weeks 1-5; see D2L Brightspace 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 D2L Brightspace 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 D2L Brightspace 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 by their due dates will be assigned a ZERO for those quizzes. Students may only be allowed to take a makeup quiz at the instructor’s discretion. If the instructor agrees to allow the student to make up a quiz, the student must make up the quiz within a reasonable timeframe (usually within 1 week). Otherwise, the zero grade will remain, and the student will not be allowed to make up the quiz later in the semester.