MUSI 1281 - Class Piano for Music Majors I

Instructor: Dr. Mario Ajero
Email: ajeromp@sfasu.edu
Phone: (936) 468-1389 (office), (936) 205-1881 (mobile/text/iMessage)
Office: Music Building Room 274
Office Hours: MW (11-12, 1-2), TR (9-11), F (10-12), or email for appointment
Department: Music
Class meeting place: BOYT 223 or MUSC 259 (see mySFA or D2L Brightspace for room and class times)

Description of Course
Class instruction for beginning pianists. Aimed at non-keyboard music majors, content is focused on improving keyboard skills through sight reading, scales & arpeggios, harmonization, accompanying, transposition, and improvisation.

Program Learning Outcome
Students will demonstrate the ability to hear, identify, and work conceptually with the melodic, harmonic, and rhythmic elements of music, including sight-singing and analysis.

Students Learning Outcome
At the end of the course, piano students will be able to:

- Play Group 1 Major Scales and Arpeggios (CGDAE) hands together, in parallel motion, with correct fingering, and at a steady tempo.
- Play any triad in root position and change them to first and second inversion triads.
- Harmonize simple melodies at the piano with primary chords (I - IV - V7).
- Play solo repertoire similar in difficulty to "Minuet in F Major" by L. Mozart.
- Sight Read a short piece similar in difficulty to "March in G" by D.G. Türk.

Text and Materials:
REQUIRED: Alfred's Group Piano for Adults, Book 1 (2nd edition) by E.L. Lancaster and Kenon Renfrow
(Supplementary CD-ROM is recommended but not required. Students should bring their textbook to EVERY class whether it is in-person or online.)

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.

**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. 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 Intervention Program. This program provides students with recommendations for resources or other assistance that is available to help SFA students succeed.

**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 or an ⅛-inch plug with a ¼-inch adapter to work properly with the piano labs. If students forget to bring in headphones, the instructor can NOT provide one.

ANY STUDENT WHOSE UNIT 3 QUIZ AVERAGE IS A “D” OR “F” WILL BE ASSIGNED THAT GRADE FOR THE COURSE, REGARDLESS OF OTHER GRADES FOR THE SEMESTER.
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](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](http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices)

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. 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 can not 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 Desire2Learn for dates):
1. Play Major Five-Finger Patterns and Broken Chords chromatically hands together (p. 60)
2. Solo Repertoire: Little Scherzo (p. 64), Miniature Waltz (p. 33), or Minuet (p. 34) with music.
3. Harmonization with 2-hand accompaniment (p. 68). Perform accompaniment with music while a classmate performs the melody.
4. Sight Reading (similar to pp. 62-63)
5. Playing Minor Five-Finger Patterns and Chords ascending (p. 75, #1) without reference to the book

Unit 2 Quizzes (Weeks 6-10; see Desire2Learn for dates):
1. Playing Major, Augmented, Minor, and Diminished Chords (p. 98) without reference to the book
2. Playing Triads: in All Positions (p. 137) hands separately, with correct fingering, ascending only, in ALL Major Keys
3. Solo Repertoire: Toccata (p. 88-89), Topsy Turvy (p. 100-101), Dream Echoes (p. 116-117)
4. Sight Reading (similar to pp. 118-119)
5. Transposition (similar to pp. 90-91)

Unit 3 Quizzes (Weeks 11-Finals Week; see Desire2Learn for dates):
1. Playing ALL Group I (CGDAE) Major Scales and Arpeggios (pp. 124-126) hands together, two octaves, with correct fingering, and in tempo with a metronome (at least two notes per beat at MM = 60)
2. Playing the I - IV6/4 - V6/5 - I Chord Progression in any Major key (p. 170) hands together.
3. Harmonization with Two-Hand Accompaniment (p. 161 or 177). Perform the accompaniment while a classmate plays the melody.
4. Playing a melody in the right hand that is harmonized with I - IV6/4 - V6/5 chords (similar to p. 166).
5. Sight Reading (similar to pp. 162-163)
6. Solo Repertoire: March (p. 151), Minuet in F Major (p. 160), Moonlit Shores (pp. 172-173), German Dance (p. 331)

*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. If the instructor agrees to allow the student to make up a quiz, the student must make up the quiz within a reasonable timeframe after returning from the absence (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.