Instructor: Dr. Mario Ajero
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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 piano instruction aimed at non-keyboard music majors to develop functional keyboard skills through sight reading, scales & arpeggios, harmonization, accompanying, transposition, improvisation, and repertoire.

Semester Hour Justification
(1 credit) typically meets twice 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 4 hours of work each week outside of classroom hours.

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

- Play Major and Minor Scales and Arpeggios hands together, in parallel motion, with correct fingering, and at a steady tempo.
- Play common diatonic chord progressions in multiple keys.
- Harmonize Melodies with secondary dominants.
- Play solo repertoire similar in difficulty to "Bagatelle" by A. Diabelli.
- Play individual parts from an instrumental score transposing to concert pitch when necessary.

Text and Materials:
Alfred's Group Piano for Adults, Book 2 (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 forcheating 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 anyinformation, including citations, on an assigned exercise; and/or (3) helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating orplagiarism. Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were your own. Examples of plagiarism are (1)s 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 workthat has been purchased or otherwise obtained from an Internet source or another source; and (3) incorporating the words or ideas ofan 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 beassigned only if the student cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete thework within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F. Ifstudents register for the same course in future terms the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeatedcourse 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 theOffice of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, and Room 325, 468-3004 / 468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in thesemester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure torequest 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 keyaction on a regular basis. Practice rooms with pianos are located on the second floor and on the first floor (between band hall andchoir room) of the Wright Music Building. The digital pianos in Room 259 of the Music Building are free to be practiced on when thelab 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, reportit 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 toeither a digital piano keyboard or acoustic piano for practice and to record assignments and quizzes. These keyboards should becomparable 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 anotherkeyboard 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. Play “Happy Birthday to You” in Eb, E, F, F# Major. Melody played with some type of accompaniment style other than block chords (i.e. broken chords, keyboard style, etc.)
2. Playing Group 1 (cgdae) Harmonic minor scales and arpeggios (pp. 14, 29, 44, 56, 69) hands together, two octaves, with correct fingering, and in tempo with a metronome (at least two notes per beat at MM = 80)
3. Playing the i-VI-iv-ii°6-i6/4-V7-i Chord Progression in Minor Keys (p. 83)
4. Lead sheet playing with secondary chords (similar to p. 48, “Sweet Betsy from Pike”)
5. Sight Reading: (similar to examples on pp. 71-72)
6. Solo Repertoire: Gypsy Earrings (pp. 18-19), A Pleasant Morning (pp. 58-59), Minuet in C Major (p. 84)

Unit 2 Quizzes (Weeks 6-10; see D2L Brightspace for dates):
1. Playing Group 2 (f, b, f#, c#) Harmonic Minor Scales and Arpeggios (pp. 81, 95, 107, 119) hands together, two octaves, with correct fingering, and in tempo with a metronome (at least two notes per beat at MM = 80)
2. Harmonizing a melody with secondary dominants (similar to p. 166, “My Home’s in Montana” or p. 180, “My Bonnie”)
3. Instrumental Score Reading: p. 178-179 – Be able to play each part at the piano transposing instruments to concert pitch when necessary.
4. Choral Score Reading: Be able to play 2 parts simultaneously (p. 50 and 65)
5. Sight Reading: (similar to pp. 140-141)
6. Solo Repertoire: Seventh Street Blues (p. 96-97), Minuet in G Major (p. 121), Minuet in G Major (p. 137)

Unit 3 Quizzes (Weeks 11-Finals Week; see D2L Brightspace for dates):
1. Playing ALL Major Scales and Arpeggios - hands together, two octaves, with correct fingering, and in tempo with a metronome (at least two notes per beat at MM = 80)
2. Choral Score Reading, 3-part score (p. 132 and 168 – prepare both)
3. Harmonization with two-hand accompaniment (p. 112 or 155).
4. Improvisation from Chord Symbols (p. 125, #1 and #2)
5. Sight Reading: (similar to pp. 176-177)
6. Solo Repertoire: Over the Rainbow (pp. 152-153), Bagatelle (pp. 186-187), Giga (p. 174-175), The Pioneer Spirit (pp. 196-197)

*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.*