Instructor: Dr. Mario Ajero  
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Office: FA 309 (Fine Arts Building)  
Office Hours: MWF (12-2pm), TR (between classes), or email for appointment  
Class meeting time and place: MW (2:00-2:50) in Boynton Building Piano Lab 223

Description of Course
Class instruction aimed at keyboard music majors to develop functional skills through sight reading, chord progressions, harmonization, ensemble playing, transposition, score reading, and improvisation.

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
Students will demonstrate functional keyboard skills including harmonization, transposition, ensemble playing, and sight reading.

Recommended Text and Materials:
Harmonization at the Piano by Arthur Frackenpohl (6th edition)

Improvisation Through Keyboard Harmony by Sol Berkowitz

Preparatory Exercises in Score Reading by R.O. Morris and Howard Ferguson

Source Materials for Accompanying, Score Reading, and Transposing from Keyboard Strategies by Melvin Stecher, Norman Horowitz, Claire Gordon, R. Fred Kern, and E.L. Lancaster
Course Requirements:
Students will be required to perform numerous performance quizzes at the piano throughout the semester. The grades of these quizzes will be averaged together to determine the students’ final grades.

Attendance Policy:
Attendance to all classes is required.

4 unexcused absences will result in the final grade being lowered one letter.
6 unexcused absences will result in the final grade being lowered two letters.
8 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 required materials. Repeated tardiness or coming to class without required materials may be applied as absences and could lead to failure of the course.

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

*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. *Graded material is subject to change.
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
Week 1-2 Quizzes (see Desire2Learn for dates):
1. Melody and Accompaniment (similar to p. 7, #16) - Frackenpohl
2. Adapting Four Part Vocal Music for piano (pp. 9-10) - Frackenpohl

Week 3-4 Quizzes (see Desire2Learn for dates):
3. Alto clef score reading (p. 1-6, #2, 4, 10) - Morris
4. Harmonization with I, IV, V7 (pp. 54-57) - Berkowitz

Week 5-6 Quizzes (see Desire2Learn for dates):
5. Improvisation with I, IV, V7 (p. 60-61, #27, 28, 29)
6. Happy Birthday by ear in 3 different keys with at least two different accompaniment styles (p. 41) - Frackenpohl

Week 7-8 Quizzes (see Desire2Learn for dates):
7. Transposition (pp. 46-47, #2-7) - Frackenpohl
8. Tenor clef score reading (pp. 6-11, #11, 14, 20) - Morris

Week 9-10 Quizzes (see Desire2Learn for dates):
9. Harmonization with secondary chords ii, iii, vi (pp. 72-73, #18-22) - Berkowitz
10. Choral Score Reading (pp. 42-43) - Stecher/Horowitz

Week 11-12 Quizzes (see Desire2Learn for dates):
11. String Score Reading (pp. 53-55) - Stecher/Horowitz
12. Figured bass realization (pp. 168-171) - Berkowitz

Week 13-14 (see Desire2Learn for dates):
13. Popular and Jazz Chord Notation (pp. 185-193) - Berkowitz
14. Instrumental Score Reading (pp. 195-201) - Frackenpohl

The Instructor reserves the right to add other graded material. Any additions will be averaged in with quiz grades.