Instructor: Dr. Mario Ajero
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Office: Griffith Fine Arts Building Room 314
Office Hours: MWF (12-2), TR (9-11), or email for appointment
Department: Music
Class meeting place: Griffith Fine Arts Building Room 320
(see mySFA or D2L Brightspace for 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.

Course Contact Hours & Practice/Study Hours
(1 credit) Class meets twice each week in 50-minute segments for approximately 15 weeks. Students should expect preparation and practice for performance tests for a minimum of 4 hours of work each week outside of classroom hours. Practice on either an acoustic piano or a digital piano with weighted key action should be on a regular basis. All students enrolled in group piano classes have access to practice rooms with pianos located on the second floor and on the first floor (between band hall and choir room) of the Wright Music Building.

Program Learning Outcome
Students will demonstrate functional keyboard proficiency including scales, techniques, basic accompanying, and sight reading.

Students Learning Outcome
At the end of the course, piano students will be able to:
- Play Group 1 Minor and “Black Key” Major Scales and Arpeggios hands together, in parallel motion, with correct fingering, and at a steady tempo.
- Play Chord Progressions with all primary and secondary chords in any Major key.
- Harmonize Melodies with primary and secondary chords.
- Improvise a melody with a given left hand accompaniment.
- Play solo repertoire similar in difficulty to “Ecossaise” by L.V. Beethoven.

Text and Materials:
Alfred’s Group Piano for Adults, Book 1 (2nd edition) 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:

\begin{align*}
A & = 9.0 \text{ 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 & = \text{under 3.0}
\end{align*}

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.

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 upon return to class 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. As a courtesy, always ask the instructor for permission to leave the classroom. The instructor will usually grant permission, but if it is a regular occurrence, then the instructor may count the time students are out of class as partial or full absences which can affect the final grade.

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 promptly may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices.
Academic Integrity (4.1)

The Code of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity outlines the prohibited conduct by any student enrolled in a course at SFA. It is the responsibility of all members of all faculty, staff, and students to adhere to and uphold this policy.

Articles IV, VI, and VII of the new Code of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity outline the violations and procedures concerning academic conduct, including cheating, plagiarism, collusion, and misrepresentation. Cheating includes, but is not limited to: (1) Copying from the test paper (or other assignment) of another student, (2) Possession and/or use during a test of materials that are not authorized by the person giving the test, (3) Using, obtaining, or attempting to obtain by any means the whole or any part of a non-administered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program, or using a test that has been administered in prior classes or semesters without permission of the Faculty member, (4) Substituting for another person, or permitting another person to substitute for one’s self, to take a test, (5) Falsifying research data, laboratory reports, and/or other records or academic work offered for credit, (6) Using any sort of unauthorized resources or technology in completion of educational activities.

Plagiarism is the appropriation of material that is attributable in whole or in part to another source or the use of one’s own previous work in another context without citing that it was used previously, without any indication of the original source, including words, ideas, illustrations, structure, computer code, and other expression or media, and presenting that material as one’s own academic work being offered for credit or in conjunction with a program course or degree requirements.

Collusion is the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing academic assignments offered for credit or collaboration with another person to commit a violation of any provision of the rules on academic dishonesty, including disclosing and/or distributing the contents of an exam.

Misrepresentation is providing false grades or résumés; providing false or misleading information in an effort to receive a postponement or an extension on a test, quiz, or other assignment for the purpose of obtaining an academic or financial benefit for oneself or another individual or to injure another student academically or financially.

Withheld Grades Semester Grades Policy (5.5)

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 coursework 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 to compute the grade point average. For additional information, go to https://www.sfasu.edu/policies/course-grades-5.5.pdf
Student Wellness and Well-Being

SFA values students’ overall well-being, mental health and the role it plays in academic and overall student success. Students may experience stressors that can impact both their academic experience and their personal well-being. These may include academic pressure and challenges associated with relationships, emotional well-being, alcohol and other drugs, identities, finances, etc.

If you are experiencing concerns, seeking help, SFA provides a variety of resources to support students’ mental health and wellness. Many of these resources are free, and all of them are confidential.

On-campus Resources:

The Dean of Students Office (Rusk Building, 3rd floor lobby)
www.sfasu.edu/deanofstudents
936.468.7249
dos@sfasu.edu

SFA Human Services Counseling Clinic Human Services, Room 202
www.sfasu.edu/humanservices/139.asp
936.468.1041

The Health and Wellness Hub - “The Hub” (corner of E. College and Raguet St.)
To support the health and well-being of every Lumberjack, the Health and Wellness Hub offers comprehensive services that treat the whole person – mind, body and spirit. Services include:

- Health Services
- Counseling Services
- Student Outreach and Support
- Food Pantry
- Wellness Coaching
- Alcohol and Other Drug Education

www.sfasu.edu/thehub
936.468.4008
thehub@sfasu.edu

Crisis Resources:
- Burke 24-hour crisis line: 1.800.392.8343
- National Suicide Crisis Prevention: 9-8-8
- Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1.800.273.TALK (8255)
- Crisis Text Line: Text HELLO to 741-741
Unit 1 Quizzes (Weeks 1-5; see D2L Brightspace for dates):
1. Harmonization with Two-Hand Accompaniment (p. 218) while a classmate plays the melody.
3. Playing Group 1 (cgdae) Harmonic minor scales and arpeggios (pp. 198-201) hands together, two octaves, with correct fingering, and in tempo with a metronome (at least two notes per beat at MM = 60)
4. Playing the i - iv6/4 - V6/5 - i progression in all minor keys, hands together (like p. 210, example 8-27)
5. Solo Repertoire: Little Fantasy Study (p. 191), Allegretto (p. 202), The Cuckoo (p. 224)
6. Sight Reading: (similar to pp. 234-235)

Unit 2 Quizzes (Weeks 6-10; see D2L Brightspace for dates):
1. Playing Five Types of Seventh Chords, hands together, chosen at random (p. 287).
2. Harmonization in minor keys, using i - iv - V7 (similar to pp. 226-227).
3. Playing the I - ii6 - I6/4 - V7 - I Chord Progression (like p. 242, example 10-1) in the keys of C, D, E, F, G, A, and B Major.
4. Playing “Black Key” Major Scales and Arpeggios - Gb and Db (p. 143) and Bb, Eb, Ab (pp. 231-232) hands together, two octaves, with correct fingering, and in tempo with a metronome (at least two notes per beat at MM = 60)
5. Solo Repertoire: Dance (p. 238), Ecossaise (p. 254), Full Moon Rising (p. 290-291)
6. Sight Reading (similar to p. 279)

Unit 3 Quizzes (Weeks 11-Finals Week; see D2L Brightspace for dates):
1. Transposition in minor key with i-iv-V7 chords in LH (similar to pp. 214-215).
3. Harmonization with two-hand accompaniment (p. 293 or 321) while classmate plays the melody.
4. Harmonization with secondary chords (similar to p. 320, examples 13-29 & 13-30)
5. Perform One Improvisation from Chord Symbols (p. 255 or 322)
6. Sight Reading: (similar to pp. 318-319)
7. Solo Repertoire: Ecossaise (p. 317), The Chromatic Rag (p. 298-299), Just Struttin’ Along (p. 344)

*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.