

Secondary Piano Skills

Course Syllabus
Spring, 2018

Text: **Piano for the Developing Musician**
Hilley and Olson

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Office hours: As Posted for Semester

Instructor_____

Course Number and Section_____

Phone_____

Email_____

Office Hours_____

Overview

The sequence of Secondary Piano courses covers the skills necessary for basic functionality at the keyboard and, thus, is fundamental to your musical education. Skills to be covered include sight-reading, harmonization and improvisation, as well as the performance of scales and basic repertoire. Generally, material presented in class will be evaluated in subsequent classes.

Attendance Policy

Due to the progressive nature of course content, attendance is mandatory. More than three unexcused absences in the term *will result in your grade being lowered at the end of the semester*. Proper notification is expected for an absence to be excused. Evaluations missed during an *unexcused* absence will not be made up—a grade of zero will be issued.

Absences for illness *must be supported by a physician's note*. Likewise, a faculty note will be required if the absence is due to work for another professor. In matters of family problems, contact the Dean of Students Office (392-1261) for assistance. In all cases, prior notification of your absence will earn you leniency. Both your instructor and Dr. Arakawa have voice mail, email, and regular mailboxes.

Grading Policy

You should expect to be graded on some previously covered activity during every class session. Naturally, grades will reflect the quality of your outside preparation. As graded assignments will be played *individually*, it is essential that you practice every day. In-class grades will constitute 60% of your final grade for the course. The remaining 40% of your grade is earned at the final jury exam. (See exam components below.) Additionally, factors such as your daily preparation, group participation, level of improvement, and attitude may also play a role in your final grade, particularly in cases where your grade is near the next lower/higher grade.

Lab Policies

1. No food or drink permitted in the lab.
2. All backpacks are to be placed on the floor. Phones must be switched off and stored in your backpack.
3. At the end of each class, turn the instrument OFF, hang up your headphones and slide bench under the keyboard.

Accountability

It is each student's responsibility to keep up with his or her own assignments. Grades administered by the graduate teaching assistants are final. Furthermore, the content of the course may be altered at the discretion of the TA. Dr. Arakawa, maintains the final say in matters of question, however, all concerns must first be directed to the course instructor. Students with a disability that may, in any way, hinder their ability to function academically, *must* be registered as such with the University of Florida and *must* inform the instructor of the condition at the beginning of the semester.

Exam Components

In each level of Piano Skills, the final exam will consist of the following components.*

- Technique
- Harmonization
- Sight Reading
- Prepared Piece

**Due to the progressive nature of the Piano Skills sequence, poor/failing performance on any one component of the final exam may result in your failing to pass the course.*