MVK 1111: Piano Skills 1  
Course Syllabus  
Fall, 2018

Text: Alfred’s Group Piano for Adults Book 1  
(Second Edition) Lancaster & Renfrow  
Room: MUB143

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Room: MUB143  
Office hours: As Posted for Semester

Instructor_____________________________  
Course Number and Section________________  
Phone___________________________  
Email_________________________________

Objectives  
The sequence of Secondary Piano courses covers the skills necessary for basic functionality at the keyboard and, thus, is fundamental to your musical education. The four semesters of piano skills courses (Piano Skills 1 through Piano Skills 4) are designed to prepare you for the Piano Proficiency Exam at the end of fourth semester. Skills to be covered include various technical work including scales and arpeggios, sight-reading, score-reading, transposition, harmonization and improvisation, as well as the performance of 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. 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.

Practice  
All the piano skills students are expected to practice at least 30 minutes a day, though some students will require more time.
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.

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.

Daily class scores: 130 points (up to 5 points per class)
3 quizzes at 30 points each: 90 points
Midterm exam: 90 points
Final exam: 90 points
Total: 400 points

Grading Scale:
369-400 A
357-368 A-
345-356 B+
329-344 B
317-328 B-
305-316 C+
289-304 C
277-288 C-
265-276 D+
249-264 D
237-248 D-
below 236 F

Your daily class scores will be assigned at the discretion of the instructor, and reflect attendance, participation and preparation. Attendance is essential for your progress as well as assessment. Your lowest two daily class scores will be dismissed from the final calculation of the grade.

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 midterm and final exam will consist of the following components.*
- Technique
- Harmonization
- Sight Reading
- Transposition
- 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.
Schedule
(may be adjusted)

Week 1

Introduction: Overview, Policies, Grading
Basics/Review: pp. 8-24
Technique: Chromatic Scale, p. 20
Sightreading: p. 25, p. 26
Repertoire: Summer Night, p. 18
Homework: p. 27-28

Week 2

(materials for quiz 1 will be announced)
Basics: p.29-32, p.41-42
Technique: p.38
Harmonization: p.38
Sightreading: p. 35-37
Repertoire: Miniature Waltz, p.33
Minuet, p.34
Homework: p.39-40

Week 3

Basics: p.43, p.48-49
Technique: 5-finger patterns and chords, p.43-45
Harmonization: p.52
Improvisation: p.57 -1
Sightreading & Transposition: p.50-51
Improvisation: p.57
Repertoire: Dance, p.46; Waltz, p.55
Barcarolle (ensemble), p.56

Quiz 1
The quiz takes place outside of class by appointment with your instructor.

Week 4

Basics: p.59-61
Technique: p.61
Harmonization: p.65, p.68
Sightreading & Transposition: p.61-62
Repertoire: Little Scherzo, p.64
Forty-Finger Ensemble, p.66-67
Homework: p. 69-70

Week 5

Basics: P.72-76, p. 79
Technique: p. 81
Harmonization: p.82
Sightreading & Transposition: p.77-78
Repertoire: Etude, p. 8

Week 6

Basics: p.85-86
Harmonization: p.87
Improvisation: p.94
Sightreading & Transposition: p.90
Repertoire: Prelude, p.93

Quiz 2
The quiz takes place outside of class by appointment with your instructor.

Week 7

Basics: p.97-99
Technique: p.104
Harmonization: p.105
Sightreading & Transposition: p. 99, p.102
Repertoire: Topsy-Turvy, p. 100-101

Week 8
(materials for midterm exam will be announced)

Basics: p.106-107, p.112-113
Technique: p.108-111, p.114
Harmonization: p.115
Sightreading: p.118-119
Repertoire: Dream Echoes, p. 116-117

Week 9

Review
(harmonization and transposition melodies will be given at the beginning of the week)
**Midterm exam**

**Repertoire: 25 points**
Prepare two pieces covered so far

**Technique: 20 points**
All major and minor 5-finger patterns, and all major tetrachord scales

**Sight reading: 15 points**

**Harmonization: 15 points**
Pick one from several harmonization melodies

**Transposition: 15 points**
Prepare to transpose the given melodies to designated keys.

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**Week 10**

Basics: p.120-p.124  
Technique: p.125-126  
Harmonization: p.130  
Improvisation: p.132  
Sightreading & Transposition: p.126-127  
Repertoire: *Morning Salute*, p.128  
*German Dance*, p.129

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**Week 11**
(materials for quiz 3 will be announce)

Basics: p.135-139  
Technique: p.140  
Harmonization: p.145  
Sightreading: p.146-147  
Repertoire: *Etude*, p.144

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**Week 12**

Basics: p.148-149, p.153  
Technique: p. 149-150. Review scales & arpeggios  
Harmonization: p.154  
Sightreading & Transposition: p.152-153  
Repertoire: *March*, p.151
Quiz 3
The quiz takes place outside of class by appointment with your instructor.

Week 13

Basics: p.158, p.167
Technique: p.159. Review scales & arpeggios
Harmonization: p. 164
Improvisation: p.167
Sightreading & Transposition: p.162-163
Repertoire: *Minute in F*, p. 160
*Ode to Joy* (ensemble), p.168-169

Week 14

Technique: p.170-171
Review scales & arpeggios
Harmonization: p.179
Sightreading & Transposition: p.174-175
Repertoire: *Moonlit Shores*, p.172-173

Week 15

(harmonization and transposition melodies will be given at the beginning of the week)

Review

**Final Exam**

**Repertoire: 20 points**
Prepare two pieces covered so far

**Technique: 25 points**
Scales & arpeggios in C, G, D, A, E, F, B, G-flat, D-flat majors
All major & minor 5-finger patterns
Progression I-IV7-I in all major keys

**Sight reading: 15 points**

**Harmonization: 15 points**
Pick one from several harmonization melodies

**Transposition: 15 points**
Prepare to transpose the given melodies to designated keys.