

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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Office hours: As Posted for Semester

Instructor _____

Course Number and Section _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Office Hours _____

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 student 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.

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

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

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-IV-I7-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.
