MVK 1111: Piano Skills 1  
Course Syllabus  
Fall, 2018

Text: Alfred’s Group Piano for Adults Book 1  
(Second Edition)  
Lancaster & Renfrow  
Room: MUB143  
Coordinator: Dr. Jasmin Arakawa  
Email: jarakawa@arts.ufl.edu  
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 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.*

**Students Requiring Accommodations**
Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, [https://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc](https://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc)) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

**Course Evaluation**
Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at [https://evaluations.ufl.edu/evals](https://evaluations.ufl.edu/evals). Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at [https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/](https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/).

**University Honesty Policy**
UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” The Honor Code ([https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/](https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/)) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.
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
(materials for quiz 2 will be announced)
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
(materials for midterm exam will be announced)
Basics: p.97-99
Technique: p.104
Harmonization: p.105
Sightreading & Transposition: p. 99, p.102
Repertoire: Topsy-Turvy, p. 100-101

Week 8
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 9

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 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

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.