

# MVK 1111: Piano Skills 1

## Course Syllabus

Spring, 2020

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>) 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>. 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/>.

### **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/>) 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)

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### 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

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### 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

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### 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.

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### 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

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### **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

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### **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.

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### **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

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### **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.

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**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

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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.

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### 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

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### Week 14

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

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### 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.

