

MVK 1111: Piano Skills 1

Course Syllabus

Fall, 2020

Required Text: **Alfred's Group Piano for Adults Book 1 (Second Edition)** Lancaster & Renfrow
 Room: Online
 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.

Online Instruction

This class is conducted synchronous online Fall 2020. Your instructor will provide a zoom link for the class meeting, and all the communication including homework and class updates will be sent through Canvas.

Instrument Requirement

Students are required to obtain an instrument for class as well as for daily practice. You will need:

1. Acoustic piano

OR

2. Electric keyboard

-61 keys or more is ideal. However, 49 key-keyboard is accepted for Piano 1 if that's the only option you have. If you are taking Piano Skills 3, try your best to get 61+ keys.

-Students who are taking MUS1360 Intro to Music Technology will be required to obtain an USB MIDI-enabled keyboard, and I highly recommend that you get the model that can fulfill both MUS1360 and Piano Skills Class.

Here are some models that are recommended by the Intro to Music Technology and also can be used for the Piano Skills Class (again, 61 keys are preferable for the Piano Class)

[SAMSON Carbon 49 Keyboard](#)

[SAMSON Carbon 61 Keyboard](#)

[M-Audio Keystation 49](#)

[M-Audio Keystation 61](#)

The following keyboards and similar models are recommended for piano skills class, but NOT by the Music Technology Class (MIDI enabled, but without controllers)

[Casio Casiotone 61 Keys](#)

[Yamaha P-125 88-key Weighted Keyboard](#)

If you are not sure if the keyboard you have would be appropriate for the Piano Skills Class, please let me know your brand, model number, and picture (or link to the product online).

3. Sustain Pedal

If you are in the Piano 3, and your keyboard doesn't have a sustain pedal, having one will be very helpful:

[Sustain Pedal for Keyboard](#)

OPTIONAL: External Microphone

This is NOT a requirement for the Piano Skills Class, but is recommended for any music recording/online lessons in order to provide a higher quality of sound and reduce latency. You may be already required to obtain one by your studio professor for your applied lessons, and/or for the Intro to Music Technology Class. If so, you can absolutely use the same microphone for the Piano Skills Class. If you are not required to have one by any other classes but would like to consider purchasing one, feel free to check out this [list of recommended models](#).

Please note that these models are just a few of the possibilities, and feel free to make your own choices regarding what best meets your needs and budget. The links to vendors are just an example and are not endorsements of particular vendors or brands

Attendance Policy

Due to the progressive nature of course content, attendance is mandatory. Proper notification is expected for an absence to be excused.

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.

Virtual Class Attendance Policy

- Students are expected to attend each class with your keyboard on a stable surface (table, desk, etc)
- Students are expected to attend each virtual class meeting and participate in class discussions.
- Be sure that you have a good internet connection and a working video camera.
- All class meetings will require for you to be visible, with camera-on, with your face visible at all times. If you have a problem, consult with your instructor.
- By default, you will be marked "absent" if your camera is turned off.

- Before joining our Zoom meeting, find a quiet space, without any distractions.
- Students will be automatically muted (to reduce any background noise) but will be able to unmute yourself to participate in class discussion.
- Be sure to join Zoom meetings on time. Being late may affect your attendance point.
- Be sure to have all the assigned materials for the class meeting ready on hand
- Our class may be recorded for students in the class to refer back. Students with privacy concern should consult with the instructor.

Practice

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

Piano Lab will not be available for students until further notice due to COVID-19 until further notice

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.

More information on UF grading policy may be found at:

[UF Graduate Catalog](#)
[Grades and Grading Policies](#)

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 who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the [Disability Resource Center](#). It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, 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](#). 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 on the [Gator Evals page](#).

Campus Resources

Health and Wellness

U Matter, We Care: If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu, 352-392-1575, or visit umatter.ufl.edu/ to refer or report a concern and a team member will reach out to the student in distress.

Counseling and Wellness Center: Visit counseling.ufl.edu/ or call 352-392-1575 for information on crisis services as well as non-crisis services.

Student Health Care Center: Call 352-392-1161 for 24/7 information to help you find the care you need, or visit shcc.ufl.edu/.

University Police Department: Visit police.ufl.edu/ or call 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).

UF Health Shands Emergency Room / Trauma Center: For immediate medical care call 352-733-0111 or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608; ufhealth.org/emergency-room-trauma-center.

Academic Resources

E-learning technical support: Contact the [UF Computing Help Desk](#) at 352-392-4357 or via e-mail at helpdesk@ufl.edu.

Career Connections Center: Reitz Union Suite 1300, 352-392-1601. Career assistance and counseling services career.ufl.edu/.

Library Support: cms.uflib.ufl.edu/ask various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.

Teaching Center: Broward Hall, 352-392-2010 or to make an appointment 352-392-6420.

General study skills and tutoring. teachingcenter.ufl.edu/

Writing Studio: 2215 Turlington Hall, 352-846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers. writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/

Student Complaints On-Campus: sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-student-conduct-code/

On-Line Students Complaints: [distance.ufl.edu/student-complaint-process/ /](http://distance.ufl.edu/student-complaint-process/)

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.
