

MVK 1111: Piano Skills 1

Course Syllabus

Spring, 2021

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.

Hybrid/Hyflex/Online Instruction

This class is conducted synchronous in Hyflex mode Spring 2021. 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. Those who choose to attend in-person will need to adhere to the COVID safety procedures.

You are required to wear approved face coverings at all times during class and within buildings. Following and enforcing these policies and requirements are all of our responsibility. Failure to do so will lead to a report to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution.

Follow your instructor's guidance on how to enter and exit the classroom. Practice physical distancing to the extent possible when entering and exiting the classroom. • If you are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms ([Click here for guidance from the CDC on symptoms of coronavirus](#)), please use the UF Health screening system and follow the instructions on whether

you are able to attend class. [Click here for UF Health guidance on what to do if you have been exposed to or are experiencing Covid-19 symptoms.](#)

- Course materials will be provided to you with an excused absence, and you will be given a reasonable amount of time to make up work. [Find more information in the university attendance policies.](#)

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. 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. For COVID related symptoms, please refer to [UF Health guidance on what to do if you have been exposed to or are experiencing Covid-19 symptoms](#).

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. Wash your hands prior to entering the lab
3. Wearing a mask is mandatory
4. All backpacks are to be placed on the floor. Phones must be switched off and stored in your backpack.
5. You will be assigned to a seat, and will keep the same seat for the semester.
6. Bring your own headphones/earphones.
7. Sanitize the keyboard before you leave your seat.
8. 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.

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 [U Matter, We Care website](#) to refer or report a concern and a team member will reach out to the student in distress.

Counseling and Wellness Center: [Visit the Counseling and Wellness Center website](#) 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 the Student Health Care Center website](#).

University Police Department: [Visit UF Police Department website](#) 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; [Visit the UF Health Emergency Room and Trauma Center website](#).

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 mideterm 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.

