

MVK 1111: Piano Skills 1

Course Syllabus

Spring, 2022

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. 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. All backpacks are to be placed on the floor. Phones must be switched off and stored in your backpack.
4. You will be assigned to a seat, and will keep the same seat for the semester.
5. 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 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.

