

**MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION**

**DEPARTMENT of MUSIC
COURSE SYLLABUS**

Course Prefix and Number: MU 1111

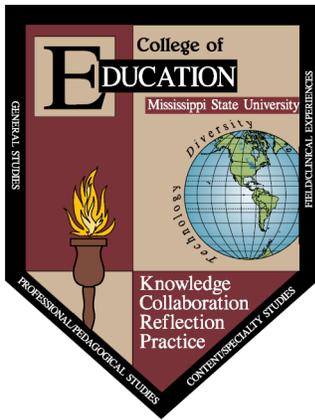
Course Title: Piano Class I

Credit Hours: One (1) semester hour

Type of Course: Laboratory

Catalog Description: Two hours laboratory. Beginning piano for non-music majors.

College of Education Conceptual Framework:



The faculty in the College of Education at Mississippi State University are committed to assuring the success of students and graduates by providing superior learning opportunities that are continually improved as society, schools, and technology change. The organizing theme for the conceptual framework for the College of Education at Mississippi State University is educational professionals - dedicated to continual improvement of all students' educational experiences. The beliefs that guide program development are as follows:

1. **KNOWLEDGE** - Educational professionals must have a deep understanding of the organizing concepts, processes, and attitudes that comprise their chosen disciplinary knowledge base, the pedagogical knowledge base, and the pedagogical content knowledge base. They must also know how to complement these knowledge bases with the appropriate use of technology.
2. **COLLABORATION** - Educational professionals must continually seek opportunities to work together, learn from one another, forge partnerships, and assume positions of responsibility.
3. **REFLECTION** - Educational professionals must be willing to assess their own strengths and weaknesses through reflection. They must also possess the skills, behaviors, and attitudes necessary to learn, change, and grow as life-long learners.
4. **PRACTICE** - Educational professionals must have a rich repertoire of research-based strategies for instruction, assessment, and the use of technologies. They must be able to focus that array of skills on promoting authentic learning by all students or clients, while exhibiting an appreciation and commitment to the value and role of diversity.

Course Objectives: At the successful completion of this course, the student will be able to

1. Demonstrate and play the piano using appropriate physical posture and hand position [first half of InTASC # 1] [CFPO #3]
2. Know how the fingers are numbered for piano playing and use optimal fingering when playing [first half of InTASC # 1] [CFPO #3]
3. Know the musical alphabet, the names of the keys, understand high, middle and low registers, and find any key in any register quickly [first half of InTASC # 1] [CFPO #3]
4. Decipher and play using pre-staff notation [first half of InTASC # 1] [CFPO #3]
5. Play with a steady tempo [first half of InTASC # 1] [CFPO #3]
6. Read and play pitches notated with treble and bass clef [first half of InTASC # 1] [CFPO #3]
7. Play with both hands simultaneously [first half of InTASC # 1] [CFPO #3]
8. Read and play basic rhythm values [first half of InTASC # 1] [CFPO #3]
9. Recognize, read and play intervals of 2nds, 3rds, 4ths and 5ths [first half of InTASC # 1] [CFPO #3]
10. Translate dynamic and tempo symbols and realize them in playing [first half of InTASC # 1] [CFPO #3]
11. Recognize and play sharps, flats and naturals [first half of InTASC #1] [CFPO #3]
12. Recognize and play using staccato and legato touches [first half of InTASC #1] [CFPO #3]
13. Find and play half and whole steps [first half of InTASC #1] [CFPO #3]
14. Construct and play major five note scales (pentascales) in all keys [first half of InTASC #1] [CFPO #3]
15. Construct and play major chords [first half of InTASC #1] [CFPO #3]
16. Understand the differences in function of the 3 pedals on a standard piano, and play using the damper pedal [first half of InTASC #1] [CFPO #1, 3]
17. Improvise a melody on black keys or in major pentascales against a teacher accompaniment [first half of InTASC #1] [CFPO #1, 3]
18. Play solo and ensemble repertoire written in a variety of styles such as folk, classical, jazz and popular [first half of InTASC #1] [CFPO #1, 3]

Topics to Be Covered:

1. Listening, dynamics and black keys (4 hours)
2. Simple note values; key names; black key groups (4 hours)
3. Meter signatures; rests; line and space notes; steps and skips; intervals of 2nds and 3rds (4 hours)
4. Treble and bass clefs; grand staff; intervals of 4ths and 5ths; half and whole steps; sharps and flats (4 hours)
5. Dotted rhythms; phrases (4 hours)
6. Upbeats; major pentascales and chords (4 hours)
7. Three exam evaluations of student progress (6 hours: 2 hours per exam)

Textbook and Materials:

Hilley, M. & Olson, L. F. (2011). *Piano for pleasure, Fourth Edition Concise*. Boston, MA: Schirmer, Cengage Learning.

Pencil and folder or notebook for handouts and assignments

Methods of Instruction:

1. Lecture combined with blackboard and keyboard demonstration
2. Student discovery of musical aspects through classroom activity
3. Informal class discussion

Suggested Student Activities:

1. Preparing and performing individualized repertoire (solo or ensemble) [Course Objective Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9] [first half of InTASC #1]
2. Attending musical performances on campus [Course Objective #2]
3. Self-evaluation and critiquing work of classmates [Course Objective Nos. 2 and 8] [InTASC # 9]
4. Group sight reading [Course Objective Nos. 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 8, 9]

Reminder of MSU Honor Code:

“As a Mississippi State University student I will conduct myself with honor and integrity at all times. I will not lie, cheat, or steal, nor will I accept the actions of those who do.”

The Mississippi State Honor Code can be found at <http://www.honorcode.msstate.edu/>.

Technology: Students will use technology in the following ways:

1. MyCourses for course information, supplementary materials in PDF documents, and to post grades
2. Instruction on 88-key digital pianos with a teacher communication/control center
3. MP3 player, iPhone and iPad aps for musical examples

Diversity:

Students are exposed to music from a variety of cultures [Course Objective #18]

Disability:

Students with disabilities documented by the Office of Student Support Services (325-3335) will be accommodated.

Field Component:

This course does not have a field component.

Evaluation of Student Progress:

60% Daily teacher evaluation of individual performance. (Scale: A = 90% - 100%; B = 80% - 89%; C = 70% - 79%; D = 60% - 69%; F = 59% and below)

Special Note 1: Failure to attend class without notifying the teacher in advance or presenting a doctor's excuse will result in an "F" [0] as a daily grade. I will excuse up to *two absences*, all other absences, excused or otherwise will not be excused and will receive a daily grade of "F" [0] for the absence. Exception: if university-related responsibilities cause you to miss more than 2 classes, I will excuse the absences [example—if you are part of the pep band, the basketball teams play in championship games and you are required to attend the games]

Special Note 2: Each student is expected to come to class with his/her own textbook, folder or notebook, pencil, and any previously assigned handouts. Students are allowed two class periods to "forget" textbooks without penalty. *Beginning with the third class period a textbook is "forgotten," students will receive an "F" as a daily grade.*

Special Note 3: Students are expected to be on time for each class. Students will be allowed two class periods for tardiness without penalty. Beginning with the third class period, students' daily grades will be lowered by one letter. Students who are consistently tardy (six class periods or more) will receive an "F" as a daily grade. *If you have a problem getting to class on time because you have a class just before this one in a remote part of campus, let me know immediately!*

40% Three scheduled exams. (Scale: A = 90% - 100%; B = 80% - 89%; C = 70% - 79%; D = 60% - 69%; F = 59% and below)

1. All regular exams are scheduled on class meeting days.
2. All exams are weighted equally because the nature of skill development is comprehensive.
3. Exam contents consist of a demonstration of skills and repertoire covered in classes prior to a given exam.
4. Consult the class calendar for specific exam days.
5. All exams are held one-on-one with the instructor in the instructor's office.
6. *Students who are unable to attend an exam at the scheduled time must notify the instructor via e-mail or phone on the day of the exam. If a student fails to show up for an exam or has not notified the instructor regarding an exam absence by the next regular class meeting, the student will receive an automatic "F" for the exam.*
7. *Make-up exams for excused absences will be given during finals week, the*

day and time of which are agreed upon by instructor and student.

Bibliography:

- Alexander, D. (1986). *Alfred's basic adult duet book, Level 1*. Van Nuys, CA: Alfred Publishing Company, Inc.
- Kern, F., Keveren, P., Kreader, B., & Rejino, M. (2005). *Hal leonard adult piano method*. Milwaukee, WI: Hal Leonard Corporation.
- Kern, F., Keveren, P., Kreader, B., & Rejino, M. (2005). *Popular hits book 1*. Milwaukee, WI: Hal Leonard Corporation.
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- Lyke, J., Elliston, R., Caramia, T., & Hartline, E. (1993). *Keyboard musicianship: Group piano for adults, Book 1* (6th ed.). Champaign, IL: Stipes Publishing Company.
- Palmer, W. A., Manus, M., & Lethco, A. V. (1984). *Alfred's basic adult christmas piano book, level 1*. Van Nuys, CA: Alfred Publishing Company, Inc.
- Palmer, W. A., Manus, M., & Lethco, A. V. (1984). *Alfred's basic adult piano lesson book, Level 1*. Van Nuys, CA: Alfred Publishing Company.
- Stecher, M., Horowitz, N., Gordon, C., Kern, R. F. & Lancaster, E. L. (1980). *Keyboard strategies (master text 1)*. Milwaukee, WI: G. Schirmer, Inc.