

**MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION**

**DEPARTMENT of MUSIC
COURSE SYLLABUS**

Course Prefix and Number: MU 1121

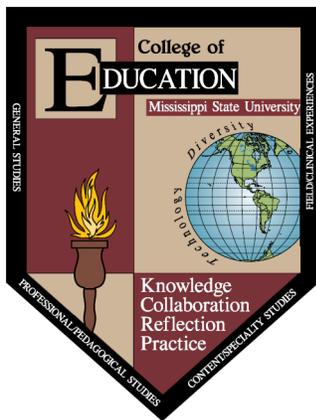
Course Title: Piano Class II

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 [InTASC #1] [CFPO #3]
2. Know how the fingers are numbered for piano playing and use optimal fingering when playing [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 [InTASC #1] [CFPO #3]
4. Play with a steady tempo [InTASC #1] [CFPO #3]
5. Read and play pitches notated with treble and bass clef [InTASC #1] [CFPO #3]
6. Read and play pitches notated on ledger lines above or below the 5-line staff [InTASC #1] [CFPO #3]
7. Play with both hands simultaneously [InTASC #1] [CFPO #3]
8. Read and play basic rhythm values [InTASC #1] [CFPO #3]
9. Recognize, read and play intervals of 2nds to octaves [InTASC #1] [CFPO #3]
10. Translate dynamic and tempo symbols and realize them in playing [InTASC #1] [CFPO #3]
11. Recognize and play sharps, flats and naturals [InTASC #1] [CFPO #3]
12. Recognize and play using staccato and legato touches [InTASC #1] [CFPO #3]
13. Find and play half and whole steps [InTASC #1] [CFPO #3]
14. Construct and play major five note scales (pentascales) in all keys [InTASC #1] [CFPO #3]
15. Construct and play major chords [InTASC #1] [CFPO #3]
16. Construct and play minor pentascales and minor chords [InTASC #1] [CFPO #3]
17. Construct and play major 8-note scales [InTASC #1] [CFPO #3]
18. Construct and play augmented and diminished chords [InTASC #1] [CFPO #3]

19. Construct and play chords in root position, 1st and 2nd inversions [InTASC #1] [CFPO #3]
20. Construct and play, hands separately, the primary chord progression (I-IV-I-V7-I) in any major key from a root position I chord, keeping common tones in place [InTASC #1] [CFPO #3]
21. Understand major key signatures and the circle of fifths [InTASC #1] [CFPO #3]
22. Understand the differences in function of the 3 pedals on a standard piano, and play using the damper pedal [InTASC #1] [CFPO #1, 3]
23. Improvise a melody on black keys, major or minor pentascales, and major scales against a teacher accompaniment [InTASC #1] [CFPO #1, 3]
24. Harmonize melodies with blocked fifths and with triads [InTASC #1] [CFPO #3]
25. Understand and play music written in lead sheet style [InTASC #1] [CFPO #3]
26. Play solo and ensemble repertoire written in a variety of styles such as folk, classical, jazz and popular [InTASC #1] [CFPO #1, 3]

Topics to be Covered:

1. Review of half steps and whole steps and major pentascales and chords; leger lines (4 hours)
2. Minor pentascales and chords (4 hours)
3. Intervals of 6th, 7th and octave; major scales; key signatures and the circle of fifths (4 hours)
4. Augmented and diminished chords; harmonizing melodies; transposition (4 hours)
5. Chord inversions; guitar symbols (lead sheet style notation) (4 hours)
6. Primary chords; sixteenth notes; dominant seventh chords; compound meters (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] [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]

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 class has no 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:

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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.