



Western Nevada College, Carson City, NV
 SYLLABUS - SPRING 2012 - MUSIC 111

PIANO CLASS I, Section 1002, Class No. 20657: Monday & Wednesday 4:00-5:15

INSTRUCTOR: David Bugli (part-time instructor)

OFFICE HOURS: Monday & Wednesday 3:30-4:00 in the piano lab

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(Last updated: 1/22/2012)

PLEASE - Turn off your cell phones!

Please don't eat or drink in class!

Be punctual. I reserve the right to lock out late students.

Students will learn the topics listed at each lecture, as well as receive instruction in piano performance according to their level of proficiency. The instructor may vary the dates for this curriculum slightly should the class need more or less time to master these concepts. Many lectures will include reviews of previous lectures.

Students should do warm-ups and practice their assignments as soon as arriving at class. If you are able to come early to work on the pianos, ask the staff at the Performing Arts Office to unlock the room for you. Our office hours are Monday & Wednesday 3:30-4:00 in the piano lab.

I. First unit of theory corresponds to theory material in method book from pages 1-60 and in the handouts supplied with your syllabus.

M 1/23 W 1/25	Expectations: Punctuality and attendance. Courteousness. Keeping a practice journal. Daily practice. You are responsible for your own learning. Assessing personal goals. How to use the keyboards. Theory: Learning to read notes on the staff. Rhythm: Whole, half, and quarter notes. Book 1 assignment (1/25): pages 8 & 9. Piano: Finding notes on the keyboard. C major 5-finger position.
M 1/30 W 2/1	Theory: Identifying intervals and using them for sight-reading, dynamics. Book 1 assignment (1/30): pages 10 & 11. Book 1 assignment (2/1): pages 12 & 13. Rhythm: Time signatures, Rests, Dotted half notes.
M 2/6 W 2/8	Theory: Accidentals in the body of the music, review. Practicing: Practical ideas, suggestions, and theories. Book 1 assignment (2/6): pages 15 & 16. Book 1 assignment (2/8): pages 16 & 17 Scale assignment (2/6): C major scale, right hand, 1 octave (up and down). Scale assignment (2/8): C major scale, left hand, 1 octave (up and down).

M 2/13 W 2/15	Rhythm: 8th notes. Book 1 assignment (2/13): Pages 18 & 19. Book 1 assignment (2/15): pages 20 thru 23. Scale assignment (2/13): C major scale, both hands, 1 octave (up and down) Scale assignment (2/15): G major scale, left & right hands alone, 1 octave.
M 2/20	<i>President's Day - no class.</i>
W 2/22	1st Midterm: Written test to include note reading, interval identification and rhythms. Book 1 assignment (2/22): pages 24 & 25. Scale assignment (2/22): G major scale, hands together, 1 octave.

II. The theory in this portion of the course is found in the method book on pages 61 and 62 and in the theory handouts.

M 2/27 W 2/29	Theory: Identifying half steps and whole steps. Constructing tetrachords, scales. Understanding key signatures. Book 1 assignment (2/27): pages 26 thru 30. Book 1 assignment (2/29): pages 31 & 32. Scale assignment (2/27): C and G major scales, hands together, 2 octaves.
M 3/5 W 3/7	Rhythm: Dotted quarter notes. Book 1 assignment (3/5): page 33. Book 1 assignment (3/7): pages 34 thru 36. Scale assignment (3/5): D major scale, hands together, 2 octaves.
M 3/12	Theory: A study of sharps: How to identify keys with sharps in the key signature. Book 1 assignment (3/12): page 37. Scale assignment (3/12): A major scale, hands together, 2 octaves.
W 3/14	2nd Midterm: <i>Written test to include scale construction and identifying and writing sharp key signatures, and rhythmic exercises using dotted quarter notes.</i> This class period is for testing only; students are free to practice after their test, but the instructor will not be available to coach their performance. Book 1 assignment (3/14): pages 38 thru 41. Scale assignment (3/14): E major scale, hands together, 2 octaves.
	<i>3/19-3/25 - Spring Break - no class.</i>
M 3/26 W 3/28	Theory: Reversing the process: how to determine which sharps belong in a key signature. Book 1 assignment (3/26): pages 42 & 43. Book 1 assignment (3/28): pages 44 thru 46. Scale assignment (3/26): C and G major scales, hands together, 3 octaves.

III. The theory in this section is covered in the theory handouts supplied with your syllabus.

M 4/2 W 4/4	Theory: How to identify keys with flats in the key signature Rhythm: 6/8 time. Book 1 assignment (4/2): page 47. Book 1 assignment (4/4): pages 48 thru 50. Scale assignment (4/2): D, A, and E major scales, hands together, 3 octaves.
M 4/9 W 4/11	Theory: Reversing the process: how to determine which flats belong in a key signature. Book 1 assignment (4/9): pages 51 & 52. Book 1 assignment (4/11): pages 53 & 54. Scale assignment (4/9): F major scale, hands alone and hands together, 2 octaves.
M 4/16 W 4/18	Theory: Transposition. Book 1 assignment (4/16): pages 55 thru 57. Book 1 assignment (4/18): pages 58 & 59. Scale assignment (4/16): B-flat major scale, hands alone and hands together, 2 octaves.
M 4/23	3rd midterm: <i>Written exercises on identifying and writing flat key signatures and transposition.</i> This class period is for testing only; students are free to practice after their test, but the instructor will not be available to coach their performance. Book 1 assignment (4/23): pages 60 thru 63.

IV. The theory in this section of the course is found on page 64 ff of the method book and in the theory handouts.

W 4/25	Theory: Constructing triads on the major scale. Chord inversions Book 1 assignment (4/25): pages 64 thru 67. Scale assignment (4/25): Chromatic scale on C, right hand, 2 octaves (up and down).
M 4/30 W 5/2	Theory: Writing I, IV, and V7 chords in keyboard harmony positions. Rhythm: 16th notes. Book 1 assignment (4/30): pages 68 & 69. Book 1 assignment (5/2): pages 70 thru 72. Scale assignment (4/30): Chromatic scale on C, left hand, 2 octaves (up and down).
M 5/7 W 5/9	Theory: Understanding the principles of harmony: how to select chords to harmonize a melody. Book 1 assignment (5/7): page 73. Book 1 assignment (5/9): pages 74 thru 77. Scale assignment (5/7): E-flat major scale, hands alone and hands together, 2 octaves.
M 5/14	Exercise in harmonizing melodies. Final listening session (for performance part of the grade).
W 5/16	Final: <i>Written test to include writing triads and their inversions, writing harmonies for melodies in keyboard harmony position.</i> Rhythm exercises using 16th notes.

The basic text for this class is *Alfred's Basic Adult Piano Course Lesson Book, Level 1* (which I refer to as "Method Book 1" or as "Book 1"). Although assignments are listed for Book 1, above, they are likely to vary, based on the progress of the class. Students wishing to pursue other, more challenging material after completing Book 1 assignments may negotiate further assignments with the teacher for extra credit. Additional material will be presented in class.

When more than one class date is listed per topic, the secondary dates are generally used to continue topics begun at the previous class section or to focus on piano performance. Students are expected to come to all class sessions. Grades will be computed as follows:

- Exams: 40% of grade
- Piano performance: 45% of grade
- Maintenance of practice journal: 5% of grade
- Class participation and attendance: 10% of grade

Piano performance grade is determined by the amount of material that the instructor marks completed for each student. To earn a 100% in piano performance, a student *should* complete through p.71 of the method book one. Partial completion of this goal will receive partial credit.

Fifteen points will be added to the Final Exam grade if the student attends one live classical or jazz performance during the semester and hands in a 300-word report on the performance, including who performed, what was performed, when it was performed, and the student's reaction to the music.

I will assign letter grades in all of my classes, using pluses or minuses. I do not choose to give Fs to students who are not successful in the class: I prefer to give Ws to avoid hurting their grade point averages. The grade breakdown in percentages is as follows:

94% and above: A	77-79.9%: C+
90-93.9%: A-	74-76.9%: C
87-89.9%: B+	70-73.9%: C-
84-86.9%: B	60-69.9%: D
80-83.9%: B-	0-59.9%: W

Students who wish to progress in piano skills should allow for 30 to 45 minutes per day minimum practice time. Practice in the lab if no classes are in session there. Students will maintain a practice journal, which will be examined by the instructor, from time to time (5% of the final grade).

Midterms will only be made up if the student is ill and notifies the instructor in advance. Exceptions to this rule may be made at the discretion of the teacher.

If you are interested in playing more music than what is in your book, you can get supplementary books (pop or classical) mid-way through Book I.

COURSE DATA

MUS 111: PIANO CLASS I

3 credits. Prerequisite: none

Introduces the piano, including instruction in note reading, technique, theory and easy repertoire. Students work in a laboratory setting, each using their own electronic piano. In fulfillment of the mission for the General Education requirement, this course helps students to:

- Have an understanding of fine arts or performing arts

In fulfillment of the Associate of Arts in Musical Theatre, this course satisfies the piano proficiency requirement.

Disability Statement

If you have a disability for which you will need to request accommodations, please contact the Disability Support Services office (Bristlecone building, Room 103) at 445-3266 or 445-3275 as soon as possible to arrange for appropriate accommodations.

Early Alert Warning Systems

Please note that in an effort to help students successfully complete their courses, the Counseling office on campus will ask faculty for names of students they feel may be in need of additional assistance. A counselor may contact you to offer some ideas.