

**AMUS 3221 102 Applied Jazz Piano**  
**Fall 2022**  
**Midwestern State University**

**Instructor Course Information**

Instructor: Alyssa Ham

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Office Hours: By appointment

**Course Description:** This course focuses on the fundamentals of playing piano in the jazz idiom.

**Course Objectives:**

Students taking this course will focus on learning appropriate jazz chords and voicings, including two-handed comping, reading jazz piano music, improvisation, and learning of the various styles of jazz, including but not limited to the blues, modal jazz, bebop, and Latin jazz styles.

**Grading:**

A - 90-100%

B - 80-89%

C - 70-79%

D - 60-69%

F - 59% and below

Grading for this course is based on attendance and preparation for lessons.

**Three** unexcused absences will result in a deduction of the final grade by ten points.

**Five** or more unexcused absences will result in a final letter grade no higher than a "C."

Absences due to illness or participation in a university event can be excused.

- Daily participation and preparation: 30%
- Assigned Competencies: 40%
- Final Exam: 30%

The instructor reserves the right to adjust assignments as the course progresses.

**Cell Phones:** Cell phones may be used in this class only in ways that will benefit the students' musical learning, such as a metronome application. Students should not rely on his/her/their cell phone to read music, as the small screen makes music reading more difficult. Cell phones should be set to silent mode and must not distract from the learning environment.

**Special Needs:** If a student needs class accommodation(s) because of a documented disability, has an emergency medical condition that may interfere with class performance, or requires special handling in case the building must be evacuated, he/she is encouraged to contact the office of Disability Support Services in room 168 Clark Student Center and make an appointment with the professor as soon as possible

**D2L and Privacy:** The syllabus and handouts will be available through Midwestern State University's D2L system. Federal privacy law prohibits the instructor from releasing information about students to certain parties outside of the university without the signed written consent of the student.

**Social Justice:** Social justice is one of Midwestern State University's stated core values, and the professor considers the classroom a safe place where students are treated with respect as human beings, regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, national origin, religious affiliation, sexual orientation, political beliefs, age, or ability. Diversity of thought is appreciated and encouraged, provided the students can agree to disagree. The professor's expectation is that all students consider the classroom a safe environment.

**Campus Carry:** Senate Bill 11 passed by the 84th Texas Legislature allows licensed handgun holders to carry concealed handguns on campus, effective August 1, 2016. Areas excluded from concealed carry are appropriately marked, in accordance with the state law. For more information regarding campus carry, please refer to the University's webpage at MSU Texas Campus Carry Rules.