

MUSC 1111 201 Beginning Piano
Spring 2022
Midwestern State University

	Instructor Course Information
Instructor	Dr. Susan Harvey
Time	MW 10:00 am – 10:50 am
Location	Fain Fine Arts B124
Email	susan.harvey@msutexas.edu
Office	C117H
Office Hours	Posted outside office All remote: email for appointments
Phone	930-397-4916

Course Description

Music majors and minors with little or no piano performance background learn fundamental piano performance skills. Students develop personal musicianship and keyboard skills necessary to pass the keyboard proficiency requirements.

Course Objectives

Students will:

- Learn keyboard technique including posture, hand position, and finger patterns
- Sight-read simple music using both hands (i.e. folk songs)
- Develop musicianship skills including ear training and rhythmic reading
- Learn major scales
- Harmonize and improvise accompaniment to simple songs
- Learn chord progressions
- Transpose simple melodies
- Perform simple pieces hands together
- Implement basic music theory into piano performance

Required Textbook and Materials

Alfred's Group Piano for Adults, Book 1, second edition; by E.L.
Lancaster and Kenon D. Renfrow
Personal headphones or earbuds

Attendance

Beginning piano is a performance class. Students participate daily in individual and group activities. Activities are cumulative in organization, building on previously learned concepts. Therefore, attendance is crucial to personal development. Each absence that exceeds the allotted absences reduces the final grade by one letter grade. Tardies count toward absences. Students who arrive ten minutes late will be marked absent from class. Nonparticipation in class equals one absence for each occurrence. Class participation includes all classroom activities - singing, rhythmic reading, practicing assigned material, and performing individually and as an ensemble. The instructor may drop a student from the course for excessive absences (5 or more).

Student Expectations and Conduct

Students are required to participate in all class activities and practice daily assigned material in preparation for each class. Students are to conduct themselves in a professional manner so that all students may learn without distraction and disruption.

College students are adults and are expected to behave accordingly. Classroom behavior that interferes with either the instructor's ability to conduct class or the ability of the other students to benefit from instruction will result in the instructor's removing the disruptive student(s) from class.

Cell Phones and Other Recording Devices

The use of cell phones and other recording or electronic devices is strictly prohibited during class. The instructor may direct, from time to time, on the possible use of cell phones for legitimate class reasons. Recording the class is prohibited, unless it is part of a reasonable accommodation under ADA, or by obtaining written consent by the instructor.

Grading Scale

%	Letter Grade
90-100	A
80-89	B
70-79	C
60-60	D
59-below	F

Course Evaluation

%	Assignments
20	Class Participation/Preparation Credit is earned by participating in all activities including preparing homework
60	Assigned Competencies (weekly assignments) Competencies are individualized for each student
20	Passing Assigned Piano Proficiencies

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

Semester Proficiencies

First semester: group 1 major scales

Second semester: group 2 major scales, selected minor scales, major broken chords

Third semester: group 3 major scales, major chord progressions, minor chord progressions, prepared piece

Fourth semester: prepared melody with accompaniment, sight reading, transposition, prepared piece

To pass Piano Class, students must pass assigned piano proficiencies with a minimum score of 70% for each proficiency.

Weekly Assignments

Students receive weekly assignments to complete from Alfred's Piano Book. Practicing outside of class to complete them is expected. Students are expected to complete all assigned activities and pass designated proficiencies.

Students will be assigned skills that prepare students for future proficiencies. For example, students will practice sight reading and transposition in preparation for the fourth semester of piano.

Special Needs

If a student needs class accommodation(s) because of a documented disability, (2) has an emergency medical condition that may interfere with class performance, or (3) 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 940(397-4140) and make an appointment with the professor as soon as possible

Office Hours

Contact Dr. Harvey via D2L email to request a meeting during office hours. If you are unavailable during those times, she has five flexible hours to coordinate a meeting. Meeting will be via phone, zoom, or facetime. You may also call her office during scheduled office hours. However, she will not answer if she is meeting with a student.

Covid-19: Vaccines and Face Coverings:

Scientific data shows that being fully vaccinated is the most effective way to prevent and slow the spread of COVID-19 and has the greatest probability of avoiding serious illness if infected in all age groups. Although MSU Texas is not mandating vaccinations in compliance with Governor Abbott's executive orders, we highly encourage eligible members of our community to get a vaccination. If you have questions or concerns about the vaccine, please contact your primary care physician or health care professional. Given the recent rise in cases, individuals are also strongly encouraged to wear facial coverings when indoors among groups of people, regardless of vaccination status. Although MSU Texas is not currently requiring facial coverings, they have been an effective strategy in slowing the spread.

Any time during the semester, everything in this course could change with very little notice. That means deadlines, projects, even weighted percentages for each component of the course could change. If this happens, students will be notified ASAP. Safety and health of all are the number one consideration. You are required to follow all best practices as they are developed during this crisis.

If you feel sick, do not come to class. If you need to miss class, contact me and I will work with you.

Classroom Cleaning Protocols

Students using the Piano Lab will clean their piano and space before and after class. Time is allotted in the 50 minutes to clean their area.

D2L

All handouts and other information will be available through the MSU D2L system, the gradebook in D2L will be enabled. Students are expected to understand how to navigate D2L, even if we continue with in-person classes.

If you experience problems with D2L, please let me know as soon as possible. In addition, the D2L page has a “Report A Problem” function on the top navigation bar as well as a FAQ function in the middle of the page on the right.

Privacy Statement

Federal privacy law prohibits the instructor from releasing information about students to certain parties outside of the university without the signed consent of the student. Thus, in almost all cases the professor will not discuss students’ academic progress or other matters with their parents. Please do not have them call. Regardless of these important legal considerations, the professors’ general policy is to communicate with the students, not their parents, even when a student has signed a consent form. College students are adults and are expected to behave accordingly.

Academic Dishonesty

Academic dishonesty including plagiarism and giving or receiving unauthorized assistance is prohibited. Plagiarism is (1) the use of source material of other persons (either published or unpublished, including the Internet) without following the accepted techniques of giving credit or (2) the submission for credit of work not the individual’s to whom credit is given. If a student in the class plagiarizes material, appropriate disciplinary action will be taken. The Student Honor Creed developed and adopted by the MSU Student Government reinforces the discouragement of plagiarism and other unethical behaviors. The first statement of the creed reads, “As an MSU student, I pledge not to lie, cheat, steal, or help anyone else do so.” Plagiarism is lying, cheating, and stealing.

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. Moreover, 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 state law. For more information regarding campus carry, please refer to the University’s webpage at [MSU Campus Carry Rules](#).

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