



Course Syllabus: course name

College of Fine Arts
MUSI 1131 Section 101
Fall 2026 MW 9:00-10:00am

Contact Information

Instructor: Erica Rumbley
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Course Description

Class instruction in piano for students with no previous background; emphasis on the development of fundamental skills. Majors/minors only.

Course Objectives

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 keyboard proficiency requirements.

Students will:

- Review 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
- Continue learning major scales
- Continue learning minor scales
- Harmonize and improvise accompaniment to simple songs
- Continue learning chord progressions
- Transpose simple pieces
- Perform pieces hands together
- Learn broken chords in major
- Implement basic music theory into piano performance

Textbook & Instructional Materials

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

Study Hours and Tutoring Assistance

Contact the Instructor.

Student Handbook

Refer to: [Student Handbook](#)

Academic Misconduct Policy & Procedures

Academic Dishonesty: Cheating, collusion, and plagiarism (the act of using source material of other persons, either published or unpublished, without following the accepted techniques of crediting, or the submission for credit of work not the individual's to whom credit is given). Additional guidelines on procedures in these matters may be found in the Office of Student Conduct.

[Office of Student Conduct](#)

Moffett Library

Moffett Library provides resources and services to support student's studies and assignments, including books, peer-reviewed journals, databases, and multimedia materials accessible both on campus and remotely. The library offers media equipment checkout, reservable study rooms, and research assistance from librarians to help students effectively find, evaluate, and use information. Get started on this [Moffett Library webpage](#) to explore these resources and learn how to best utilize the library.

Grading

Table 1: Points allocated to each assignment

Assignments	Percentage
Class Participation/Preparation	40
Playing/Scale Quizzes	20
Exams (Competencies)	30
Performance	10
Total	100

Table 2: Total points for final grade.

Grade	Percentage
A	90

Grade	Percentage
B	80 to 90
C	70 to 80
D	60-70
F	Less than 60

Homework

Students will receive assignments weekly to prepare from *Alfred's Group Piano* or supplemental resources. Students are expected to practice regularly outside of class to complete these assignments and pass assigned proficiencies.

Quizzes

All quizzes will be short playing quizzes to help students prepare for the assigned proficiencies and performance pieces.

Projects Required

During the semester, students will prepare one piece for an informal final performance at the end of the semester. Students will also work on one ensemble piece for performance.

Mid-Term and Final Exam

Students will perform Piano Proficiencies at midterm (October 19) and during the university final exam time for the class.

Final Exam

Monday, December 7, 2026

8-10am

Piano Proficiencies by Semester

- Piano Class 1: group 1 major scales
- Piano Class 2: group 2 major scales, selected minor scales, major broken chords
- Piano Class 3: group 3 major scales, major chord progressions, minor chord progressions, prepared piece
- Piano Class 4: prepared melody with accompaniment, sight reading, transposition, prepared piece

Late Work

Late work will be accepted, however, ten percentage points will be deducted from the grade for each week it is late, up to 40 percentage points.

Make Up Work/Tests

Make-up work is allowed, however, ten percentage points will be automatically deducted from the grade. The only exceptions to this deduction are legitimate emergency situations and approved absences.

Important Dates

- Last day for term schedule changes: September 16, 2026.
- Deadline to file for graduation: September 21, 2026.
- Last Day to drop with a grade of "W:" November 23, 2026.
- Refer to: [Drops, Withdrawals & Void](#)

Desire-to-Learn (D2L)

Extensive use of the MSU D2L program is a part of this course. Each student is expected to be familiar with this program as it provides a primary source of communication regarding assignments, examination materials, and general course information. You can log into [D2L](#) through the MSU Homepage. If you experience difficulties, please contact the technicians listed for the program or contact your instructor.

Attendance

Piano Class 3 is a performance and participation class, with daily individual and group activities. These activities build on one another to develop skills and help students learn concepts. Therefore, attendance is crucial to personal development.

Each student is allowed two unexcused absences—after this, each unexcused absence will lower the attendance grade by 5%. If you have an emergency and must be absent, please let me know in advance, and make sure to do any make-up work from the day you miss.

Online Computer Requirements

This is a face-to-face class, with most of the work done at the keyboard. D2L will be used for grades, important information, and additional practice resources. Students need to have a reliable way to access the internet away from the classroom in order to check grades and use any online resources provided.

Instructor Class Policies

Piano Class 3 is an opportunity for students to develop keyboard and musicianship skills in a supportive, encouraging environment. In order to make this possible, everyone needs to be engaged and committed. Therefore I ask that you abide by the following policies.

- Practice outside of class—I can't stress this enough. In order to make any real progress, you need to be practicing on a daily basis.
- Arrive on time for class, set up and ready to go.
- Refrain from cellphone usage during class—this is one of the quickest and easiest ways to eliminate distraction and improve focus.
- Treat other students and the instructor with respect, so that everyone can feel comfortable and thrive in our classes.

Change of Schedule

A student dropping a course (but not withdrawing from the University) within the first 12 class days of a regular semester or the first four class days of a summer semester is eligible for a 100% refund of applicable tuition and fees. Dates are published in the Schedule of Classes each semester.

Refund and Repayment Policy

A student who withdraws or is administratively withdrawn from Midwestern State University (MSU) may be eligible to receive a refund for all or a portion of the tuition, fees and room/board charges that were paid to MSU for the semester. HOWEVER, if the student received financial aid (federal/state/institutional grants, loans and/or scholarships), all or a portion of the refund may be returned to the financial aid programs. As described below, two formulas (federal and state) exist in determining the amount of the refund. (Examples of each refund calculation will be made available upon request).

Services for Students with Disabilities

In accordance with Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Midwestern State University endeavors to make reasonable accommodations to ensure equal opportunity for qualified persons with disabilities to participate in all educational, social, and recreational programs and activities. After notification of acceptance, students requiring accommodations should make application for such assistance through Disability Support Services, located in the Student Wellness Center, (940) 397-4140. Current documentation of a disability will be required in order to provide appropriate services, and each request will be individually reviewed. For more details, please go to [Disability Support Services](#).

Emergency Aid Resources for Basic Needs

Unexpected life circumstances can affect anyone. If you are experiencing challenges meeting basic needs—such as housing, utilities, food, transportation, healthcare, technology, textbooks or other life necessities, resources may be available to help. Visit the [Student Emergency Support and Resources webpage](#) to learn more, and explore emergency support opportunities through MSU and how to access them. For additional information, please contact the Office of Student Affairs: Clark Student Center #108, (940) 397-7500, student.affairs@mstuexas.edu.

College Policies

Campus Carry Rules/Policies

Refer to: [Campus Carry Rules and Policies](#)

Smoking/Tobacco Policy

College policy strictly prohibits the use of tobacco products in any building owned or operated by WATC. Adult students may smoke only in the outside designated-smoking areas at each location.

Alcohol and Drug Policy

To comply with the Drug Free Schools and Communities Act of 1989 and subsequent amendments, students and employees of Midwestern State are informed that strictly enforced policies are in place which prohibits the unlawful possession, use or distribution of any illicit drugs, including alcohol, on university property or as part of any university-sponsored activity. Students and employees are also subject to all applicable legal sanctions under local, state and federal law for any offenses involving illicit drugs on University property or at University-sponsored activities.

Campus Carry

Effective August 1, 2016, the Campus Carry law (Senate Bill 11) allows those licensed individuals to carry a concealed handgun in buildings on public university campuses, except in locations the University establishes has prohibited. The new Constitutional Carry law does not change this process. Concealed carry still requires a License to Carry permit, and openly carrying handguns is not allowed on college campuses. For more information, visit [Campus Carry](#).

Active Shooter

The safety and security of our campus is the responsibility of everyone in our community. Each of us has an obligation to be prepared to appropriately respond to threats to our campus, such as an active aggressor. Please review the information provided by MSU Police Department regarding the options and strategies we can all use to stay safe during difficult situations. For more information, visit [MSUReady – Active Shooter](#). Students are encouraged to watch the video entitled “Run. Hide. Fight.” which may be electronically accessed via the University police department’s webpage: ["Run. Hide. Fight."](#)

Grade Appeal Process

Update as needed. Students who wish to appeal a grade should consult the Midwestern State University [MSU Catalog](#)

***Notice:** Changes in the course syllabus, procedure, assignments, and schedule may be made at the discretion of the instructor.

Course Schedule:

Specific material covered will depend upon the students' level and progress.
Tentative Schedule for quizzes/exams:

Playing Quiz #1—September 9

Scale Quiz #1—September 23

Playing Quiz #2—October 7

Midterm—October 19

Scale Quiz #2—November 4

Playing Quiz #3—November 18

Final Exam—December 7

Standards/Competencies and Corresponding Activities

Competencies	Activities
SBEC EC-12 Music Domain II Music Theory and Composition	
<i>Competency 004: The teacher knows how to read, write, and interpret standard music notation.</i>	
A. Knows standard music terminology and identifies and interprets music symbols and terms from notation (e.g., dynamics, embellishments, articulation markings, tempo markings).	Students will utilize standard musical terminology as they progress through the fundamentals of playing piano.
B. Recognizes clefs, keys and meters; recognizes scales and pitch collections (e.g., modal, major, minor, pentatonic, whole-tone); identifies specific melodic and harmonic intervals; and identifies different rhythms and meters.	Students will learn major scales in all keys with appropriate fingering. They will harmonize and improvise accompaniments to simple songs and perform simple pieces with hands together.
C. Reads melodies in various modes and tonalities; interprets rhythmic and melodic phrases from notation; and reads music that incorporates complex rhythmic	Students will learn chord progressions, sight-read, transpose, and implement music theoretical

patterns in simple, compound and asymmetric meters.	skills and techniques into piano performance.
SBEC EC-12 Music Domain IV Music Classroom Performance	
<i>Competency 009: The teacher demonstrates knowledge of methods and techniques for playing musical instruments.</i>	
A. Understands performance skills and appropriate playing techniques (e.g., bowing, fingering, embouchure, rudiments) for a range of instruments (e.g., band, orchestral, classroom).	Students will learn keyboard techniques including posture, hand position, and finger patterns.