



Course Syllabus: Piano IV

College of Fine Arts

MUSC 1151

Spring 2026 01/20/26 – 05/14/26

2:00 p.m.

Mondays and Wednesdays – B124

Contact Information

Instructor: Dr. Jennifer Amox

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Office hours: Sign up for office hours via Calendly:

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Course Description

Emphasis on basic skills to pass the piano proficiency. Majors/Minors only. Music majors and minors continue to develop personal musicianship and keyboard skills necessary to pass the Piano Proficiency requirements.

Textbook & Instructional Materials

- Lancaster, E.L. and Renfrow, K.D. *Alfred's Group Piano for Adults*. Book 1. 2nd ed.
- Personal headphones or earbuds

Student Learning Outcomes

The Student Learning Objectives (SLOs) for this course reinforce the Texas Examination of Educator Standards (TExES) State Board of Educator Certification (SBEC) EC-12 music standards. Following is a list of the SBEC competencies addressed in this course.

Competency 004: I know how to read, write, and interpret standard music notation.

SBEC 004.A I know standard music terminology and how to identify and interpret music symbols and terms from notation (e.g. dynamics, embellishments, articulation markings, tempo markings) by:

- Performing prepared solo piano literature in a musically and stylistically appropriate manner

SBEC 004.B I can recognize clefs, keys, meters, scales and pitch collections and can identify specific melodic and harmonic intervals and different rhythms and meters by:

- Playing major and minor scales on the piano
- Performing prepared solo piano literature
- Sight-reading simple piano literature

SBEC 004.C I can read melodies in various modes and tonalities, interpret rhythmic and melodic phrases from notation, and read music that incorporates complex rhythmic patterns in simple, compound, and asymmetric meters by:

- Performing prepared solo piano literature
- Sight-reading simple piano literature

Competency 005: I understand methods and techniques of musical composition and improvisation.

SBEC 005.C I can improvise using standard techniques by:

- Harmonizing simple melodies with complementary chordal accompaniment
- Transposing single-line melodies

Competency 009: I can demonstrate knowledge of methods and techniques for playing musical instruments.

SBEC 009.A I understand performance skills and appropriate playing techniques for the piano by:

- Developing proper keyboard technique including posture, hand position, and finger patterns

Study Hours and Tutoring Assistance

The music department provides free tutoring for all music theory courses. Please see the instructor for more information.

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

This course will use an alternative competency-based grading model. This section will lay out the details of this system so that you know what you must achieve to earn a particular grade.

Table 1: Percentage allocated to each assignment

Assignments	Percentage
Class Participation/Preparation	20%
Assigned Weekly Competencies	60%
Assigned Piano Proficiencies	20%

Table 2: Grading Scale

Grade	Percentage
A	90-100%
B	80-89%
C	70-79%
D	60-69%
F	0-59%

Weekly Assigned Competencies

Students receive weekly assignments to complete from the textbook and supplemental materials. 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 and reinforce theory knowledge.

Piano Proficiencies

- All 12 major scales, traditional fingerings, one octave, hands separately
 - Group 1 (C, G, D, A, E)
 - Group 2 B, G \flat , D \flat
 - Group 3 (A \flat , E \flat , B \flat , F)
- Natural, harmonic, and melodic minor scales, one octave, hands separately
 - Keys of a, e, and d minor
- All major broken chords – 1 octave, ascending and descending half-steps, hands separately
- Prepared melody with primary-triad accompaniment using acceptable pattern
- Sight-reading of a simple piece (e.g. folk song) – hands together
- Transposition of a single line melody
- Two prepared contrasting pieces as approved by instructor
- Major and minor chord progressions – up to 4 flats and 4 sharps, hands separately

Important Dates

- Last day for term schedule changes: Check date on [Academic Calendar](#).
- Deadline to file for graduation: Check date on [Academic Calendar](#).
- Last Day to drop with a grade of "W:" Refer to: [Drops, Withdrawals & Void](#)

Attendance

Piano Class 3 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. Students may miss class twice without a final grade reduction. Each absence above the allotted two absences reduces the final grade by one letter grade. Tardies count toward absences. Students who arrive ten minutes late will be marked as absent from class. Nonparticipation in class equals one absence for each occurrence. 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. 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.

Hearing Loss and Health

As a musician, your hearing is one of your most valuable assets. Unfortunately, high exposure to sound-producing activities can lead to noise-induced hearing loss. While this can be temporary, it can lead to tinnitus (ringing in the ears), permanent loss of hearing (particularly in the higher frequencies), and deafness. In addition to affecting a student's enjoyment of music, it also may render them incapable of continuing as a professional musician or music educator.

Musicians are also susceptible to musculoskeletal and vocal injury, particularly overuse injury. Failure to take adequate precautions can greatly shorten a student's performing career.

Means to minimize risks associated with hearing loss and performance-related injuries will be discussed during applied lessons and/or masterclasses. Faculty members can only present information to students and offer resources and assistance in seeking professional medical help when needed. The student has the final responsibility to take proper precautions.

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) exists 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](#).

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:

The course schedule is individualized for each student.