

**MUSC 1151 201 PIANO CLASS IV**  
**Spring 2025**  
**Midwestern State University**

	Instructor Course Information
Instructor	Dr. Ruth Morrow
Time	MW 11:00a – 11:50a
Location	Fain Fine Arts B124
Email	ruth.morrow@msutexas.edu
Office	C117F
Office Hours	See schedule by office door
Phone	940-397-4789

**Prerequisite:** MUSC 1111 with a minimum grade of C, or placement by instructor.

**Course Description:** Emphasis on basic skills to pass the piano proficiency. Majors/minors only. May be repeated for credit.

Music majors and minors continue to develop personal musicianship and keyboard skills necessary to pass the Piano Proficiency requirements.

**Course Objectives:**

Students will reinforce and continue developing skills:

- 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 and minor scales
- Harmonize and improvise accompaniment to simple songs
- Learn chord progressions
- Transpose simple melodies
- Perform simple pieces hands together
- Implement 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

**Student Evaluation:**

The student's final grade will consist of the following evaluations:

- Daily participation/preparation: 30%
- Assigned Competencies: 40%
- Final Exam: (Perform selected piano proficiencies during exam week) 30%

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

**Grading Scale:**

A = 90-100%

B = 80-89%

C = 70-79%

D = 60-69%

F = 0-59%

**Semester Objectives:**

This is the fourth semester in a four-semester sequence. Emphasis is on completing what requirements remain for each student of the Piano Proficiency. While it is hoped that students will be able to complete the Piano Proficiency requirements within this time frame, certain students will need additional time and focus that applied lessons can provide.

**Attendance:**

Piano Class 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 more than the two allotted absences reduces the final grade ten points. 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. Tardy arrival to class will count as 1/2 of an absence and will affect the student's grade accordingly. **Note:** The instructor may drop a student from the course for excessive absences (5 or more).

**Weekly Assignments:**

Students receive weekly assignments to complete from Alfred's Piano Book of supplemental materials. Practicing outside of class to complete them is expected. Students are expected to complete all assigned activities and pass designated proficiencies. Assignments are individualized for each student; however, **semester 3** is to cover Group III major scales, major and minor chord progressions, and one prepared piece; **semester 4** covers prepared melodic accompaniment, sight-reading, transposition, and the 2<sup>nd</sup> prepared piece.

**Student Expectation and Conduct:**

Students are required to participate in all class activities and practice daily to develop and acquire piano skills. 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, either temporarily or permanently (instructor drop), and receive a final lower grade, up to and including an F. In addition, and depending on the nature of the behavior or conduct, the student(s) may be subject to further disciplinary actions as per MSU policies.

**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.

**Campus Closure and Delayed Start Policy**

In the event of official closure of the MSU Texas campus this class will not meet.

Assignments that were due on days of closure will be have adjusted due dates should the closure be due to weather, as it is impossible to predict power outages, etc., that might preclude uploading assignments and/or completing online activities, quizzes, and tests. As a delayed start for Monday/Wednesday classes will allow our class to meet, attendance will be taken as normal and all assignments will proceed as usual.

**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:**

Dr. Morrow has five schedule office hours to meet with her; these are posted on her schedule on the door to C117F and beside C117K. Requesting a meeting during office hours is preferred to ensure she is available. If you are unavailable during those times, she has five flexible hours to coordinate a meeting. Meetings can be in-person, via phone, zoom, or facetime. You may call her office during scheduled office hours; however, she may 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.

**Classroom Cleaning Protocols:**

Each classroom on campus has cleaning protocols. Students in the Department of Music are encouraged to follow cleaning protocol before and after class. Students will be taught cleaning protocols and will have time allotted to clean their area at the end of class.

**Piano Lab Cleaning Protocols:**

Students in the Piano Lab will be taught cleaning protocols for the pianos. Time will be allotted to clean their area at the end of class.

**D2L:**

All handouts and other information will be available through the MSU D2L system, the gradebook in D2L will be enabled. 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 created by the individual 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 Texas Campus Carry Rules](#).