



Course Syllabus: course name

Fain College of Fine Arts

AMUS 1231, 101

Fall 2026

Contact Information

Instructor: Erica Rumbley

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Course Description

This course offers private piano instruction, with weekly lessons and individualized repertoire. It allows students the opportunity to engage in the selection of pieces, ask questions, and grow as musicians and individuals. In order to get the most of the course, it is necessary to dedicate significant time to out-of-class practice and preparation.

Course Objectives

This course is an individual private piano lesson for students to attain skills to pass the Piano Proficiency. Assignments are based on student ability and needs. This is offered in place of Piano Class (I-IV). Students will:

- Review keyboard technique including posture, hand position, and finger patterns
- Sight-read simple music using both hands (i.e. folk songs)
- Continue learning major and minor scales
- Harmonize and improvise accompaniment to simple songs
- Learn chord progressions
- Transpose simple melodies
- Perform pieces hands together
- Learn broken chords in major key
- 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

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Dishonesty: Cheating, collusion, and plagiarism (the act of using source material of other persons, either published or unpublished, without following the accepted techniques of crediting, or the submission for credit of work not the individual's to whom credit is given).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
Assigned Competencies, etudes, skills. Competencies are individualized for each student.	40
Passing Assigned Piano Proficiencies	40
Attendance and Preparation	20

Table 2: Total points for final grade.

Grade	Points
A	90 - 100
B	80 - 89
C	70 - 79
D	60 - 69
F	Less than 60

Homework

All homework consists of assignments made on an individual basis to help students develop their skills, with the goal of passing the required proficiencies.

Quizzes

There are no quizzes, but students do need to prepare assigned pieces in order to make sufficient progress.

Exams

There are no exams in this class aside from passing the required proficiencies. Midterm proficiencies will be offered in mid-October, and final proficiencies will be taken on December 7 or 8.

Projects Required

All projects will be performance-based, such as pieces and technical exercises given for the student to practice

Midterm Piano Proficiencies

A date will be given for students to play Piano Proficiencies midsemester. Once a date is set, students may sign up for a time. Students must demonstrate they have learned the proficiency in their lesson before signing up.

Final Exam

Students will sign up for a time to play their piano proficiencies during the scheduled exam time for any of the Piano Class meetings. Students must demonstrate they have learned the proficiency in class before signing up for a time. The Final Exams Times available are:

Monday, December 7, 8-10 am

Tuesday, December 8, 5:45-7:45 pm

Wednesday, December 9, 5:45-7:45 pm

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

This is a private lesson, so your attendance is extremely important every week. If for any reason you need to miss or reschedule, please reach out to me at least 24 hours in advance. In the event of an emergency, let me know as soon as possible, and we can try to reschedule as time allows.

Online Computer Requirements

This is a face-to-face applied lesson, so very little use will be made of D2L. You will need access to log on and view your grades, and possibly music or assignments posted there.

Instructor Class Policies

In order to get the most out of your lessons, it is necessary to put in a considerable amount of time outside of class. Daily practice is the foundation of musical progress, so make every effort to practice on a daily basis if at all possible. We will create your assignments and repertoire based upon the progress you make, so the more effort you put forth, the more exciting skills you can develop!

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:

The course schedule is flexible and individualized for each student.

Texas Competencies

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.