

**MUSC 1131 102 Piano Class 3**  
**Fall 2023**  
**Midwestern State University**

**Instructor Course Information**

Instructor: Alyssa Ham

Time: MW 11:00a - 11:50a

Location: Fain Fine Arts B124

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Office Hours: By appointment

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

**Course Description:** Students will learn and continue to develop piano skills that are required to pass the Piano Proficiency exams. This course is for music majors/minors and may be repeated for credit.

**Semester Objectives:**

This is the third semester of a four-semester course. Students taking this course will focus on the remaining skills that are necessary to pass the Piano Proficiency exams. Individualized plans of study will be given to students based on his/her/their specific needs. The completion of the Piano Proficiency exams may require additional time and focus that applied lessons can provide.

**Course Objectives:**

- Continue developing keyboard technique, including hand position, posture, and finger exercises.
- Sight read simple music.
- Finish learning major and minor scales, hands separate.
- Learn basic chord progressions and one-octave arpeggios.
- Perform simple repertoire in a musically and stylistically appropriate manner.
- Harmonize simple songs, like folk songs, with complementary chordal accompaniment.
- Transpose single-line melodies.
- Continue developing ear training and rhythmic reading.

**Required Textbook and Materials**

- Alfred's Group Piano for Adults, Book 1, second edition by E.L. Lancaster
- Personal headphones or earbuds

## **Grading:**

- A - 90-100%
- B - 80-89%
- C - 70-79%
- D - 60-69%
- F - 59% and below

Grading for this course is based on attendance, class participation and preparation, and the final exam. For the final exam, students will perform selected piano proficiencies at the end of the semester during exam week.

20% Class participation

60% Assigned competencies and exercises from the textbook and handouts.

20% Passing assigned competencies

**Attendance:** Students are allowed **two** absences for the semester without a grade reduction. 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)

**Cell Phones:** Cell phones may be used in this class only in ways that will benefit the students' musical learning, such as a metronome application. Students should not rely on his/her/their cell phone to read music, as the small screen makes music reading more difficult. Cell phones should be set to silent mode and must not distract from the learning environment of the classroom.

**Special Needs:** If a student needs class accommodation(s) because of a documented disability, has an emergency medical condition that may interfere with class performance, or 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 and make an appointment with the professor as soon as possible

**D2L and Privacy:** The syllabus and handouts will be available through Midwestern State University's D2L system. Federal privacy law prohibits the instructor from releasing information about students to certain parties outside of the university without the signed written consent of the student.

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

**AI Statement:** The use of generative AI tools (e.g. ChatGPT, AI Chat, etc.) are not permitted in this course; therefore, any use of AI tools for work in this class may be considered a violation of MSU Texas' Academic Integrity policy and the Student Code of Conduct since the work is not your own. The use of unauthorized AI tools will result in referral to the Office of Student Conduct.



**Appendix A**  
**Standards/Competencies and Corresponding Activities**

Competencies	Activities
<b>SBEC EC-12 Music Domain II Music Theory and Composition</b>	
<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 and minor scales, choral warm-ups, harmonize simple songs, transpose single-line melodies, and elementary to intermediate pieces of piano literature (depending on their incoming skills).
C. Reads melodies in various modes and tonalities; interprets rhythmic and melodic phrases from notation; and reads music that incorporates complex rhythmic patterns in simple, compound and asymmetric meters.	Students will learn chord progressions, sight-read, transpose, and implement music theoretical skills and techniques into piano performance.
<b>SBEC EC-12 Music Domain IV Music Classroom Performance</b>	
<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).	Student will learn keyboard technique including posture, hand position, and finger patterns.