

MUSC 1111 102 Piano Class 1  
Fall 2023  
Midwestern State University

	Instructor Course Information
Instructor	Dr. Susan Harvey
Time	MW 2:00 pm – 2:50 pm
Location	Fain Fine Arts B124
Email	susan.harvey@msutexas.edu
Office	C117O
Office Hours	TBA posted outside office door Plus 5 hours for appointments
Phone	930-397-4916

### Course Description

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

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.

### Course Objectives

Students will:

- 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 scales
- Harmonize and improvise accompaniment to simple songs
- Learn chord progressions
- Transpose simple melodies
- Perform simple pieces hands together
- Implement basic 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
- *Modern Band Method – Keyboard, Book 1 A Beginner's Guide for Group or Private Instruction* (2020): by Burstein, Hale, Claxton, & Wish, Hal Leonard
- Personal headphones or earbuds

### Attendance

Beginning piano 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 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).

**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.

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.

**Grading Scale**

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

**Course Evaluation**

%	Assignments
20	Class Participation/Preparation Credit is earned by participating in all activities including preparing homework.
60	Assigned Competencies and Exercises from both textbooks Competencies are individualized for each student  Reach page 88 in Alfred textbook Play minimum of four accompaniments from Modern Band Piano textbook
20	Passing Assigned Piano Proficiencies

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

### **Semester Proficiencies**

First semester: group 1 major scales

Second semester: group 2 major scales, selected minor scales, major broken chords

Third semester: group 3 major scales, major chord progressions, minor chord progressions, prepared piece

Fourth semester: prepared melody with accompaniment, sight reading, transposition, prepared piece

### **Weekly Assignments**

Students receive weekly assignments to complete from Alfred's Piano Book or supplemental material. 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. First semester students are expected to perform assignments through page 88 in the Alfred textbook and play accompaniment for a minimum of four songs in the Modern Band textbook.

### **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. Harvey has five schedule office hours to meet with her. Scheduling 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. 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.

### **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.

### **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 the individuals 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 84<sup>th</sup> 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 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 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 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.