

SYLLABUS - FALL 2010
MUSIC 111 PIANO CLASS I Section C01: TTH 2:30-3:45
INSTRUCTOR: Stephanie Arrigotti
OFFICE HOURS CEDAR 113 MW 2:45-4:00; TTH 3:45-5:00
PHONE 445-4250 Email arrigots@wnc.edu

PLEASE - TURN OFF YOUR CELL PHONES! PLEASE DON'T EAT OR DRINK IN CLASS!

Students will learn the topics listed at each lecture, as well as receive instruction in piano performance according to their level of proficiency. The instructor may vary the dates for this curriculum slightly should the class need more or less time to master these concepts. Most lectures will include reviews of previous lectures.

Students should do warm-ups and practice their assignments as soon as arriving at class. If you are able to come early to work on the pianos, ask the staff at the Performing Arts Office to unlock the room for you. Our office hours are weekdays, 11-5 p.m.

I. First unit of theory corresponds to theory material in method book from pages 1-60 and in the hand-outs supplied with your syllabus.

- 8/31 Theory: Learning to read notes on the staff.
Rhythm: Whole, half, and quarter notes.
Piano: Finding notes on the keyboard. C Major 5 finger position.
- 9/7 Theory: Identifying intervals and using them for sight reading, dynamics
Rhythm: Time signatures, Rests, Dotted half notes
- 9/14 Theory: Accidentals in the body of the music, review
Rhythm: 8th notes
- 9/21 *1st Midterm: Written test to include note reading, interval identification and rhythms*

II. The theory in this portion of the course is found in the method book on pages 61 and 62 and in the theory hand-outs.

- 9/23 Theory: Identifying half steps and whole steps. Constructing tetrachords, scales. Understanding key signatures
- 10/5 Rhythm: Dotted quarter notes
- 10/12 Theory: A study of sharps: How to identify keys with sharps in the key signature.
- 10/19 Theory: Reversing the process: how to determine which sharps belong in a key signature.
- 10/26 *2nd Midterm: Written test to include scale construction and identifying and writing sharp key signatures, and rhythmic exercises using dotted quarter notes. This class period is for testing only: students are free to practice after their test but the instructor will not be available to coach their performance.*

III. The theory in this section is covered in the theory hand-outs supplied with your syllabus.

- 10/28 Theory: How to identify keys with flats in the key signature
Rhythm: 6/8 time
- 11/2 Theory: Reversing the process: how to determine which flats belong in a key signature.
- 11/4 Theory: Transposition
- 11/11 *NO CLASS: VETERANS DAY HOLIDAY*
- 11/16 *3rd midterm: Written exercises on identifying and writing flat key signatures and transposition. This class period is for testing only: students are free to practice after their test but the instructor will not be available to coach their performance.*

IV. The theory in this section of the course is found on page 64 ff of the method book and in the theory hand-outs.

11/18 Theory: Constructing triads on the major scale. Chord inversions

11/23 Theory: Writing I, IV, and V7 chords in keyboard harmony positions.
Rhythm: 16th notes

11/26 *NO CLASS: THANKSGIVING DAY HOLIDAY*

11/30 Theory: Understanding the principles of harmony: how to select chords to harmonize a melody.

12/7 Exercise in harmonizing melodies.

12/14 *Final: Written test to include writing triads and their inversions, writing harmonies for melodies in keyboard harmony position. Rhythm exercises using 16th notes*

Class days not listed here are used to continue topics begun at the previous class section or to focus on piano performance. Students are expected to come to all class sessions.

Grades will be computed as follows:

Exams: 45% of grade

Piano performance: 45% of grade

Class participation and attendance: 10% of grade

Piano performance grade is determined by the amount of material that the instructor marks completed for each student. To earn a 100% in piano performance, a student must complete through p. 71 of the method book one. Partial completion of this goal will receive partial credit.

I will assign straight letter grades in all of my classes, without using any pluses or minuses. In assessing my previous semesters, I felt that more of my students would have been penalized using the plus-minus system than would have been helped. I do not choose to give F's to students who are not successful in the class: I prefer to give W's to avoid hurting their grade point averages. The grade breakdown in percentages is as follows:

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

Students who wish to progress in piano skills should allow for 30 to 45 minutes per day minimum practice time. Students may practice in the lab if no classes are in session there.

Midterms will only be made up if the student is ill and notifies the instructor in advance.

If you are interested in playing more music than what is in your book, you can get supplementary books (pop or classical) mid-way through Book I.

COURSE DATA

MUS 111, formerly 181: PIANO CLASS I

3 credits. Prerequisite: none

Introduces the piano, including instruction in note reading, technique, theory and easy repertoire. Students work in a laboratory setting, each using their own electronic piano.

In fulfillment of the mission for the General Education requirement, this course helps students to:

- *Have an understanding of fine arts or performing arts*

In fulfillment of the Associate of Arts in Musical Theatre, this course satisfies the piano proficiency requirement.

DISABILITY INFORMATION

WNC supports providing equal access for students with disabilities. Susan Trist (DSS coordinator) is available to discuss appropriate academic accommodations that students may require. Please call her (445-3275) if you need special assistance.