MUS 242: FUNCTIONAL CLASS PIANO

Course description: This remedial and introductory course in piano technique for non-piano majors prepares students to complete and pass the piano proficiency exam. Each of the four progressive class levels features specific aspects of the ten-part (10) piano proficiency exam.


Course outcomes and expectations: Portions of the piano proficiency exam are part of the final exam requirements for passing each piano class level. When all four piano class levels have been successfully completed and the designated piano proficiency skills passed, no additional piano proficiency exam is necessary. Failure to pass the designated piano proficiency skills with a minimum grade of B- at any class level results in repeating that course level.

Class attendance is required. Your grade level will drop one letter grade after three missed classes. There are no excused absences, so plan your missed classes carefully.

A mid-term exam is given during the fifth or sixth week of classes. The final exam is given during the last week of classes. Course schedule of assignments is subject to change, and additional testing is at the discretion of the instructor.

Level One: Chapters I and II in the required text. Piano proficiency skill: (1) All major scales played two octaves, hands together at the speed of a quarter note equals 100.

Level Two: Chapters III and IV in the required text. Piano proficiency skills: (2) All harmonic minor scales played two octaves, hands together at the speed of a quarter note equals 100; (3) Improvise “Happy Birthday” and improvise a waltz, march, and polka.

Level Three: Chapter V in the required text. Piano proficiency skills: (4) Harmonization using I, IV, V7 chords; (5) Transposition using I, IV, V7 chords; (6) open score; (7) accompaniment (prepared).

Level Four: Chapter VI in the required text. Piano proficiency skills: (4) Harmonization using secondary dominant chords; (5) Transposition using secondary dominant chords; (8) Hymn (prepared); (9) Star Spangled Banner; (10) sight-reading.
**Grading:** Class attendance is required. Your grade will be lowered one full letter grade after three missed classes. Mid-term exam grade is worth 30%; final exam grade is worth 30%; weekly assignments are worth 30%; additional activities assigned by the instructor 10%.

**Grading Scale**

- **A** Weekly assignment performed without errors in notes, rhythm, fingering and tempo.
- **A-** Weekly assignment or a small portion of the assignment performed with slight hesitation or with a minimum of mistakes.
- **B+** Weekly assignment performed with some errors in notes, rhythm, fingering and tempo.
- **B-** Weekly assignment performed with little improvement. Some errors not corrected.
- **B-** Weekly assignment performed at the minimum level to pass the course. Errors not corrected and improvement undetectable.
- **C** Performance of weekly assignment is weak, showing no improvement in note accuracy, rhythm, fingering, or tempo. Mistakes too obvious.
- **D** No assignment preparation but in class.
- **F** Failure to prepare assignments and not in class most of the time.