

Sul Ross State University

Spring 2015
SYLLABUS
MUS 1181-001 PIANO CLASS
MWF 9:00-9:50
FAB 200

Instructor: Steven Bennack
Office: FAB 100A (inside the Band Hall)
Phone: 837-8215
Email: sbennack@sulross.edu
Office Hours: Posted on the door of FAB 100

Text: **Alfred's Group Piano for Adults**, by E. L. Lancaster and Kenon D. Renfrow (with companion CD). Students must have a **new** textbook because used ones often have had assignment pages ripped out of them.

Music Standards: For students who are pursuing Teacher Certification in Music, the following Music Standards (as issued by the SBEC) apply to this course:

Standard I- The music teacher has comprehensive visual and aural knowledge of musical perception and performance.

Standard II- The music teacher sings and plays a musical instrument.

Standard III- The music teacher has a comprehensive knowledge of music notation.

Standard IV- The music teacher creates and arranges music.

Program Learning Outcomes for Music:

The graduating student will demonstrate that he/she:

1. Is able to integrate appropriate musical expression into performance
2. Is able to prepare appropriate program notes
3. Is able to evaluate and critique a musical performance
4. Has a general knowledge of music history

Course description: MUS 1181 is an introduction to piano for music students (majors and non- majors) that have never played piano, played very little, or play by ear and wish to learn to read music on the instrument. This course goes hand in hand with the concepts taught in music theory since the keyboard is the best way to visualize these concepts.

The instructor and students will work in the following areas:

Technique- finger and hand development, independence and coordination.

Reading- learning traditional pitch and rhythm notation.

Theory- intervals, scales, keys and chords.
 Harmonization of melodies- putting chords to already- existing melodies.
 Transposition- moving a composition from one key to another.
 Improvisation
 Ensemble playing
 Accompaniment styles

Student Learning Objectives: By the end of the course students should be able to:

Understand the application of time signatures, key signatures, pitch notation and rhythm notation.

Read and perform melodies from bass and treble clef with proper pitch, rhythm, articulation and dynamics.

Accompany right- hand melodies with block chords in the left hand or play two-handed accompaniment with single bass note in the left hand and block chords in the right (no melody).

Understand and apply chord notation from Roman Numerals (functional harmony) and letter names.

Harmonize a simple melody by analysis of its scale steps.

Student Responsibilities:

1. Students are expected to participate in class discussions and play at the piano both individually and as a group. Participation in class also includes not noodling on the keyboard while the instructor is lecturing or demonstrating.
2. Students are expected to practice assigned pieces of music between class meetings- this is part of your grade and is also part of class participation.
3. Turn in written assignments when they are due and please do them in pencil so you can make clean corrections. Points will be taken off for assignments turned in late and assignments done in pen.
4. Practice outside of class is **absolutely essential** for acquiring skill on a musical instrument. The companion CD that goes with the text can be used as a practice aid outside of class (see the Foreword of the text). Piano practice rooms are available; see instructor for details.

Class Schedule

Each unit in the text is designed to be covered in a week. Therefore, the goal for the class will be to go through 13 units during the semester. The exact dates may be subject

to change if more emphasis needs to be given to a particular section. The review worksheets will be utilized as written take-home assignments. Written/playing test will be given at the end of units without review worksheets. Playing test will be conducted in class but in cases where the student is very uncomfortable playing in front of others the student can arrange to play for the teacher on a private basis.

Jan. 21- 28 Unit 1- Keyboard Basics- Posture, hand position, names of keys, notation for pitch, rhythm, dynamics, articulation, tempo and meter. (review worksheet)

Jan. 30- Feb. 4 Unit 2- Intervals and Other Keyboard Basic- Continuation of concepts in Unit 1 (review worksheet)

Feb. 6- 11 Unit 3- Major Five- Finger Patterns and the Major Triad (written /playing test)

“ 13-18 Unit 4- Review of Unit 3 (review worksheet)

“ 20- 25 Unit 5- Minor Five- Finger Patterns and the Minor Triad (written/playing test)

Feb. 27- Mar. 4 Unit 6- Review of Unit 5 (review worksheet)

Mar. 6- 11 Unit 7- Augmented and Diminished Chords (written/playing test)

“ 13-25 Unit 8- Major Scales in Tetrachord Position; Intervals of 6th, 7th and 8th (written /playing test)

Mar. 27- Apr. 1 Unit 9- Major Scales (Group 1) and Triads of the Key (review worksheet)

Apr. 3- 8 Unit 10- Major Scales (Group 2) & Triads and Inversions (written/playing test)

“ 10-15 Unit 11- The Dominant and Dominant Seventh Chords; block chords and broken chords. (written /playing test)

“ 17-22 Unit 12- The Subdominant Chord; Alberti Bass and Waltz Accompaniment (written/playing test)

Apr. 24- May 1 Unit 13- Primary Chords in Major Keys (review worksheet)

May 4-6 Review for Final Exam

4

Wed. May 13th @ 8:00 a.m. **Final Exam**

Grading:

6 Review worksheets= 30%	A= 90-100
7 Written/playing tests= 30%	B= 80-89+
Final Exam= 30%	C= 70-79+
Attendance/tardiness= 10%	D= 60-69+
	F= 59+ and below

Students who do not turn in their assignments or take their tests on time will have 5 points deducted from their assignment/test grade for each class period that they have not turned in assignments or taken the test.

Attendance:

Quoting from page 66 of the SRSU 2014-2016 Catalog: “The instructor will drop a student from a course when the student has a total of nine absences... an absence is defined as non-attendance in fifty minutes of class... An absence because of participation in an official University activity is considered to be an authorized absence... Any student dropped for excessive absences will receive an “F” in the course dropped... The grade of **W** is given for courses dropped after the 12th class days through the last day to drop a course with a **W** as published in the University’s calendar. Students who wait until the published deadline must have complied with the class attendance policy of this catalog. An instructor is not obligated to recommend a **W** for a class if excessive absences have occurred.”

Tardiness: Students who arrive after the instructor has taken roll will be considered tardy. Students who are habitually tardy may, at the instructor’s discretion, be asked to explain/ perform the previous class assignment.

The use of tobacco products is prohibited. **TURN OFF CELL PHONES.**

A.D.A. Statement: Sul Ross State University is committed to equal access in compliance with the Americans With Disabilities Act of 1973. It is the student’s responsibility to initiate a request for accessibility services. Students seeking accessibility services must contact Mary Schwartz, M. Ed., L.P.C. in Counseling and Accessibility Services, Ferguson Hall, Room 112. The mailing address is P.O. Box C-

171, Sul Ross State University, Alpine, Texas 79832. Telephone: 432-837-8203.
Email: mschwartz@sulross.edu.

5

Important dates for Spring 2015:

Jan. 19th- Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday. No classes.

Jan. 30th- Deadline to drop Education Block courses with a "W".

Feb. 13th- Deadline to apply for May 2015 graduation without a late fee.

Mar. 16th-20th- Spring Break. No classes.

Apr. 3rd- Good Friday. ½ day; University closes at noon.

Apr. 10th- Last day to drop a course or to withdraw with a grade of "W". Drops must be processed and turned into the Registrar's Office by 4:00.

May 8th- Deadline to apply for Aug. 2015 graduation without a late fee.