

# Sul Ross State University

Spring 2020  
SYLLABUS  
MUS 1181-001 PIANO CLASS  
MW 2:00-3:15  
FAB 200

Instructor: Steven Bennack  
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Office Hours:

Mon. 3:30-4:00  
Tues. 1:30-2:00  
Wed. 3:30-4:00  
Thurs. 3:30-4:00  
Fri. 10:30-11:00; 2:30-3:00

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.**

## **Student Learning Outcomes for Music Majors:**

SLO 1: All students will demonstrate the ability to integrate appropriate musical expression into performance.

SLO 2: All students will demonstrate the ability to research and prepare appropriate program notes.

SLO 3: All students will demonstrate the ability to evaluate and critique a musical performance.

**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

### **Marketable Skills for the Music Program**

1. Ability to collaborate and network with others to achieve a shared goal, utilizing problem solving, flexibility and improvisation, and consideration of others' thoughts and creative processes.
2. Proficiency in public speaking and writing about music, especially in teaching basic musical concepts to all ages and incorporating technology for presentation and production.
3. Ability to prepare and perform a program of age-appropriate, relevant, and diverse repertoire, as an individual or part of an ensemble, to an audience, advocating for the arts through engaging with and serving the community.
4. \* Experience using problem solving skills and abstract thinking to analyze compositions and examine their aesthetic through musical and extra-musical concepts, such as historical context and text setting.
5. Ability to create and disseminate basic marketing and public relations materials, as well as resumes, websites, and digital portfolios.

*Marketable Skills specifically addressed by this course indicated with \**

**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**

The exact dates in the class schedule 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. 13-15 Unit 1- Keyboard Basics- Posture, hand position, names of keys, notation for pitch, rhythm, dynamics, articulation, tempo and meter. (review worksheet)

“ 22-27 Unit 2- Intervals and Other Keyboard Basic- Continuation of concepts in Unit 1 (review worksheet)

Jan. 29- Feb. 3 Unit 3- Major Five- Finger Patterns and the Major Triad (written /playing test)

Feb. 5-10 Unit 4- Review of Unit 3 (review worksheet)

“ 12-17 Unit 5- Minor Five- Finger Patterns and the Minor Triad (written/playing test)

“ 19-24 Unit 6- Review of Unit 5 (review worksheet)

Feb. 26-Mar. 2 Unit 7- Augmented and Diminished Chords (written/playing test)

Mar. 4-16 Unit 8- Major Scales in Tetrachord Position; Intervals of 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> (written /playing test)

“ 18-23 Unit 9- Major Scales (Group 1) and Triads of the Key (review worksheet)

“ 25-30 Unit 10- Major Scales (Group 2) & Triads and Inversions (written/playing test)

Apr. 1-6 Unit 11- The Dominant and Dominant Seventh Chords; block chords and broken chords. (written /playing test)

“ 8-13 Unit 12- The Subdominant Chord; Alberti Bass and Waltz Accompaniment (written/playing test)

“ 15-22 Unit 13- Primary Chords in Major Keys (review worksheet)

“ 27-29 Review for Final Exam

Tues. May 5th @ 3:00- 5:00 p.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:** 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. Please refer to page 58 of the 2019-2020 University Catalog.

Any student dropped for excessive absences will receive an “F” in the course dropped. An instructor is not obligated to recommend a **W** for a class if excessive absences have occurred. Please refer to page 70-71 of the 2019-2020 University Catalog for policy regarding the final grades of **WF**, **WX** and **W0**.

**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.**

**Students with Special Needs:**

Sul Ross State University (SRSU) is committed to equal access in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1973. It is SRSU policy to provide reasonable accommodations to students with documented disabilities. It is the Student's responsibility to initiate a request. Please contact Ms. Rebecca Greathouse Wren, M. Ed., LPC-S, Director/ Counselor, Accessibility Services Coordinator, Ferguson Hall (Suite 112) at 432.837.8203; mailing address is P.O. C-122. Sul Ross State University, Alpine, Texas 79832. Students should then contact the instructor as soon as possible to initiate the recommended accommodations.

**The Six-Drop Rule:** A student is allowed to drop no more than 6 courses. Please refer to pages 60 of the 2019-2020 University Catalog for a detailed explanation.

Important dates for Spring 2020:

Jan. 16- Last day for late registration and schedule changes.

Jan. 20- Martin Luther King Jr. Day, no classes.

Mar. 9-13- Spring Break, no classes.

Apr. 3- Last day to apply for Aug. or Dec. graduation without a late fee.

Apr. 3- Last day to withdraw from the University or to drop courses with a grade of "W." Drops must be processed and in the Registrar's Office by 4 p.m.

Apr. 10- Good Friday, no classes.

