

# Sul Ross State University

## SYLLABUS

MUS 1111 001: Individual Instruction, Piano

Fall, 2021

**Dr. Karrin Ford**

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**Office Hours: MWF 11-12; TT 4-5 or by appointment**

### **Course Description:**

This course provides private instruction in piano to students with prior keyboard study. Skills to be addressed include the development of technical facility, sight-reading, melody harmonization, improvisation, transposition, and standard accompaniment styles.

### **Prerequisites:**

One or more semesters of prior piano study, either class or private. Students must demonstrate basic music reading ability in both treble and bass clefs.

### **Required Texts:**

*Alfred's Basic Adult All-In-One Piano Course, Level 1*

*Alfred's Complete Book of Scales, Chords, Arpeggios and Cadences*

### **Student Learning Objectives:**

1. The student will make significant progress in acquiring technical piano skills, including accurate note reading, optimal fingering, appropriate dynamics, and phrasing
2. The student will make significant progress in learning functional piano skills, including scales, sight reading, and melody harmonization
3. The student will gain a greater knowledge of piano literature
4. The student will be able to critique a musical performance, with specific feedback regarding accuracy and musicality
5. The student will attain greater confidence and satisfaction as a pianist

**Requirements:**

1. Attend all lessons. Excused absences will be made up at the instructor's discretion. The following instances constitute an excused absence: 1) documented illness with note from medical provider; 2) family emergency; 3) university-approved activity, including performance.
2. Practice outside of lessons is essential to achieving success in this course. For MUS 1111 (one thirty-minute lesson per week), the Sul Ross State University catalogue states that an average of 5 hours practice per week must be achieved. Weekly practice goals will be established at each lesson.
3. Make measurable progress in learning new technical skills (scales, sight-reading, melody harmonization, and piano literature).
4. At the end of the semester, present a one page written critique of your progress on learning technical and functional piano skills.

**Marketable Skills:**

The following marketable skills will be required of all students pursuing a Bachelor of Music degree:

1. Ability to collaborate and network with others to achieve a shared goal, utilizing problem solving, flexibility, and improvisation
2. Ability to prepare and perform a program of age-appropriate, relevant, and diverse repertoire, as an individual or part of an ensemble, advocating for the arts through engagement with the community
3. 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

**Grading:**

A = Outstanding progress; weekly preparation above and beyond level of assignment; exceptional eagerness to learn; artistic incorporation of style, tempo, phrasing, and dynamics

B = Above average progress; weekly preparation demonstrates eagerness to learn; notes and rhythms mostly accurate; consistent use of expressive elements

C = Average progress; weekly preparation demonstrates inconsistent note and rhythmic accuracy; inconsistent use of expressive elements

D = Below average progress; weekly preparation demonstrates frequent note and/or rhythmic inaccuracies; little use of expressive elements

F = Unacceptable progress; weekly preparation demonstrates minimal note and/or rhythmic accuracy; no use of expressive elements

O = Missed Lesson

### **Electronics:**

Use of cell phones and other electronic devices during lessons is prohibited.

### **Other Policies:**

- 1) There are 4 valid reasons for missing a lesson:
  - a) Illness
  - b) Musical performance or other university-sanctioned activity
  - c) Bona fide emergency
  - d) Absence of instructor
- 2) You are entitled to one absence per semester for a nonvalid reason. All other absences will receive a grade of "o." Lessons missed for reasons other than the above will not be made up.
- 3) Please do not bring food or beverages to lessons.
- 4) Please bring a notebook to your lessons in which you can write down all exercises, useful concepts, and repertoire assignments.

### **Disabilities Statement:**

Sul Ross State University is committed to equal access in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (1973). It is SRSU policy to provide reasonable accommodations to students with documented disabilities. It is the student's responsibility to initiate a request each semester for each class. Students seeking accessibility/accommodations services must contact Rebecca Greathouse Wren, LPC-S, Sul Ross State University Accessibility Services Coordinator at (432) 837-8203 or email [rebecca.wren@sulross.edu](mailto:rebecca.wren@sulross.edu). The office is located in Suite 112, Ferguson Hall, and the mailing address is P. O. Box C-122, Sul Ross State University, Alpine, Texas 79832.

