

# Sul Ross State University

## SYLLABUS

**MUS 3211 001: Individual Instruction, Piano**

**Spring, 2023**

**Dr. Karrin Ford**

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**Office Hours: MWF 11-12; TR 1-2 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 accompaniment styles.

### **Course Design: Communication Infused**

To be successful in college and beyond, multiple sources indicate that communication competencies are essential. Sul Ross State University recognizes that undergraduate university students should receive training to navigate a global world as competent communicators in various contexts and channels of communication. Through the Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) called Compass, Sul Ross aims to equip students to navigate excellence in the twenty-first century by developing communication skills across multiple courses, including MUS 3211.

### **Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) Student Learning Objective:**

The student will create works that exhibit skill in prepared and purposeful communication (written, oral, or visual).

### **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, including his or her own, with specific feedback regarding accuracy and musicality.
5. The student will attain greater confidence and satisfaction as a pianist

**Marketable Skills:**

1. The student will develop the ability to collaborate and network with others to achieve a shared goal, utilizing problem solving, flexibility, and improvisations, and consideration of others' thoughts and creative processes.
2. The student will gain 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. The student will develop the ability to prepare and perform a program of age appropriate, relevant, and diverse repertoire, either as an individual or part of an ensemble, advocating for the arts through engaging with and serving the community.
4. The student will use 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. The student will develop the ability to create and disseminate basic marketing and public relations materials, as well as resumes, websites, and digital portfolios.

**Required Texts:**

Repertoire: To be determined in consultation with teacher and student  
Palmer, Willard A., Morton Manus, and Amanda Vick Lethco. *The Complete Book of Scales, Chords, Arpeggios and Cadences*. Alfred Music Publishing: Van Nuys, California, 1994.

**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
2. Practice outside of lessons is essential to achieving success in this course. For MUS 3211 (one sixty-minute lesson per week), an average of 6-7 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 in learning technical and artistic keyboard skills.
5. You will be permitted to miss one lesson per semester without penalty.

**Academic Integrity:**

Students are expected to demonstrate scholarly behavior and academic honesty in the use of intellectual property. A scholar is expected to be punctual, prepared, and focused, and to display meaningful and pertinent participation at all times. Examples of academic dishonesty include but are not limited to: submitting work as original that was used in whole or part for another course and/or professor; submitting another person's work as one's own; copying from professional works or internet sites without citation; and collaborating on a course assignment, examination, or quiz when collaboration is forbidden.

**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:**

The use of cell phones and/or other electronic devices during lessons is prohibited.

**Disabilities Statement:**

Sul Ross State University is committed to equal access for all students in compliance with the Americans With Disabilities Act (1973). It is SRSU policy to provide reasonable accommodations to students with documented disabilities. Students must initiate a request each semester for each class in which they seek accommodations. Students seeking accessibility services for this course should contact Counseling and Accessibility Services, 112 Ferguson Hall. The mailing address is P. O. Box C-122, 112 Ferguson Hall (mschwartz@sulross.edu), or call (432) 837-8203 for more information about specific services available at Sul Ross State University.

