Sul Ross State University

SYLLABUS

MUS 3211 009: Individual Instruction, Piano   **Spring, 2026**

Dr. Karrin Ford
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Office hours: T: 11-12; W: 11-12; or by appointment

Course Description:

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

Required Texts:

Lancaster, E. L. and Kenon D. Renfrow. *Alfred's Group Piano for Adults, Book 2*. 2nd edition. Van Nuys, California: Alfred Publishing Company, 2004.

Palmer, Willard, Morton Manus, and Amanda Vick Lethco. *Alfred's Complete Book of Scales, Chords, Arpeggios and Cadences*. Van Nuys, California: Alfred Publishing Company, 1994.

Student Learning Objectives:

1. The student will make significant progress in acquiring technical piano skills, including the incorporation of optimal fingering, appropriate dynamics, phrasing, and articulation

2. The student will make significant progress in acquiring advanced piano skills, including mastery of scales, sight reading, and melodic harmonization

3. The student will gain a greater knowledge of standard piano literature

4. The student will be able to critique a musical performance, including his or her own, with specific feedback regarding technical and artistic elements

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 only. 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), the Sul Ross State University catalogue states that **an average of 8-10 hours practice per week must be achieved**. Weekly practice goals will be established at each lesson.

3. Make measurable progress in learning/refining technical skills (including all major and minor scales) and the development of standard keyboard skills such as sight-reading, melody harmonization, transposition, and improvisation.

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.

<u>Studio Class Recital and Honors Recital</u>:

All music majors and minors must perform at least once per semester on a Studio Class Recital.

All music majors with an emphasis in keyboard must audition for the Music Program Honors Recital, scheduled at the end of most semesters, and if chosen for inclusion, must agree to perform.

<u>Disabilities Statement</u>:

Sul Ross State University is committed to equal access for all students in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (1973). Students seeking accessibility services for this course should contact the ADA Coordinator for Program Accessibility, P.O. Box C-122, 112 Ferguson Hall, or call (432) 837-8203 for more information about specific services available at Sul Ross State University.