



MUS 40 - Piano I

Catalog Description

Transfer Status: CSU/UC

Unit(s): 1.00

Lecture: 8.50 Contact hours/17.00 Out of class hours/25.50 Total hours/0.50 Unit(s)

Lab: 25.50 Contact hours/0.00 Out of class hours/25.50 Total hours/0.50 Unit(s)

Total: 34.00 Contact hours/17.00 Out of class hours/51.00 Total hours/1.00 Unit(s)

Course Description: A first-level introductory course in piano, open to both music and non-music majors. This course provides instruction in elementary music-reading and beginning keyboard skills, including basic piano technique, major and minor five-finger patterns, major scales, keyboard harmony, and sight-reading through beginning piano repertoire. (C-ID MUS 170).

Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course, the student should be able to:

1. Interpret basic musical notation at the piano
2. Play white-note major scales in one octave, hands together
3. Create a chordal accompaniment for a given melody
4. Illustrate proper keyboard techniques
5. Prepare beginning piano repertoire for performance

Course Content

Topic Titles / Suggested Time Topic

Lecture

<u>Topics</u>	<u>Lec Hrs</u>
Introduction to the keyboard: posture and hand position. Basic notation: rhythm and music staff reading.	1.50
Major five-finger patterns (pentascales) in C, G, and F.	
I chord and harmonization with the 5ths.	1.00
Beginning music writing/reading: dynamic, articulation, and tempo markings.	1.00
All major pentascales and harmonization with emphasis on 3rds and 4ths.	1.00
All minor pentascales.	1.00
Harmonization: chord progression I-IV6/4-I-V6/5-I in all white-note keys.	1.00
White-note major scales in one octave: separate hands, and then together.	1.00
How to perform beginning level pieces.	1.00
Total Hours:	8.50

Lab

<u>Topics</u>	<u>Lab Hrs</u>
Major five-finger patterns on black keys	1.00
Minor five-finger patterns on white keys; triads; relative minor	2.00
Minor five-finger patterns on black keys; triplets	2.00
Chord qualities: augmented, diminished; dotted note values	1.50
Tetrachords and major scales; octaves; the damper pedal	4.00
Major scales, arpeggios; triads of the key	2.00
Chord inversions; triads in all positions	2.00
The dominant and dominant seventh chords	1.00
Primary chords in major keys: I-IV-V chord progressions	1.00
Tetrachords in minor scales; arpeggios	1.00
Primary chords in minor keys: I-IV-V chord progressions	1.00
Performance evaluation and analysis	1.00
Major five-finger patterns in all white-note keys hands together	2.00
Chord progression I-IV6/4-I-V6/5-I in all white-note keys hands separate	1.00
White-note major scales in one octave, hands together	1.00
How to perform beginning level pieces	2.00
Total Hours:	25.50

Methods of Instruction

- A. Demonstrations
- B. Homework: Students are required to complete two hours of outside-of-class homework for each hour of lecture
- C. Instructor Demonstrations
- D. Lecture
- E. Problem-Solving Sessions
- F. Individual instruction

Methods of Evaluation

- A. Exams/Tests
- B. Papers
- C. Class participation
- D. Performance Examinations
- E. In-class performance, Research paper or Concert report

Examples of Assignments

Reading Assignments

1. Go online and read a back issue of "Clavier" dealing with effective practicing techniques. Be prepared to demonstrate in class.
2. Read in Grove's "Encyclopedia of Music" about a prominent piano performer. Be prepared to discuss in class.

Writing Assignments

1. Attend a concert where the piano is the principal instrument or plays a substantial role in the performance, and write a 2-page paper detailing your experience.
2. Write a 1500-word research paper about the development of the piano keyboard action and how this affected piano technique.

Out-of-Class Assignments

1. Practice technical exercises regularly.
2. Listen to a recording where the piano is the principal instrument or plays a substantial role in the performance. Be prepared to discuss the piano techniques used in class.

Recommended Materials of Instruction

Baker, K. (2005). The Complete Keyboard Player. *Music Sales America, Omnibus Ed.* 9780825633560.

Other Learning Materials

Handouts

Music and repertoire will be selected and provided by the instructor

Minimum Qualifications

Music (Masters Required)

Commercial Music

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