

# **Class Piano Non Music Majors Spring 2008**

## **DESCRIPTION**

### **Course Syllabus of Spring 2008**

#### **MUS 110x**

Class Piano for Non-Music Majors

All sections meet in MUS 203

### **Credit Hours = 1**

**Class Piano Faculty:** Dr. Ilonka Rus MUS 332 4-1394 [ilonkarus@yahoo.com](mailto:ilonkarus@yahoo.com)

**Office Hours:** TuThu, 11:00 -1pm, W 11:00 -Noon

#### **Textbooks and Required Supplies**

Hilley, Martha, and Lynn Freeman Olson. *Piano for Pleasure: A Basic Course for Adults*, 4<sup>th</sup> ed. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth, 2002. ISBN 0534519628.

Three-ring binder

Notebook paper

Staff paper

Pencil and eraser

It is the responsibility of the student to obtain course materials at the beginning of the semester, and to have all course materials at hand during each class meeting. The absence of appropriate course materials will not excuse a student from completing an assignment in class; the assignment will be graded using the same standard for the entire class.

#### **Course Description**

MUS 110x is a one-semester Class Piano for Non-Music Majors, designed for Musical Theatre majors and for other SHSU students who are not music majors. Students who complete the semester with a letter grade of B or higher are welcome to enroll in the four-semester sequence of Class Piano for Music Majors (MUS 111x, 112x, 113x and 114x) provided there is adequate space following enrollment of music majors. This course is taught in the School of Music's Piano Lab, MUS 203, in a combination of lecture and lab settings.

#### **Prerequisites and Co-enrollment**

There is no prerequisite or co-enrollment requirement for MUS 110x. Students may be allowed to enroll in any level of Class Piano with the consent of the Coordinator of Class Piano. Consent will be granted based on the student's demonstration of skills and concepts equivalent to a grade of B on the final examination for the previous course.

#### **Overview of Course and Course Objectives**

The one semester course of Class Piano for Non-Music Majors is intended to present basic keyboard skills and concepts to students. Detailed information concerning specific skills and concepts requirements for each course may be obtained from the Coordinator of Class Piano. Functional keyboard skills are developed to enable students to enjoy playing the piano as an amateur.

Concepts, topics, and methods that are used to accomplish these goals include: Listening, Rhythm, Technique, Theory, Reading, Improvisation, Performance, Writing.

#### **Assignments**

Assignments will be given at each class meeting; unless otherwise specified, assignments are expected to be ready for presentation at the next class meeting. Most assignments will involve the demonstration of a specific skill or concept at the keyboard; a few assignments will require elementary composition and/or minimal research in the library. The instructor will carefully explain the standard by which an assignment is to be graded. If a student is unclear about an assignment, or about the standard of grading, it is the responsibility of the student to seek clarification.

**Mid-Term & Final Examinations**

The mid-term (1) and final (1) exam for MUS 110x will consist of demonstration, by the student, for the instructor, of those skills and concepts which have been presented from the beginning of the semester (for mid-terms) or from mid-term to the end of the semester (for finals). Mid-term and final exams are given in the Class Piano Lab on an individual basis, following a schedule to be determined by the instructor.

**The last day to drop a class with a grade of “Q” is Friday, February 1.  
Finals week is Monday, May 12 – Thursday, May 15.**

**Make-up Work**

Make-up work for daily assignments is at the discretion of the instructor. Work that is missed due to an absence on official university business (tours, conventions, etc.), or a previously approved religious holiday absence, must be made up at the next class meeting. All other work, including but not limited to work missed due to illness, family emergency, and unscheduled or unapproved University activities, may be made up at the next class meeting at the discretion of the instructor.

The instructor may elect to require the student to present appropriate documentation verifying the legitimacy of the student’s absence. It is recommended that the student bring such documentation to the next class meeting. It is the responsibility of the student to determine what, if any, work was missed during his/her absence, and to bring the need for making up the work to the attention of the instructor.

Mid-term and final exams may not be made up, except under extenuating circumstances. In all situations, the student must remain in constant contact with the instructor regarding the student’s absence; email is the preferred medium of communication, as it provides a written, time- and date-stamped record.

**Grading Policies**

A grade may be taken on any assignment, or on any portion of an assignment, which was previously assigned. It is expected that students will prepare all of the assignments at all times, and will be prepared to demonstrate their mastery of the assignment. Class grades will be given a numeric value, from 0 – 100, based on the standard set forth by the instructor for each assignment. Since most assignments involve the demonstration of a skill and/or concept, such assignments may be timed; students will be advised of the possibility of a timed grading prior to the day of the grading.

There will be no extra credit given in these courses. There will be no re-grading in these courses. If an assignment is not presented upon request, a grade of “0” will be recorded for that assignment.

The final grade will be calculated as follows:

Class assignments through mid-term	=	25%
Class assignments after mid-term	=	25%
Mid-term exam	=	25%
Final exam	=	25%

Final grades will be calculated numerically, from 0 – 100, and then converted to a 1 letter grade as follows:

90 – 100 =	A	
80 – 89 =	B	
70 – 79 =	C	
60 – 69 =	D	(recommend retaking the course)
0 – 59 =	F	(no credit given; must retake the course)

**Attendance**

University policy requires that students be allowed three (3) unexcused absences without penalty. For the purpose of these courses, an unexcused absence is one for which the student did not provide the instructor with prior notification of the absence. Following an absence, it is the responsibility of the student to clarify with the instructor whether the absence is excused or unexcused. Obviously, there must be some exceptions to this policy. It is recommended that, rather than seek out all possible exceptions to this and any other policy, students strive to adhere to such policies. Attendance will be taken at every class meeting. After three (3) unexcused absences, the student’s grade will be lowered one letter grade for each absence.

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**Student Syllabus Guidelines**

A more detailed description of the following *Student Syllabus Guidelines* may be found at:

<http://www.shsu.edu/syllabus/>

**Academic Dishonesty**

Students are expected to maintain honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. *See Student Syllabus Guidelines.*

**Classroom Rules of Conduct**

Students are expected to assist in maintaining a classroom environment that is conducive to learning. Students are to treat faculty and students with respect. Students are to turn off all cell phones while in the classroom. Under no circumstances are cell phones or any electronic devices to be used or seen during times of examination. Students may tape record lectures provided they do not disturb other students in the process.

**Student Absences on Religious Holy Days**

Students are allowed to miss class and other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. Students remain responsible for all work. *See Student Syllabus Guidelines.*

**Students with Disabilities Policy**

It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that individuals otherwise qualified shall not be excluded, solely by reason of their disability, from participation in any academic program of the university. Further, they shall not be denied the benefits of these programs nor shall they be subjected to discrimination. Students with disabilities that might affect their academic performance should visit with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities located in the Counseling Center. *See Student Syllabus Guidelines.*

**Visitors in the Classroom**

Only registered students may attend class. Exceptions can be made on a case-by-case basis by the professor. In all cases, visitors must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. Students wishing to audit a class must apply to do so through the Registrar's Office.

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**Practice Expectations**

Upright pianos are located on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor of the School of Music. These pianos are maintained regularly, and should be used by students, including those enrolled in these courses. It is expected that students will practice a minimum of 30 minutes per day in preparation for class – not 3 1/2 hours in one day, but 30 minutes each day, seven days a week. If a student is unable to master the skills and concepts as presented, he/she should do the following, in order:

1. **Review his/her practice habits: 30 minutes every day, verifiable on the student's practice record?**
2. **Review his/her practice goals; are they written out?**  
**Are they "smart"?**

<b>S</b>	<b>specific</b>
<b>M</b>	<b>measurable</b>
<b>A</b>	<b>attainable</b>
<b>R</b>	<b>realistic</b>
<b>T</b>	<b>timely</b>
3. **Schedule an appointment with the instructor for extra tutoring.**
4. **Schedule an appointment with the Coordinator of Class Piano to discuss the problem.**
5. **Schedule an appointment with the Chair or Associate Chair of the School of Music to discuss the problem.**
6. **Schedule an appointment with the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences to discuss the problem.**

Any student in any section of any Class Piano course should begin at #3 above to solve any problem relating to the course – not #4, or #5, or #6, but #3.

**Questions???**

The course syllabus is much longer than in the past. You may have questions or concerns that were not addressed, or you may need clarification on an issue. Do the following:

1. Make a note of your question. Try to avoid bizarre hypothetical situations.
2. Ask your instructor for clarification.
3. Schedule an appointment with the Coordinator of Class Piano for clarification.

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**Verification Statement**

To verify that you have read this course syllabus on Blackboard, your instructor may ask you to print this page. "By signing this document, I verify that I have read and understood the syllabus for this course as posted on Blackboard."

**Sign your name**

**Date**

**Print your name**

**Instructor**

**Course prefix, number, and section**

**REQUIRED MATERIALS**

