

Course Syllabus – Spring 2008  
MUS 111x, 112x, 113x & 114x  
Class Piano for Music Majors, Levels 1, 2, 3 & 4  
All sections meet in MUS 203  
Credit Hours = 1

Class Piano Faculty  
Jay Whatley, coordinator

Instructor's Name Office # Phone # Email Address

Jay Whatley	MUS 331	41381	whatley@shsu.edu
Dr. Sergio Ruiz	MUS 330	41385	sergioruiz@shsu.edu
Dr. Ilonka Rus	MUS 332	41394	ilonkarus@yahoo.com
Dr. Marshall Davies	MUS 329	41382	mnd005@shsu.edu
Chi Wai Liu	MUS 225	41360	cwl001@shsu.edu

Passing grade on the Theory Placement Exam, which is administered

Office Hours

Each member of the Class Piano Faculty will maintain a schedule, posted outside his/her office, which indicates her/his available office hours. It is the responsibility of the faculty to inform students of the faculty member's individual office hours; it is the responsibility of each student to make note of these office hours.

Textbooks and Required Supplies

Hilley, Martha, and Lynn Freeman Olson. Piano for the Developing Musician, PDM: 6, 6<sup>th</sup> edition. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth, 2006. ISBN # 0534595456.

Threering 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 Descriptions

MUS 111x, 112x, 113x & 114x are a foursemester sequence of Class Piano for Music Majors, designed to prepare students for the Piano Proficiency Examinations, which are administered during the semester of enrollment in MUS 114x (see below, Piano Proficiency Examinations). The courses are taught in the School of Music's Piano Lab, MUS 203, in a combination of lecture and lab settings.

#### Prerequisites and Coenrollment

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Students may be allowed to enroll in the Theory and Musicianship courses at the 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 prerequisite course.

Students enrolled in: should also be enrolled in:

- MUS 111x MUS 122 (Theory 1) & MUS 124 (Musicianship 1)
- MUS 112x MUS 123 (Theory 2) & MUS 125 (Musicianship 2)
- MUS 113x MUS 222 (Theory 3) & MUS 224 (Musicianship 3)
- MUS 114x MUS 223 (Theory 4)

It is the responsibility of the student to inform the instructor if the student is not enrolled in the appropriate Theory and/or Musicianship course, as the skills and knowledge of the three courses are interrelated. It is expected that, if a student has received a passing grade in any prerequisite course(s) or in any prerequisite coenrollment course(s), he/she has at her/his command a significant portion of the skills and concepts from the prior course(s), regardless of the amount of time that has lapsed since the course(s) was/were completed.

#### Overview of Courses and Course Objectives

The foursemester sequence of Class Piano is intended to present, in a cumulative manner over a two-year period, basic keyboard skills and concepts for students who are music majors. 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 prepare students for the many facets of the music profession. The ultimate objective of the sequence is to prepare students for the Piano Proficiency Examinations (see below).

Concepts, topics, and methods that are used to accomplish these goals include:

- Keyboard technique Transposition Sightreading Improvisation
- Keyboard theory Ensemble playing

Harmonization/accompaniment of melodies Composition

## 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.

## MidTerm & Final Examinations

The midterm (1) and final (1) exam for MUS 111x, 112x & 113x will consist of demonstration, by the student, for the instructor, of those skills and concepts that have been presented from the beginning of the semester (for midterms) or from midterm to the end of the semester (for finals). There are three (3) examinations given during MUS 114x (see Piano Proficiency Examinations, below). Midterm and final exams are given in the Class Piano Lab or in the instructor's office, 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 Wednesday, October 10.

Finals week is Monday, December 10 – Thursday, December 13.

## Makeup Work

Makeup work for daily assignments is at the discretion of the instructor. Work which 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.

Midterm 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 regrading 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 midterm = 25% Class assignments after  
midterm = 25% Midterm exam = 25% Final exam = 25%

Final grades will be calculated numerically, from 0 – 100, and then converted to a 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 students grade will (not may) 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 casebycase 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"?  
S specific  
M measurable  
A attainable  
R realistic  
T timely
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 Director or Associate Director 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



## Piano Proficiency Examinations

The Piano Proficiency Examinations are administered during a student's enrollment in MUS 114x. There are three (3) examinations; each examination will consist of the elements detailed below.

A student must pass all seven (7) elements of the first examination before he/she can take the second examination, and must likewise pass all seven (7) elements of the second examination before he/she can take the third examination.

A student will not be allowed to pass the piano proficiency examinations without also earning a passing grade in MUS 114x. A student who fails the third examination may attempt to pass the third examination two more times, for a total of three (3) attempts. A student who does not pass the third examination by the third attempt will not be allowed to attempt the piano proficiency examination at any time in the future, thus barring the earning of a degree in music from Sam Houston State University.

Score Reading – at sight Vocal – open score choral Instrumental – open score string quartet or open score wind/brass with transposing instruments (clarinet, trumpet, horn, saxophone)

Sight Reading – at sight  
One hymn

Harmonization – at sight Harmonization and accompaniment of melody. Uses secondary dominants and changing harmonic rhythm. Instructor's choice of accompaniment style: twohanded rootchord, openspaced broken chord, Alberti bass, keyboard style (melody in top of RH, chord in bottom of RH, bass line in LH), etc.

Transposition – at sight Four to six measures of chords & melody from original key to a tritone away.

Keyboard Theory & Improvisation – at sight Both Keyboard Theory & Improvisation use the same progression, generally a 16bar progression using secondary dominants, borrowed chords, extended chords (9ths & 11ths), etc. Keyboard Theory requires playing progression in either vocal texture (SA in RH, TB in LH) or keyboard style (SAT in RH, B in LH), instructor's choice. Improvisation requires playing a bass line and melody.

Repertoire – prepared Selected by students from materials supplied by instructor. Repertoire is not worked on or played in class, but is prepared completely by the students.