

**COURSE SYLLABUS MUS 337.01**  
**Instrumental Skills for the Music Therapy Setting II**  
**3 Credit Hours**  
**Spring, 2008**

**Location:** Room 321, Music Building **Meeting time:** 9:00 – 9:50 am, Monday, Wednesday, Friday **Instructor:** Karen Miller **Office:** Studio 316, Music Building **Phone:** (936)294-1376 **E-mail:** karenmiller@shsu.edu **Office Hours:** To be determined upon scheduling of practicum

### **Course Description**

Study of instrumental skills as applied in the music therapy setting. Training in clinical improvisation techniques, song writing, and the use of popular music styles. Students will gain exposure to the use of a variety of instruments and instrument classes in clinical improvisation. Prerequisite: music or music therapy major, music minor. Methods of instruction will include primarily experiential approaches such as demonstrations and group participation; also lecture, review of written material/texts, competency exams, and written assignments.

### **Course Objectives**

- I. To acquire basic understanding of various instruments and instrument classes in order to facilitate use of those instruments in music therapy settings where applicable
- II. To acquire facility in clinical improvisation using various instruments in order to meet specific needs of the music therapy client
- III. To demonstrate self and group accompaniment, using piano and guitar, with songs of various popular music genres and be able to apply those skills to music therapy settings
- IV. To develop, refine, or enhance abilities in song composition, both for and with music therapy clients, and to gain knowledge and skill regarding the use of song writing in the accomplishment of various clinical goals

### **Textbooks**

- I. Brunk, B.K. *Songwriting for Music Therapists*, Dallas, TX: Prelude Music Therapy
- II. Gardstrom, S.C. (2007). *Music Therapy Improvisation for Groups: Essential Leadership Competencies*, Gilsum, NH: Barcelona Publishers
- III. Monath, N. (1984). *How to Play Popular Piano in 10 Easy Lessons*, New York, NY: Simon & Schuster
- IV. *Paperback Songs, Pop Rock*, Milwaukee, WI: Hal Leonard Corporation

All textbooks may be purchased at One Music Square in downtown Huntsville, pending availability. It is the student's responsibility to obtain course materials by the second class day. Exceptions regarding due dates will NOT be granted to students who fail to purchase textbooks on time.

## **Attendance Policy**

Regular attendance is expected of all students. Assignments due during one's absence should be submitted in advance when possible or as soon after the student's return as is feasible. Follow professional job procedures.

NOTE: All absences must be documented prior to class (when feasible) by means of a phone call to the professor. Leave a message on voice mail, if necessary. Please understand that this documentation does not by any means guarantee an excused absence, but without such notification, a written doctor's notice, or a funeral notice, all absences will be considered unexcused. Appointments for missed playing assignments must be made with the professor within one week following the assignment's due date. Consideration for make-up will be given on the basis of documentation for an excused absence. Excessive absences, tardiness, or leaving early will adversely affect the student's grade. Students will be allowed 3 class absences without penalty. Any unexcused absences over 3 classes will result in final grade reductions of two (2) percentage points per absence.

## **Assignments**

- I. Assigned readings and practice exercises
- II. Class participation and peer feedback
- III. Demonstration of piano and guitar accompaniment skills for various musical styles  
Presentation of song learned "by ear" and learning tactics  
Video-taped, audio-taped, and/or in-class improvisation exercises
- VI. Presentation of original song
- VII. Southwestern Region, American Music Therapy Association conference attendance/reports: It is very important that students attend the Southwestern Region, American Music Therapy Association's national conference in order to further knowledge regarding music therapy as a profession, current music therapy research and music therapy practices with various populations. Students are further encouraged to participate in regional conference by assisting with formal presentations or research posters and becoming actively involved with the Southwestern Region, American Music Therapy Association of Students via business meetings and holding of offices. Students in attendance of conference will give verbal reports to the class regarding their experiences. Those unable to attend are expected to make note of information given in verbal reports in order to both increase knowledge and prepare for attendance at future conferences.

## **Grading Plan**

All assignments are due at class time of the due date indicated on the Academic Calendar. Assignments presented after class on the due date are considered one academic day late. Fifty (50) percent will be deducted for each class day late. Your total number of points will determine your final grade.

No extra credit will be given. Students who cannot complete course requirements will receive a grade of F. Exceptions may be granted and incomplete (X) grades given with proper documentation in the case of severe health emergencies or death in the immediate family. Grades will be posted using the university system by the date specified in the university class schedule. Students may review or discuss grades with the instructor at any time.

Grade points will be earned as follows:

Assignment	Points	Late Points Deducted	Actual
I. Song Style Presentations (4)	40	50% per class	(1) _____ - (2) _____ - (3) _____ - (4) _____ -
II. Play by Ear Assignment	10	50% per class	_____ -
III. Improvisation Exercises	40	50% per class	_____ -
IV. Original Song	10	*****	_____ -
TOTAL 100 POINTS _____			

**Grading Scale:**

A = 90 -100  
B=80 -89 C=70  
-79 D=60 -69 F  
= Below 60

**Students with Disabilities**

SHSU adheres to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. In order to receive such accommodations, students with disabilities must register with the SHSU Counseling Center and request help from the instructor. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential.

## **Writing Assistance**

The Sam Houston Writing Center, located in Wilson 114, is open Monday-Thursday from 8 a.m. until 7 p.m., Friday from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., and Sunday from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m. Writing tutors will work with you one-on-one to help you generate, organize, or revise a draft of any assignment in any subject. You can drop by to work with a tutor or call (936) 294-3680 to schedule an appointment.

## **Student Absences on Religious Holy Days**

Section 51.911(b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence. A student desiring to absent himself/herself from a scheduled class in order to observe (a) religious holy day(s) shall present to the instructor a written statement concerning the religious holy day(s). This request must be made in the first fifteen days of the semester. The instructor will notify the student of a reasonable timeframe in which the missed assignments and/or examinations are to be completed.

## **Academic Honesty**

The University expects all students to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. Furthermore, the University and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials.

## **Classroom Rules of Conduct**

Students will refrain from behavior in the classroom that intentionally or unintentionally disrupts the learning process and, thus, impedes the mission of the university. Cellular telephones and pagers must be turned off before class begins. Students are prohibited from eating in class, using tobacco products, making offensive remarks, reading newspapers, sleeping, talking at inappropriate times, wearing inappropriate clothing, or engaging in any other form of distraction. Inappropriate behavior in the classroom shall result in a directive to leave class. Students who are especially disruptive also may be reported to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action in accordance with university policy.

## **Visitors in the Classroom**

Unannounced visitors to class must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. If the visitor is not a registered student, it is at the instructor's discretion whether or not the visitor will be allowed to remain in the classroom.

**INSTRUMENTAL SKILLS for the MUSIC THERAPY SETTING II**  
**MUS 337.01 Spring,**  
**2008 Tentative Academic**  
**Calendar**

**Date Assignment**

JAN 16 Overview/Orientation JAN 18 *Popular Piano* –

background

Keyboard Exercises JAN 21 ***Holiday: MLK***

***Day*** JAN 23 *Popular Piano*

Keyboard Exercises, cont. JAN 25 *Popular Piano*, Lessons 7 and 8 –advanced

chording JAN 28 *Popular Piano*, Lessons 7 and 8, cont. JAN 30 *Popular Piano*,

Lesson 9

(add guitar) FEB 1 *Popular Piano*, Lesson 9, cont.

Song Style Assignments FEB 4 Due: Song #1 FEB 6 Due: Song #2

FEB 8 Due: Song #3 FEB 11 Due: Song #4 FEB 13 *Popular Piano*,

Lesson 10 – playing by ear

Play by Ear Assignment FEB 15 Due: Play by Ear Assignment FEB 18

*Popular Piano* – improvisation introduction FEB 20 *Music Therapy*

*Improvisation*, Ch. 1-2 FEB 22 ***No Class – attendance required at:***

***Music Therapy Awareness Weekend, SHSU, February 22-23***

FEB 25 *Music Therapy Improvisation*, Ch. 3

FEB 27 Ch. 3, cont. FEB 29 *Music Therapy Improvisation*, Ch. 4 MAR 3 Ch. 4, cont. MAR 5 Ch. 4,  
cont. MAR 7 Ch. 4, cont. MAR 10-14 ***Spring Break*** MAR 17 Ch. 4, cont. MAR 19 Ch. 4, cont. MAR  
21 ***Holiday -Good Friday*** MAR 24 Ch. 4, cont. MAR 26 Ch. 4, cont. MAR 28 ***Southwestern Region,***  
***American Music Therapy Association (SWAMTA)***

***Conference, El Paso, TX, March 27-29***

MAR 31 *Music Therapy Improvisation*, Ch. 5 APR 2 *Music*  
*Therapy Improvisation*, Ch. 6 APR 4 Ch. 6, cont. APR 7 Ch. 6,  
cont. APR 9 *Music Therapy Improvisation*, Ch. 7 APR 11 Ch.  
7, cont. APR 14 Ch. 7, cont. APR 16 Ch. 7, cont. APR 18 Ch.  
7, cont. APR 21 Ch. 7, cont. APR 23 *Music Therapy*  
*Improvisation*, Ch. 9 APR 25 Ch. 9, cont. APR 28 *Songwriting*  
*for Music Therapists*

APR 30 *Songwriting for Music Therapists*, cont. MAY 2

Songwriting MAY 5 Songwriting MAY 7 Songwriting

**FINAL EXAM (presentation of original songs): TBA**