

MUS172: CLASS PIANO II

Spring 2017 — M/W 10:00–10:50 am — Fine Arts Center H106

Instructor: Dr. Kirsten Volness

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Office hours: by appointment

Office location: Fine Arts Center D206

Phone: 401.874.2431

Course Website: <http://www.kirstenvolness.com/mus172.htm>

COURSE DESCRIPTION / OBJECTIVES

Continued development of functional piano skills for the professional musician; independent competency at the piano for use as a tool in the chosen profession.

SKILLS EMPHASIZED:

1. Sightreading
2. Technique, especially “playing blind” with effective fingering
3. Accompanying
4. Transposition
5. Harmonization
6. Improvisation
7. Performing piano literature with convincing interpretation
8. General Musicianship as it relates to keyboard theory

COMPETENCIES:

1. Complete units 10-18 of *Alfred's Group Piano for Adults Book 1*.
2. Demonstrate playing triads and inversions with both hands.
3. Demonstrate two-octave major and five-finger minor scales, hands together.
3. Harmonize and transpose melodies using the V(7), IV chords.
4. Sight-read and transpose beginner-level pieces in a variety of styles.
5. Improvise and embellish melodies in major and minor scales.
6. Play repertoire from the textbook as well as beginner-level pieces as assigned.

REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS

Lancaster, E.L., and Renfrow, Kenon D.. *Alfred's Group Piano for Adults Book 1*. 2nd ed. Van Nuys, CA.: Alfred Publishing Co., Inc., 2004.

Piece selected for individual project (see below).

THIS SYLLABUS IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE AT ANY TIME.

The most current copy will be available on the course website.

POLICIES AND EXPECTATIONS

ATTENDANCE and PARTICIPATION are mandatory and critical to succeeding in this class. **Each student is allowed TWO unexcused absence per term;** each additional unexcused absences

thereafter will result in a **2% reduction in one's highest attainable final grade**. Absences will be excused in cases of illness (doctor's note appreciated) or legitimate, documented emergency (family or otherwise). Being noticeably distracted by personal electronics during class will result in an unexcused absence for the day. Absences related to University-sanctioned events will be treated in accordance with University policy: <http://web.uri.edu/provost/2014/08/21/2015-university-sanctioned-events>

A large part of this class is based on participation. Tardiness, remaining for entire class period, and having all materials for class will also be reflected in this grade. Please note that an absence does not excuse you from meeting the due dates for all requirements and assignments. There are no make-ups for missed assignments, quizzes, or exams.

Your in-class **PARTICIPATION** will be measured with a daily score of 0–2

- 0 — absent or disengaged
- 1 — present, paying attention, participating passively
- 2 — actively listening, engaged in and contributing to discussion / demonstrations

TIMELY PREPARATION

Students are expected to be prepared to discuss and demonstrate skills for the instructor or their peers at any time. You are responsible for maintaining a consistent, productive practice habit, keeping your course materials organized, knowing when assignments are due, when quizzes and exams are scheduled, and asking questions in a timely manner if anything is confusing.

COMMUNICATION

Homework assignments, listening examples, and additional materials will be posted on the course website. You are responsible for checking URI email regularly for any updates, announcements, or other news regarding this course, as it is the primary means of communicating with you outside of class. Students are expected to maintain a level of mutual respect when expressing creative ideas or constructive criticism, and to listen to, as well as contribute ideas to, the conversation.

GRADING

- Attendance/In-class Participation: 20%
- Quizzes (4): 20%
- Exams (2): 20%
- Final Exam: 25%
- Individual Project: 15%

Each task/assignment/exam will be graded on a scale of 100 points. Each score will then be adjusted according to the percentage that it counts toward the final semester grade (see above). After I have calculated the number of points (adjusted for the above percentages), I will add all of them together to find the final percentage corresponding to your final letter-grade for the course, using the scale: A 93-100, A- 90-92, B+ 87-89, B 83-86, B- 80-82, C+ 77-79, C 73-76, C- 70-72, D+ 65-69, D 60-64, F less than 60 percent. If you have a question about your grade, please contact the instructor immediately; do not wait until the end of the semester.

EXAMS

Exams will take place during class and students will sign up for individual time slots. Exams will include performance of a prepared repertoire piece, scale and chord examples, harmonization, transposition, improvisation, and sightreading. The final exam will be comprehensive, drawing upon all of material presented this semester. Please see the course schedule below and the University final exam schedule for any updates at: <http://web.uri.edu/enrollment/academic-calendars>

EXAM 1 — units 10-13: major scales, V(7), IV, primary chords

EXAM 2 — unit 14-16: minor scales and primary chords

HOMEWORK

PRACTICING can be fun and rewarding if you maintain a positive attitude and practice intelligently and efficiently. See course website for numerous articles offering practical advice (no pun intended).

INDIVIDUAL PROJECT — Students will select one topic after consulting with the instructor:

1. accompanying a singer or instrumentalist
2. creating and performing one or two original arrangements
3. performance off-campus for a community organization or event
4. ensemble project (duet, etc.)

February 8 — Topic must be confirmed with instructor

March 8 — Check in (midterm)

April 24 — In-class performance

UNIVERSITY ANTI-BIAS STATEMENT

Each member of the University community has the responsibility to foster an environment of acceptance, mutual respect, and understanding. If you are a target or a witness of a bias incident, you are encouraged to contact the URI Bias Response Team (www.uri.edu/student_life/brt) where you will find people and resources to help.

TITLE IX PROTECTIONS

Title IX makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender are Civil Rights offenses subject to the same kinds of accountability and the same kinds of support applied to offenses against other protected categories such as race, national origin, etc. If you or someone you know has been harassed or assaulted, you may find the appropriate resources here: <http://web.uri.edu/womenscenter/violence-prevention-and-advocacy-services-vpas/>

SPECIAL NEEDS

Any student with a documented disability is welcome to contact me as early in the semester as possible so that we may arrange reasonable accommodations. As part of this process, please be in touch with Disability Services for Students Office at 330 Memorial Union, 401-874-2098 (<http://www.uri.edu/disability/dss/>) or 239 Shepard Building, Feinstein Providence Campus, 401-277-5221, providing appropriate documentation of disability, requesting accommodation in a timely manner, and follow-through regarding accommodations requested.

PLAGIARISM / CHEATING

Students are expected to be honest in all academic work. A student's name on any written work, quiz or exam shall be regarded as assurance that the work is the result of the student's own independent thought and study. Work should be stated in the student's own words, properly attributed to its source. Students have an obligation to know how to quote, paraphrase, summarize, cite and reference the work of others with integrity.

EXTRA CREDIT

3% extra credit—Attend a piano recital and write a 250–500 word review of it (include program).

COURSE SCHEDULE

*All homework is **due the following class meeting** unless otherwise noted. Additional written homework and/or listening exercises will be assigned in class.

JAN 23: INTRODUCTIONS – SYLLABUS – REVIEW – UNIT 10: major scales/triads/inversions
JAN 25: UNIT 10

JAN 30: UNIT 10
FEB 1: **QUIZ 1** — UNIT 11: V(7)

FEB 6: UNIT 11
FEB 8: UNIT 12: IV — **INDIVIDUAL PROJECT PROPOSAL DUE**

FEB 13: UNIT 12
FEB 15: **QUIZ 2** — UNIT 13: primary chords in major

FEB 20: **NO CLASS**
FEB 22: UNIT 13

FEB 27: **EXAM 1 (group 1)**
MAR 1: **EXAM 1 (group 2)**

MAR 6: UNIT 14: minor scales (tetrachord)
MAR 8: UNIT 15: minor scales/triads— **INDIVIDUAL PROJECT CHECK-IN**

MAR 13 & 15: **NO CLASS — SPRING BREAK**

MAR 20: UNIT 15
MAR 22: **QUIZ 3**—UNIT 16: primary chords in minor

MAR 27: **NO CLASS**
MAR 29: UNIT 16

APR 3: **EXAM 2 (group 2)**

APR 5: EXAM 2 (group 2)

APR 10: UNIT 17: minor scales/triads

APR 12: QUIZ 4 — UNIT 18: major scales/triads

APR 17: UNIT 18

APR 19: PRACTICE DAY

APR 24: INDIVIDUAL PROJECT PRESENTATIONS

APR 26: extra **INDIVIDUAL PROJECT PRESENTATIONS** — COURSE EVALUATIONS

MAY 1: PRACTICE DAY

Friday, MAY 5, 8–11 am: FINAL EXAM in D206

COURSE COMPETENCIES (NASM)

BM 1.5 — Keyboard competency and experiences in secondary performance areas.

BMC 2.2 — Fluency in the use of tools needed by composers. This includes keyboard skills, spoken and written language, conducting and rehearsal skills, analytical techniques, and applicable technologies.

BME 2.3 — Functional performance abilities in keyboard, the voice, and instruments appropriate to the student's teaching specialization.

BME 2.5.3 — Performance ability sufficient to use at least one instrument as a teaching tool and to provide, transpose, and improvise accompaniments.