

MUS271: CLASS PIANO III

Fall 2016 — M/W 11:00–11:50 am / 2:00–2:50 pm — Fine Arts Center H106

Instructor: Dr. Kirsten Volness

Email: kvolness@uri.edu

Office hours: Monday 1–2 pm or by appointment

Office location: Fine Arts Center D206

Phone: 401.874.2431

Course Website: <http://www.kirstenvolness.com/mus271.htm>

COURSE DESCRIPTION / OBJECTIVES

Students will continue to develop basic techniques and musicianship for effective use of the piano.

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. Demonstrate two-octave major, minor, alternate and modal scales, hands together.
2. Demonstrate chord progressions using ii, vi, iii, as well as seventh chords.
3. Harmonize and transpose melodies using those chords.
4. Sight-read and transpose intermediate-level pieces in a variety of styles.
5. Improvise and embellish melodies in minor and modal scales.
6. Play repertoire from the textbook as well as intermediate-level pieces as assigned.
7. Complete units 19–26 of *Alfred’s Group Piano for Adults Book 1*.

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 19-21: ii, vi, iii chords

EXAM 2 — unit 22: minor scales and triads of the key

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 piece to perform to be approved by the instructor. Students will be required to submit documentation of demonstrated progress on their project by October 19 via email. A final recital/presentation of the projects will take place November 28 and 30.

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.

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. The following are examples of academic dishonesty:

- Using material, directly or paraphrasing, from published sources (print or electronic) without appropriate citation
- Claiming disproportionate credit for work not done independently
- Unauthorized possession or access to exams
- Unauthorized communication during exams

- Unauthorized use of another's work or preparing work for another student
- Taking an exam for another student
- Altering or attempting to alter grades
- The use of notes or electronic devices to gain an unauthorized advantage during exams
- Fabricating or falsifying facts, data or references
- Facilitating or aiding another's academic dishonesty
- Submitting the same paper for more than one course without prior approval from the instructors.

If you are found to have committed plagiarism or are caught cheating on an assignment or exam, you will immediately receive a score of zero (0) for the assignment/exam. Please cite all of your sources properly with footnotes (or endnotes) and bibliography – Chicago Style preferred, but MLA and ALA citations will also be accepted.

EXTRA CREDIT

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

3% extra credit—VOTE NOVEMBER 8

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.

SEPT 7: INTRODUCTIONS – SYLLABUS – UNIT 19: ii chord

SEPT 12: UNIT 19: ii chord (continued)

SEPT 14: UNIT 20: vi chord — **INDIVIDUAL PROJECT PROPOSAL DUE**

SEPT 19: QUIZ 1 — UNIT 20: vi chord (continued)

SEPT 21: UNIT 21: iii chord

SEPT 26: PRACTICE WEEK

SEPT 28: PRACTICE WEEK

OCT 3: EXAM 1

OCT 5: UNIT 22: MINOR SCALES

OCT 10: NO CLASS — GO TO PRONK!

OCT 12: QUIZ 2 — UNIT 22: MINOR SCALES

OCT 17: UNIT 22: TRIADS OF THE KEY

OCT 19: UNIT 22: TRIADS OF THE KEY — **INDIVIDUAL PROJECT CHECK-IN**

OCT 24: PRACTICE WEEK

OCT 26: PRACTICE WEEK

OCT 31: EXAM 2

NOV 2: UNIT 23: SEVENTH CHORDS

NOV 7: QUIZ 3 — UNIT 23: SEVENTH CHORDS

NOV 9: UNIT 24: OTHER SCALE STRUCTURES

NOV 14: UNIT 24: OTHER SCALE STRUCTURES

NOV 16: UNIT 25: MODES

NOV 21: QUIZ 4 — UNIT 25: MODES

NOV 23: UNIT 26: REVIEW

NOV 28: UNIT 26: REVIEW — INDIVIDUAL PROJECT PRESENTATIONS

NOV 30: INDIVIDUAL PROJECT PRESENTATIONS

DEC 5: PRACTICE WEEK

DEC 7: PRACTICE WEEK — COURSE EVALUATIONS

DEC 12: NO CLASS — Friday classes meet (Instructor will be available for office hours during class time)

Wednesday, DEC 14, 8–11 am: FINAL EXAM, SECTION 2 (11 am)

Monday, DEC 19, 11:30–2:30 am: FINAL EXAM, SECTION 1 (2 pm)

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.