

MUS271: CLASS PIANO III

Fall 2018 — M/W 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 D104

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, disrupting class
- 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.

EQUIPMENT / ROOM POLICIES

We have a nice piano lab, so please respect it and treat it with TLC.

NO FOOD OR DRINK or STICKY FINGERS anywhere near the electronics!

NEVER UNPLUG ANYTHING! — There are buttons to turn on the speakers. Please ask for help.

PLEASE TURN OFF keyboard before you leave and push in your bench.

GRADING

- Attendance/In-class Participation (including practice weeks): 15%
- Quizzes (4): 20%
- Exams (2): 25%
- 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 additional articles offering practical advice (no pun intended), which may be helpful to you even beyond scope of this course.

INDIVIDUAL PROJECT — Students will select one piece to perform to be approved by the instructor by **September 17**. Students will be required to demonstrate progress on their project by **October 17** (midterm) in class to the instructor. A final recital/presentation of the projects will take place **November 28**.

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 discuss 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.

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 5: INTRODUCTIONS – SYLLABUS – UNIT 19: ii chord

SEPT 10: UNIT 19: ii chord (continued)

SEPT 12: UNIT 20: vi chord

SEPT 17: QUIZ 1 — UNIT 20: vi chord (continued) — **INDIVIDUAL PROJECT PROPOSAL DUE**

SEPT 19: UNIT 21: iii chord

SEPT 24: PRACTICE WEEK

SEPT 26: PRACTICE WEEK

OCT 1: EXAM 1

OCT 3: EXAM 1

OCT 8: NO CLASS — GO TO PRONK!

OCT 10: UNIT 22: MINOR SCALES

OCT 15: UNIT 22: MINOR SCALES

OCT 17: QUIZ 2 — UNIT 22: TRIADS OF THE KEY

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

OCT 24: PRACTICE DAY

OCT 29: EXAM 2

OCT 31: EXAM 2

NOV 5: UNIT 23: SEVENTH CHORDS

NOV 7: UNIT 23: SEVENTH CHORDS

NOV 12: NO CLASS — VETERANS DAY (NO MAKEUP ON TUESDAY NOV 13)

NOV 14: QUIZ 3 — UNIT 24: OTHER SCALE STRUCTURES

NOV 19: UNIT 25: MODES

NOV 21: NO CLASS — THANKSGIVING

NOV 26: UNIT 25: MODES

NOV 28: QUIZ 4 — UNIT 26: REVIEW

DEC 3: INDIVIDUAL PROJECT PRESENTATIONS

DEC 5: PRACTICE DAY

DEC 10: PRACTICE DAY — COURSE EVALUATIONS

FINAL EXAM

Friday, DEC 14, 3–6 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.

RIPTS

1.4, 2.1, 4.2, 5.1, 5.5