

MUS272: CLASS PIANO IV

Spring 2019 — M/W 12:00–12:50 pm — 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/mus272.htm>

COURSE DESCRIPTION / OBJECTIVES

Further development of 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
9. Score reading

COMPETENCIES:

1. Complete units 1–10 of *Alfred's Group Piano for Adults Book 2*.
2. Demonstrate major and minor scales, two octaves, hands together.
3. Demonstrate various choral warm-ups in all keys, hands together.
4. Harmonize given melodies using primary, secondary and seventh chords.
5. Sight-read and transpose intermediate-level pieces in a variety of styles.
6. Demonstrate both instrumental and choral score reading.
7. Improvise and embellish diatonic melodies and chords. Demonstrate both the blues scale and various blues accompaniments in several keys.
8. Play hymn-style arrangement of “Star Spangled Banner” (provided in class).

REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS

Lancaster, E.L., and Renfrow, Kenon D.. *Alfred's Group Piano for Adults Book 2*. 2nd ed. Van Nuys, CA.: Alfred Publishing Co., Inc., 2008.

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 absence 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 (**please put your phone away**). 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): 25%
- Exams (3): 35%
- Individual Project: 20%

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 may include performance of a prepared repertoire piece, scale and chord examples, harmonization, transposition, improvisation, score reading, and sightreading.

EXAM 1 — units 1–4

EXAM 2 — units 5–7

EXAM 3 — units 8–10

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. Presentation of piece from traditional piano resource (classical, folk, popular, etc)
2. Arrangement of a piece from fake-book or real-book
3. Creating and performing an original composition/arrangement
4. Accompanying a singer or instrumentalist (or singing and playing simultaneously)
5. Duet/ensemble project

February 6 — Topic must be confirmed with instructor

March 6 — Check in (midterm)

April 29 — 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 or the Contemporary Arts Festival (May 5) and write a 250–500 word review of it (include program). **DUE MAY 6.**

COURSE SCHEDULE

JAN 23: INTRODUCTIONS – SYLLABUS – REVIEW – UNIT 1: Review keyboard basics

JAN 25: UNIT 1

JAN 28: QUIZ 1 — UNIT 2: TRIADS/INVERSIONS

JAN 30: UNIT 2

FEB 4: UNIT 3: SONATA FORM

FEB 6: UNIT 3 — **INDIVIDUAL PROJECT PROPOSAL DUE**

FEB 11: QUIZ 2 — UNIT 4: PRIMARY CHORDS

FEB 13: UNIT 4: PRIMARY CHORDS

FEB 18: Practice day

FEB 20: EXAM 1

FEB 25: UNIT 5: Review

FEB 27: UNIT 5

MAR 4: QUIZ 3 — UNIT 6: Secondary Chords

MAR 6: UNIT 6 — **INDIVIDUAL PROJECT CHECK-IN**

MAR 11+13: NO CLASS — SPRING BREAK

MAR 18: UNIT 7: Seventh Chords

MAR 20: UNIT 7

MAR 25: Practice day

MAR 27: EXAM 2

APR 1: UNIT 8: V7/V + V7/IV

APR 3: UNIT 8

APR 8: QUIZ 4 — UNIT 9: V7/ii, V7/iii, V7/vi

APR 10: UNIT 9

APR 15: UNIT 10: Review

APR 17: UNIT 10

APR 22: EXAM 3

APR 24: PRACTICE DAY — COURSE EVALUATIONS

APR 29: INDIVIDUAL PROJECT PRESENTATIONS

MAY 6: EXTRA CREDIT DUE via email

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.