

**SYLLABUS
PRIVATE PIANO
MUAP 1160 and 1260
MUAP 2160 and 2260**

Instructor: Dr. Donna O. Ham
dham@southplainscollege.edu
716-2268 FA 135

Office Hours: TBA

Purpose of Course: The purpose of this course is to provide piano majors the requirements needed to transfer to a four (4) year college/university; to give non-keyboard music majors a functional knowledge of the piano keyboard, including sufficient theoretical background and technical facility to pass Semester Exams; and to fulfill curriculum requirements for sound technology majors; or as an elective for personal enrichment and enjoyment. Selective repertoire will represent the literature of various periods of music, and will enhance the student's knowledge and understanding of style and performance, as well as interpretive introspection.

Textbooks: Materials depend on the ability and background of piano study. The student is responsible for purchasing their own music. You must have assigned material by the third (3rd) lesson or you will need to drop.

Attendance: *Regular attendance is required.* A second missed private lesson for any reason will result in the automatic reduction of a student's grade by ten (10%) percent. The student will be dropped on the third (3rd) absence and receive an "F." Lessons missed by the student will not be made up. Unprepared lessons will receive a zero. The student will receive a numerical grade for each lesson.

Objectives:

- Piano Majors:**
1. must complete 8 hours of piano (passing)
 2. Graduation recital: repertoire- 3 – 4 works memorized representing different time periods of Music History. The student will be required to study and research information applicable to assigned repertoire. Piano majors should practice a minimum of 4 hours *or more* per day.
 3. The following skills should be passed before graduation and will be evaluated by music faculty.
 - A. Scales: all major and minor scales (all 3 forms) 4 octaves, hands together-parallel motion
 - B. cadences: root, 1st inversion, 2nd inversion, hands together
 - C. Arpeggios: root position 4 octaves
 - D. harmonization of melodies using one or two different accompaniment patterns with I, IV, V, ii (possibly vi).
 - E. sight-reading (at least 2 levels below level)
 - F. transposition to 2 other keys
 - G. improvisation: playing by ear-simple melodies harmonized with chord progressions or improvised melodies over an accompaniment played by a person or recording.
 - H. Learn and perform a simple vocal/ or instrumental accompaniment.

4. PIANO EXAMS

- A. must play a jury exam (10-15 minutes) at the end of the semester playing 2-3 memorized works. In addition, the student will be asked to play scales, cadences, arpeggio's that were prepared during the semester. Major/minor scales (all 3 minor forms) 4 octaves hands together, cadences (3 positions) hands together, and 4 octave arpeggio's hands together.
- B. Must play at least one-third recital (20 minutes) in lieu of final jury exam.
- C. The final grade is based on preparedness at each lesson, progress made throughout the semester, attendance at lessons and other music performances as required by the music faculty.

Piano minors and non-keyboard music majors

1. Must complete a minimum of four (4) hours of piano and take piano until the proficiency is passed.
2. The student will be required to study and research information applicable to assigned repertoire. The student should practice a minimum of 1-2 hours *or more* per day.
3. Must pass semester exams consisting of:
 - A. 2-3 memorized pieces
 - B. sight-reading (at least 2 levels below level)
- C. Major and minor (all 3 forms) scales, 2 octaves, hands together in parallel motion. Cadences-three positions, hands together. Arpeggios, 2- octaves hands together.
- D. Harmonization of a simple melody.
- E. Transposition of a simple piece.
- F. Improvisation: simple melodies with basic harmony
- G. Learn and perform a simple vocal/ or instrumental accompaniment.
4. Grading and evaluation
 - A. must play a piano jury (10-15) minutes, 2-3 pieces memorized
 - b. Major/minor (all 3 forms) scales, 2 octaves, hands together in parallel motion. Cadence-three positions, hands together, arpeggio's 2-octave hands together.
 - C. The final grade will be based on preparedness at each lesson, progress made throughout the semester, and attendance at lessons.

Electives

1. 1 to 2 hours credit per semester may be taken by students from other disciplines. The student is expected to practice at least 1 hour *or more* per day.
2. Instructor will determine requirements and evaluate the progress made, based upon the student's individual needs, goals and levels of skill.
3. May play a jury exam before the faculty if agreed upon by the instructor and student. (2-3 pieces memorized, a few scales as practiced through the semester)
4. Those not playing a jury will play an exam for the instructor at the last lesson.
5. Grading and evaluation; final grade will be determined by preparedness at each lesson, progress made throughout the semester.

Learning Outcomes:

- Approach the piano with good technique
- Have improved music notation and score reading skills
- Memorize and master scales, cadences, arpeggios, and repertoire in a variety of styles
- Have a basic understanding of both traditional and contemporary harmony and theory
- Understand the basics of instrument transposition, and alternate clefs

- Understand the characteristics of various eras of piano music and their important composers
- Develop skills required of piano players besides solo literature, including accompanying

All Students will be required to perform in a studio recital at the end of the semester. Failure to attend will drop student average one letter grade. Time and date TBA.

UNPREPARED LESSONS

Progress is made when the student consistently practices. Lessons that are unprepared will result in a zero for that lesson. If you do not have time to set aside for practice **every** day then it would be wise to drop this course. The student will receive the grade "F" after three (3) such lessons. Although I understand the problems with time constraints, work, family, etc. these aspects will not save your grade. Excuses have no uses!

Example: If you are taking 18 hours and are working 40 hours per week, then this is not the time to take piano.

Practice rooms are available. All students are encouraged to practice on acoustic pianos. Digital keyboards are fine, but tone, independence of fingers, and strength are not developed as well. Students that plan on practicing on a digital at home should balance by practicing some on the acoustic pianos in the practice rooms. Make sure your digital has full size keys and at least 60-70 keys.