



MUSI-1181-161C3
Class Piano I
Fall 2024
Tuesday/Thursday 9:30-10:50 AM

Instructor Information: Dr. Yu-Hsuan Yang, email: yyang3@com.edu, phone: 409-933-8348. Please leave a callback number if there is no answer in person. Connie Stebbins, Fine Arts Administrative Assistant, is usually available during regular business hours at 409-933-8943.

Student hours and location: Tuesday 11:00-12:00, or by appointment. Office: F-123

Required Textbook/Materials: Alfred's Group Piano for Adults, Book I (Piano I-II)

Course Description: This course provides the beginning piano student (advancing through 4 semesters to late intermediate level) with an introduction to basic keyboard skills. Class piano is required prior to private instruction. For music majors, the ultimate benefit of class piano is that it helps one build the abilities required by most four-year programs to pass a barrier exam. For non-majors, the primary benefit is personal enrichment.

Course requirements:

Majors: To transfer successfully to a four-year university, you **MUST** complete one unit each week. If you fall behind at any time, make an appointment with me and catch up immediately! The music faculty will go out of our way to ensure your success!

Non majors: Since this course is primarily for your enjoyment, you may proceed at a more leisurely pace. If you are practicing in class, you should easily complete a minimum of one chapter per month. At the discretion of the instructor, extra credit may be given for attending student recitals at COM.

Determination of Course Grade/Detailed Grading Formula: A variety of means to evaluate student performance is employed, such as classroom participation, written and in-class playing assignments, midterm and final exams.

GRADING

15% attendance/participation
10% weekly written assignments
25% in-class playing grade

50% Tests (20% midterm, 30% final)

For the midterm and final, you will perform 3 pieces you have been working on during the semester, as well as perform certain exercises (five finger patterns, arpeggios, scales, transpositions) as assigned. The repertoire pieces may be recorded ahead of time.

Majors:

- Complete 13 Units = A (100)
- Complete 12 Units = A (92)
- Complete 11 Units = B (84)
- Complete 10 Units = C (76)
- Complete 9 Units = 68
- Complete 8 Units = 60
- Complete 7 Units = 52
- Complete 6 Units = 44, etc.

Note that even with a 100 average on tests, you need to be at Unit 8 to have an 80 (B) average. Because a grade of C in your major is a very serious matter, it is suggested that anyone not at Unit 8 by the end of the semester take a grade of W (explained in the next section) and re-enroll at the same level.

Non majors: Complete the playing and written assignments in only 4 chapters to receive an "A." Each chapter not completed will change the final grade down one letter. Attendance and exams will also affect your final score.

GRADING SCALE

- A Superior achievement of course objectives.
- B Outstanding achievement of course objectives.
- C Achievement of minimum course objectives. (Not recommended for music majors!)
- D Marginal achievement of course objectives.
- I DUE TO THE INTENSIVE ONE-ON-ONE TIME REQUIREMENT PLACED ON THE INSTRUCTOR, INCOMPLETES WILL NOT BE GRANTED FOR CLASS PIANO. SEE "W" GRADE BELOW.
- F Failure to achieve course objectives.
- W Withdrawal on or before the "W" date as specified in the College Calendar.

Late Work, Make-Up, and Extra-Credit Policy: The final class date is exactly that: final. Incompletes are not given in this course. Work completed after the final day will not count. Do not wait until late in the semester to "catch up" since you may encounter difficulties that we will not have enough time to work through together. If you must miss class, you are still responsible for practicing the assigned material. Music majors must keep pace with one unit per week regardless. If you have questions or problems, ask the instructor.

Attendance Policy: Absences are not classified as “excused” or “unexcused.” Students are expected to be prepared and on time for each lesson. ANY absence or late arrival potentially lowers your grade since it lessens your preparation time. While the college does not grant a set number of misses, **the instructor reserves the right to drop or fail any student who has three absences.** Do not depend on the instructor to drop you; **each student is responsible for turning in paperwork by W day if wanting to drop the course.**

Communicating with your instructor: ALL electronic communication with the instructor must be through your COM email. Due to FERPA restrictions, faculty cannot share any information about performance in the class through other electronic means. (Faculty may add additional statement requiring monitoring and communication expectations via D2L or other LMS)

Student Learner Outcome	Maps to Core Objective	Assessed via this Assignment
1. Demonstrate elements of critical thinking by interpreting a musical score.	Critical Thinking Skills (CT)	Final playing exam
2. Identify and express in writing the musical elements of pitch/tonality, rhythm, and harmony.	Communication Skills (CS1)	Written Assignments
3. Show effective teamwork through participatory group activity.	Teamwork (TW)	Ensemble Project
4. Show respect and demonstrate demeanor culturally appropriate to the setting.	Social Responsibility (SR)	Class participation

Academic Dishonesty: Any incident of academic dishonesty will be dealt with in accordance with college policy and the Student Handbook. Academic dishonesty – such as cheating on exams is an extremely serious offense and will result in a **grade of zero** on that exam and the student will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct for the appropriate disciplinary action.

Student Concerns: If you have any questions or concerns about any aspect of this course, please contact me using the contact information previously provided. If, after discussing your concern with me, you continue to have questions, please contact Dr. Kristina Jantz, Fine Arts Department Chair, at 409-933-8255 or kjantz@com.edu.

Course outline:

- Week 1 Class instruction, first repertoire and technical skills assignments
- Week 2 Placement test on note names and staff (Piano I), second repertoire/skills assignments (all levels)
- Week 3-15 Class introduction of new concepts weekly
 Tests on keys, positions, rhythms, etc. announced in class.
 Playing auditions for teacher to pass to next level at least once weekly.
- Week 16 Music majors auditioned for level of completion (which unit level achieved)
 Final test on last class day; all at 12th unit (from beginning of semester) exempt!

As noted above, music majors should complete one assigned unit per week. Non-majors may proceed at their own pace, as long as I see evidence of diligent practice daily.

Institutional Policies and Guidelines

Grade Appeal Process: Concerns about the accuracy of grades should first be discussed with the instructor. A request for a change of grade is a formal request and must be made within six months of the grade assignment. Directions for filing an appeal can be found in the student handbook https://www.com.edu/student-services/docs/Student_Handbook_2024-2025_v2.pdf. *An appeal will not be considered because of general dissatisfaction with a grade, penalty, or outcome of a course. Disagreement with the instructor's professional judgment of the quality of the student's work and performance is also not an admissible basis for a grade appeal.*

Academic Success & Support Services: College of the Mainland is committed to providing students the necessary support and tools for success in their college careers. Support is offered through our Tutoring Services, Library, Counseling, and through Student Services. Please discuss any concerns with your faculty or an advisor.

ADA Statement: Any student with a documented disability needing academic accommodations is requested to contact:

Kimberly Lachney, Student Accessibility Services Coordinator

Phone: 409-933-8919

Email: AccessibilityServices@com.edu

Location: COM Doyle Family Administration Building, Student Success Center

Textbook Purchasing Statement: A student attending College of the Mainland is not under any obligation to purchase a textbook from the college-affiliated bookstore. The same textbook may also be available from an independent retailer, including an online retailer.

Withdrawal Policy: Students may withdraw from this course for any reason prior to the last eligible day for a "W" grade. Before withdrawing students should speak with the instructor and consult an advisor. Students are permitted to withdraw only six times during their college career

by state law. The last date to withdraw from the 1st 8-week session is October 2. The last date to withdraw from the 16-week session is November 15. The last date to withdraw for the 2nd 8-week session is November 26.

FN Grading: The FN grade is issued in cases of *failure due to a lack of attendance*, as determined by the instructor. The FN grade may be issued for cases in which the student ceases or fails to attend class, submit assignments, or participate in required capacities, and for which the student has failed to withdraw. The issuing of the FN grade is at the discretion of the instructor. The last date of attendance should be documented for submission of an FN grade.

Early Alert Program: The Student Success Center at College of the Mainland has implemented an Early Alert Program because student success and retention are very important to us. I have been asked to refer students to the program throughout the semester if they are having difficulty completing assignments or have poor attendance. If you are referred to the Early Alert Program you will be contacted by someone in the Student Success Center who will schedule a meeting with you to see what assistance they can offer in order for you to meet your academic goals.

Resources to Help with Stress:

If you are experiencing stress or anxiety about your daily living needs including food, housing or just feel you could benefit from free resources to help you through a difficult time, please click here <https://www.com.edu/community-resource-center/>. College of the Mainland has partnered with free community resources to help you stay on track with your schoolwork, by addressing life issues that get in the way of doing your best in school. All services are private and confidential. You may also contact the Dean of Students office at deanofstudents@com.edu or communityresources@com.edu.

Nondiscrimination Statement:

The College District prohibits discrimination, including harassment, against any individual on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, age, veteran status, disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender (including gender identity and gender expression), or any other basis prohibited by law. Retaliation against anyone involved in the complaint process is a violation of College District policy.