



MUSI-2181-162C3
CLASS PIANO III
SYLLABUS
Fall 2025

Dr. Steven Termini, Professor

Tuesday/Thursday 4:30-5:50 PM
Fine Arts Bldg., Room F-111

Instructor Information: Dr. Steven Termini contact info: stermini@com.edu. Alternately, the Fine Arts Administrative Assistant, Nichole Montrose, is usually available to take your call during normal business hours at 409-933-8943.

Student Hours: Tues. 4:10-4:25, 5:55-6:15; Thurs. 4:10-4:25, 5:55-6:05
F-123 or F-111

Required textbook/Materials: Alfred's Group Piano for Adults, Book 1 (continued) or Book 2 as determined by the professor after evaluation of individual students.

Course Description: This course provides the beginning piano student (advancing through 4 semesters to late intermediate level) with a continuing 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.

Course Requirements: Since students have varying levels of experience on piano, specific assignments will be doled out after an evaluation of the class' wide-ranging skills set. Such assignments will be announced in a timely manner, with clear expectations and instructions for submission.

Determination of Course Grade/Detailed Grading Formula:

The final grade will be based on the following:

Final Average:

Quizzes and Projects = 45% of overall grade

Midterm Exam and/or Final Exam = 30%

Class attendance = 25%

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. In very rare pre-approved circumstances, if a student is pre-excused from an exam for a legitimate reason, that student will not only have to make up the exam in a timely manner, but will also have to write a hand-written essay between 3 and 6 pages (on a music topic of the professor's choice) by an assigned deadline; otherwise the exam will receive an automatic zero. Any student who misses the Final Exam (or even just one part of it, if it is spread out over two class sessions) cannot receive an A in the class, even if an average of all their other grades in the class seems high enough to “absorb” the missed work.

Attendance Policy: Students begin with an attendance grade of 100. Each class that is missed without having given the professor prior warning receive an ‘absent’ for the class, and a five-point deduction from the attendance grade. Each unexcused late arrival to class results in a three-point deduction from the attendance grade. Multiple ‘absents’ or ‘lates’ affect the student’s final grade. Decisions as to whether an absence is justifiable or not are subject to the professor’s weighed judgment.

COM students are required to attend classes. If an absence is unavoidable, the student is responsible for completing all work missed during the absence. Faculty may issue the grade of FX for nonattendance after the official census date. The FX grade has no grade points assigned per semester hour due to a student’s non-attendance.

Students are expected to maintain an active presence in their course. A faculty member may award a grade of FX at the end of the term to any student. This grade means that the student failed the course because the student missed an excessive number of classes and/or has accrued an excessive number of zeros for work not submitted. Three or more unexcused absences during the semester is considered excessive.

The professor reserves the right to adjust a student’s final grade based on the student’s evident effort and attitude during the semester — the grading of creativity and artistic achievement, although certainly leaning heavily upon the framework of this syllabus, is not always a strict mathematical formula. Just ask the adjudicator of any music competition or jury.

Tardiness: See the grading policy above for arriving late to class.

Communicating with your instructor: 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.

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

Learning Outcomes/Objectives: Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

Piano II (1182)

1. Play additional major and minor scales.
2. Introduce select chord progressions and concepts of voice leading.
3. Continued harmonization of melodies.
4. Perform selected compositions.

Piano III (2181 – shown here to preview next course in sequence of 4)

1. Play additional major and minor scales and arpeggios.
2. Harmonize melodies using varied accompaniment techniques.
3. Perform selected compositions.

Piano IV (2182 – shown here to preview last course in sequence of 4)

1. Demonstrate mastery of scales and chord progressions.
2. Demonstrate mastery of the harmonization of melodies using varied accompaniment techniques.
3. Demonstrate competence in various transpositions.
4. Perform selected compositions.

Academic Dishonesty: Disciplinary actions will be taken for students who exhibit disorderly conduct, cheat on exams, submit plagiarized work (see below), or are involved in collusion (helping others cheat or plagiarize) as defined in the Student Handbook under the heading, “Discipline and Penalties.” The maximum penalty imposed for violations will be an F in the

course. The student will also be referred to the Dean of Students for further disciplinary action. Please read through the “Standards of Student Conduct” in the Student Handbook for a more complete discussion of these issues and your rights and responsibilities. Instructor's Note: Academic dishonesty (cheating on an exam or assignment) is an extremely serious offense and will result in a **grade of zero** on that exam or assignment. Further, 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: Because there are three different grade levels within one class session, student work and scheduling will vary.

Week 1	Class instruction, evaluation of student levels and experience, first repertoire and technical skills assignments
Week 2-15	Class introduction of new concepts weekly Tests on keys, positions, rhythms, etc. announced in class.
Week 16	Final Exam

Miscellaneous:

All music majors will be required to play and pass a “barrier” examination or jury for a faculty panel before graduating from a four-year university. Piano skills can make or break your academic career in music; many students have even been required to re-take class piano before receiving their degrees. Practice daily, ask questions, and stay current with the assignments—and you will inevitably see improvement!

****For obvious reasons, food and beverages are not allowed in the classroom.****

You may bring your own headphones. Bring a sweater or jacket if you want to stay warm - the air conditioning is ice-cold throughout the year. Best wishes for a successful semester!

Students should practice a minimum of piano thirty (30) minutes EACH day **in addition** to the time spent in class. This will be absolutely necessary for your success in gaining proficiency. Your preparation is frequently evaluated; practice enough on your own so that you aren't having to practice from scratch in front of the instructor!

The professor reserves the right to modify this syllabus, and will alert students of any changes during normally-scheduled class sessions.

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/student-handbook.html> *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 accommodation(s) 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 1. The last date to withdraw from the 16-week session is November 14. The last date to withdraw for the 2nd 8-week session is November 25.

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.