

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Division:	Humanities
Department:	Speech and Performing Arts
Course ID:	MUS 133
Course Title:	Beginning Piano
Units:	3
Lecture:	2 Hours
Laboratory:	2 Hours
Prerequisite:	None
Dept. Advisory:	Concurrent enrollment in MUS 101

Catalog Description:

This course teaches practical keyboard facility, sight-reading, elementary improvisation, and harmonization of folk melodies, and leads to performance of simple piano selections. This course will be useful for those desiring to learn to play the piano, organ, or electronic keyboards.

Schedule Description :

This course will teach those wishing to learn to play the piano, organ, or electronic keyboards. Includes practical keyboard facility, sight reading, elementary improvisation and harmonization of folk melodies.

II. NUMBER OF TIMES COURSE MAY BE TAKEN FOR CREDIT: One

III. EXPECTED OUTCOMES FOR STUDENTS:

Upon completion of the course for, the student will be able to:

- A. Read music using the elements of music notation
- B. Demonstrate appropriate hand and body posture at the piano
- C. Keep time using the parameters of rhythmic notation and meter/time signatures
- D. Improvise simple melodies and accompaniments using the I-IV-V chord progression
- E. Sight-read simple piano pieces involving hand independence and changing hand positions
- F. Recognize all major and minor five-finger patterns and major and minor triads
- G. Play simple ensemble pieces with fellow musicians
- H. Play scales hands together, one octave in the following major keys: C, G, D, A, E
- I. Demonstrate a working knowledge of terms and symbols relating to the music pieces studied

IV. COURSE CONTENT:

- A. At the Keyboard
 1. Keyboard posture and correct hand position
 2. The keyboard, sight keys and getting around
 3. The finger numbers, "thumb is always one!"
 4. The major five-finger pattern
- B. Keyboard Notation
 1. Reading the notes, lines, and spaces
 2. Keeping time, time/meter signatures
 3. Pentatonic improvisation
- C. Minor Five-Finger Patterns
 1. Playing in different registers
 2. The minor five-finger pattern
 3. Major and minor five-finger studies
 4. Triads in major and minor keys

- D. More Chords and Keys
 - 1. The dominant-seventh chord
 - 2. Block chord accompaniments using tonic and dominant-seventh chords
 - 3. The subdominant chord
 - 4. The circle of fifths and major key signatures
 - E. Using More of the Keyboard
 - 1. Changing five-finger patterns
 - 2. Simple improvisations
 - 3. Creative music and harmonization
 - 4. Studies in sight-reading, rhythm and technique
 - 5. Ensemble pieces
 - F. Major Scales
 - 1. Scale studies in clusters
 - 2. Triads on major-scale degrees
 - 3. Extending the five-finger patterns
- V. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:**
- A. Lectures
 - B. Group discussion
 - C. Demonstrations by instructor
 - D. Practical exercises
- VI. TYPICAL ASSIGNMENTS:**
- A. Reading: Reading the chapter on chords. In your group, discuss and explain each of the different chords, matching the chord to the keys required to create it.
 - B. Demonstration: Compose and notate a simple piece of music. Play your composition for the class. Then, teach the class to play your composition.
 - C. Writing and Critical Thinking: Attend a piano concert. In a 3-4 page paper, present your analysis of the performance. Be sure to use course concepts and terminology to explain your thoughts.
- VII. EVALUATION(S):**
- A. Methods of evaluation: In general, students are evaluated on their ability to apply course concepts to their performance and in their written analyses. Sample test questions:
 - 1. Correctly notate the musical excerpt given you in class.
 - 2. Explain the difference between major and minor keys.
 - B. Frequency of evaluation:
 - 1. One midterm
 - 2. One final examination
 - 3. At least one written analysis
 - 4. At least 3 public performances
- VIII. TYPICAL TEXT(S):**
- A. Mach, Elyse. Contemporary, Class Piano (6th edition). Oxford University Press, 2003
 - B. Lindemann, Carolynn. PianoLab-An introduction to classical piano w/CD. Wadsworth, 2004.

San Bernardino Valley College
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- C. Hilley, Martha and Olson, Lynn Freeman. Piano for pleasure: A basic course for adults w/CD. Wadsworth, 2002.

IX. OTHER SUPPLIES REQUIRED OF STUDENTS: None.