



### **MU 321 ELEMENTARY PIANO I**

Instructor: Professor Janise White  
Office: Fine Arts Complex Room 300  
Office Hours: Tuesday 12:45 to 1:45pm in FA 204  
Thursday 12:45 to 1:45pm in FA 204  
Classroom: Fine Arts Room 204  
Textbook: Piano for Adults by Lisa, Lori and Jane Bastien  
Optional: Showtime Piano Favorites by Faber and Faber  
Email: [whitejan@wlaac.edu](mailto:whitejan@wlaac.edu)  
Tools: Piano or Keyboard; Metronome;  
Units: 2 Units UC:CSU Transferable

**Course Narrative:** A five semester sequence of keyboard studies is designed for the student seeking to develop basic pianistic skills. This course also provides essential piano skills and musical training in preparation for the university Piano Proficiency Exams administered to auditioning music majors. Throughout the semester, the student will progress from playing simple five finger pattern melodies to playing hands together in various keys with chord accompaniment. Clef and staff notation; music symbols, dynamics and expression; rhythms, chords, arm, wrist, fingers and hand positions; standard scale fingering, legato and staccato articulation; phrasing technique, pedal technique and sight reading skills will be instructed. At the conclusion of the course, the piano student will attain sufficient skills to competently perform his/her favorite songs.

Weekly student class performances are mandatory. The student will be graded on the overall preparation and performance of each piece selected from the beginning piano repertoire. The class session meets bi-weekly on Tuesdays and Thursdays for sixteen weeks. It is structured into two segments: (1) Lecture-Demonstration and (2) Laboratory. For finger dexterity, technical exercises or etudes and pentascales will precede each

lecture. An introduction to the assignment will be presented during the Lecture-Demonstration segment. This will assist the student in assimilating the musical terms, rhythm and specific piano techniques required to satisfactorily complete the assignment. Additionally, during the Laboratory class segment, the instructor will provide assistance to students to facilitate the learning process. If the student needs further instructional assistance, it will be available by appointment only during Office Hours. The student will be required to prepare the assignments listed in the syllabus for performance at every class session. Midterm and Final Exam selections chosen by the instructor must be performed for the Piano Class in order to receive a passing grade.

West Los Angeles' Music Department supports the piano students by offering a Piano Practice Lab adjacent to the Piano Classroom. The lab is open daily. If you are in need of a practice piano, you will find the lab accessible for class assignment preparation. Recommended daily practice time should be one hour or as long as necessary to comfortably play the piano assignment fluently.

In addition to daily assignments, Midterm and Final Exam, one Piano Concert Report Activity is mandatory. The purpose of the Piano Concert Report Activity is threefold: (1) It is beneficial for broadening the artistic scope of the student with exposure to a wide range of keyboard repertoire; (2) It inspires artistic development; and (3) It fulfills the Critical Thinking General Education Requirement.

**Piano Concert Report Guidelines:** One two-page typed report will be due by the Final Exam and is to be submitted to the instructor on that due date. You are required to detail the concert featuring a pianist in the following manner:

1. Simply list the performer's name, along with a condensed summary, highlighting the artists' training performance history and major accomplishments.
2. List the repertoire performed.
3. Give the title and a brief description of your most enjoyable composition on the program.
4. Critique the entire concert in terms of the quality of the performance.
5. Attach a program indicating the date and location of the concert.

**Recommendation:** Local university student recitals (USC, UCLA, CSUN, CSULA) and "Sundays Live" at Los Angeles County Museum of Art, 5905 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles at 6:00pm on Sundays and the admission is Free.

## **PIANO CLASSROOM RULES**

### **FOOD**

The pianos must be used with care. Students will not be permitted to bring food or drinks into the classroom for the protection and management of the Piano Class instruments. Any accidental spills will disable the piano for one week. To avoid these accidents, the no-food and no-drink rule will be enforced.

### **PIANO TECHNIQUE**

Strike the piano keys with sufficient strength to produce musical tones with clarity. Remember, this is not a hammerklavier! By approaching the instrument with a relaxed upper torso the pianist will succeed in producing wonderful music. Conversely, the opposite is also true that with a tense upper torso, hammering will result which may ruin the piano's action mechanism.

### **EQUIPMENT**

The Piano Class equipment must be used with care. Headphones are fragile and subject to crack if dropped. Each student is responsible for the headphone located at their workstation. Simply place the headphones on the left end of the piano when not in use. Sit properly on the piano bench with both feet on the floor. Upon leaving the piano class, turn off the piano and close the lid. Next, slide the piano bench under the piano and exit the classroom.

### **ELECTRONIC DEVICES**

Computers shall be used to facilitate note taking only. Cellular phones shall remain on silent at all times. Other electronic devices such as iPods shall not be used in the classroom.

**COURTESY RULE:** Students will be requested to reserve judgement on all performances to the discretion of the instructor. In accordance with the Student Conduct Code, any student exhibiting inappropriate behavior will be referred to the administration for suspension or permanent expulsion from the class.

### **ATTENDANCE:**

Students' attendance is mandatory. In the event of an absence, the student should contact the instructor by email. Three or more unexcused absences will result in exclusion from the class roster.

### **EVALUATION METHODS AND GRADING CRITERIA:**

Piano students may earn up to 10 points for each class performance. The Midterm and Final Exams are worth up to 50 points each. All assignments must be completed by the final class meeting or an F grade will be given. Incomplete grades will only be issued in unmitigating circumstances following a consultation with the student.

Daily Assignments and Attendance	50%
<u>Concert Report, Midterm Exam and Final Exam</u>	<u>+ 50%</u>
Total Points= Grade	100%

**Grade Distribution:**

A	90-100%
B	80-89%
C	70-79%
D	60-69%
F	50-59%

**EXAMINATION CALENDAR**

MIDTERM EXAM – Thursday, October 24, 2013

FINAL EXAM – Thursday, December 5, 2013

**HOLIDAY SCHEDULE**

Labor Day.....Monday, September 2, 2013

Veteran’s Day.....Monday, November 11, 2013

Thanksgiving Day.....Thursday, November 28-December 1, 2013

## **STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES**

### **MU 321**

At the conclusion of the course, the student will attain the following aural, analytical and technical skills.

#### **Quantitative Reasoning**

Music Signs: Repeat, D.C., D.S., Coda, Fine, etc.  
Music Terms: Dynamics, Tempo and Expressions  
Keyboard Geography and Note Location  
Music Literacy Skills in Staff Notation for Treble and Bass Clefs  
Key Signature Recognition  
Recognition of Time Signatures and Note Values  
Standard Scale Fingering  
Harmony – Chord Inversions  
Construct Harmonizations for 8 bar Melodies

#### **Identification of Musical Forms**

Binary  
Ternary  
Sonata Allegro Form  
Rondo Form  
Suite

#### **Technical Competence**

Sightread Melodies Hands Together  
Perform Music with a Steady Rhythm  
Perform with Legato or Staccato Articulation  
Perform Scales in One or Two Octaves  
Perform Chord Inversions  
Perform with Interpretation

#### **Cultural Diversity**

Perform American, European and Latin Folk Music  
Perform Classical Piano Repertoire including  
African-American, Austrian, Brazilian, British, French, German, Italian,  
Polish, Russian and Spanish

MU 321	Assignments
Week 1: Keyboard Design and Orientation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Musical Alphabet</li> <li>• Pitch and Rhythmic Notation</li> <li>• Standard Fingering</li> </ul>	Tuesday: Keyboard Design pp. 5-10; Thursday: Music Notation p. 17 Beethoven's 9 <sup>th</sup> Symphony Theme Due
Week 2: Play C major Pentascale Melody <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Observation of Rests</li> </ul>	Tuesday: Complete p. 20; Play page 18; Thursday: Play p. 18
Week 3: Interpretation of Dynamics; Introduction of Dotted Half Note and Tie;	Tuesday: Play p. 22 Thursday: Play p. 23
Week 4: Intervals	Tuesday: Read p. 25; Play p. 26 Thursday: Play p. 27
Week 5: Play Hands Together in C major/minor Parallel Motion; Legato and Staccato Technique; C Major Scale	Tuesday: Play p. 60 – major (line 1) Page 126-127 –C Major Scale Thursday: Play p. 60 – minor (line 2) Exercises: Pentascales & Triads in all keys
Week 6: Play Tonic Chord	Tuesday: Play p. 32 Thursday: Play p. 33 Practice p. 127 Exercises: Pentascales & Triads in all keys
Week 7: Play the Dominant Seventh Chord	Tuesday: Play p. 34 Thursday: Play p. 35 Practice p. 127 Exercises: Pentascales & Triads in all keys
Week 8: Play the Subdominant Chord MIDTERM p. 127	Tuesday: Play p. 40 Thursday: MIDTERM p. 127
Week 9: G major Tonic Triad	Tuesday: Play p. 64-Etude Minuet in G - Anna Magdalena Bach Notebook; Thursday: Play p. 66 & 67 – Melody Exercises: Pentascales & Triads in all keys
Week 10: G major Dominant Seventh Chord	Tuesday: Play p. 72 – Etude Thursday: Play p. 73 – Melody Exercises: Pentascales & Triads in all keys
Week 11: G major Subdominant Chord and G major Scale	Tuesday: Play p. 76 – Etude Thursday: Play p. 77 – Melody Exercises: Pentascales & Triads in all keys
Week 12: Minuet in G	Tuesday: Read and Play p. 134 Thursday: Minuet in G Exercises: Pentascales & Triads in all keys
Week 13: F major: Tonic, Dominant and Subdominant Chords;	Tuesday: p. 105 & 106; Thursday: Minuet in G Page 2 Hands alone;

Week 13: F major Scale	Tuesday: F major Scale; Thursday: Minuet in G Page 2 Hands together slowly;
Week 14: Final Exam Preparation	Tuesday: Minuet in G Thursday: Minuet in G Page 2 Hands together moderate tempo;
Week 15: Dress Rehearsal	Tuesday: Minuet in G Thursday: Minuet in G
Week 16: Final Exam	FINAL EXAM Repertoire Due: Minuet in G; Final Concert Report Due;