

BEGINNING PIANO -MUS 130–OPTION A—1st Semester

Spring 2007

Professor–Sally Hart

Office Hours: I will arrange some office hours around scheduled lessons and classes, but it is also possible to call or email me. Please call me at home at 673-6052 and leave a message if I am not available to take your call. Email me at rchskh@mahaska.org I do check my answering machine and email regularly. I will be posting a schedule of lessons, classes and office hours on my door after all lessons are arranged.

TEXTBOOK/SUPPLIES

Bastien, Jane Smisor, et. al., Piano for Adults, book 1 (without the CD)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Beginning Piano is a course designed for the music student who needs to develop piano skills to pass the piano proficiency exam, or for beginning piano students. Working with melody, chords and rhythms will be the primary focus. While students will learn basic music reading, those students who do not read music are encouraged to take MU101 either before this course or concurrently. (Can be repeated as needed)

COURSE APPROACH FOR OPTION A

This option is intended for students who have little or no background in music or very elementary piano skills. Those who wish to learn chording to accompany in a worship group should take this option. **Students will have two 20-minute private lessons per week for at least the part of the semester; students will progress to one 30-minute lesson a week at the professor's discretion.**

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. Ability to identify all notes on the piano and on the bass and treble staves.
2. Rudimentary understanding of and ability to use time signatures and rhythm as expressed in notes, rests and measures.
3. Basic understanding of flats, sharps and key signatures.
4. Ability to play 5-finger patterns and I chords in C, G, D, A, F, Bb, Eb and Ab. Ability to play I, IV and V7 cadences in C, G, and F.
5. Basic understanding of and ability to use chord symbols.
6. Ability to play beginning level songs from the text, as assigned by the professor.
7. Ability to play the melody line of an assigned hymn with accuracy in notes and rhythm.
8. Ability to provide very basic harmonies for a melody in the keys of C, G, or F.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. **Practice!** Because there will not be any graded daily written assignments, daily practicing, with careful attention to correct notes and rhythm, is vital to succeeding in this class.
2. Students will be expected to complete the written assignments in the text as a way of ensuring they understand the material and are ready to participate in class discussion. These will not be graded.
3. Students will complete any non-text written assignments on time; assignments must be turned in within a week after an excused absence to get any credit at all, with 1/5 of the grade docked each day.
4. **Students will be expected to attend all lessons and must make up ones they miss due to illness or any other reason.** Students are to contact the professor AS SOON AS POSSIBLE if they know they will be absent for a lesson and make arrangements to make

it up, perhaps even BEFORE the absence. If the instructor is unable to give a lesson, we will attempt to make up this lesson, if feasible. **I will be out of town Feb. 15-28. We must have one lesson the week that I leave (probably Tuesday, 2/13) and one extended lesson after I return (probably Thursday, 3/1).**

COURSE EVALUATION

1. Daily evaluation of playing assignments during the class on a pass plus (3 points), pass (2 points), pass minus (1 point) and fail (F-0 points) basis. Both notes and rhythm will be considered. – 35% (165 points)
2. 4 quizzes on written material (40 points each) + 1 harmonization (5 points) – 35% (165 points)
3. Final examination – 30% [140 points – 90 on exam and 50 on harmonization (writing-40 playing-10)]

GRADING SCALE

	94-100%–A	91-93%--A-
88-90%--B+	85-87%–B	82-84%--B-
79-81%--C+	76-78%–C	73-75%--C-
70-72%--D+	67-69%–D	66%--D-
	0-65%–F	

TENTATIVE CLASS SCHEDULE

Week 1–Introduction; syllabus; text pp. 4-12
 Week 2–Text pp. 13-20; C 5-finger pattern
 Week 3--Quiz; text pp. 21-26; G 5-finger pattern
 Week 4–Text pp. 27-31; review of previous pieces; D 5-finger pattern
 Week 5–Text pp. 32-34; flats and sharps, major key signatures; A 5-finger pattern
 Week 6–Quiz; key signatures; text pp. 35-36; E 5-finger pattern; only one lesson
 Week 7–Professor out of town–Prepare terms only--pp. 39; text pp. 40-41 and 46-47; B and F# 5-finger patterns
 Week 8–Harmonization and chord symbols; F 5-finger pattern
 Week 9–Quiz; text pp. 48-50; reading all of treble and bass staff notes; B flat 5-finger pattern
 Week 10--Review of previous pieces and E flat 5-finger pattern
 Week 11–Text pp. 51-56; Terms only--pp. 57-58; A flat 5-finger pattern
 Week 12–Text pp. 64-68; terms only--pp. 82, 88, 93, 96; D flat 5-finger pattern
 Week 13–Quiz; text pp. 90, 100-103; introduction to harmonization from a hymna
 Week 14–Text pp. 72, 76, 104-105; harmonization work
 Week 15—Harmonization work; range of voices
 Week 16–Final examination, including playing an assigned piece with a harmonization written by the student.

The professor reserves the right to adjust this schedule as needed, with prior notification to the student. Adjustment is likely, as individualization is very much a part of the class.

BEGINNING PIANO -MUS 130–OPTION B—

Professor–Sally Hart

Spring 2008

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TEXTBOOK/SUPPLIES

Bastien, Jane Smisor, et. al., Piano for Adults, book 1 (without the CD) (or book 2, for more advanced students) or other appropriate materials as selected by the professor.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Beginning Piano is a course designed for the music student who needs to develop piano skills to pass the piano proficiency exam, or for beginning piano students. Working with melody, chords and rhythms will be the primary focus. While students will learn basic music reading, those students who do not read music are encouraged to take MU101 either before this course or concurrently. (Can be repeated as needed)

COURSE APPROACH FOR OPTION B

This option is limited to students who have strong previous background in music, though not piano, or students whose piano skills are still at a late elementary/early intermediate level. Beginning at the level of the student, the course will provide work toward taking piano as a regular applied music course. **Lessons may be scheduled for two 20-minute lessons a week or one half-hour lesson per week, depending on the student's level.** Students taking this option will be expected to move at a faster pace and to learn more about musical terms, technique, etc., than students taking option A.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. Ability to identify all notes on the piano and on the bass and treble staves, including ledger lines if needed on assigned pieces. .
2. Understanding of and ability to use time signatures and rhythm as expressed in notes, rests and measures, through 1/16 note denominations. .
3. Understanding of key signatures in major and minor keys.
4. Ability to play 5-finger patterns and/or scales and cadences as assigned.
5. Basic understanding of and ability to use chord symbols.
6. Technical skills appropriate to the student's level of proficiency
7. Interpretive skills appropriate to the student's level of proficiency
8. Knowledge of musical terms appropriate to the student's level of proficiency

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

While the course will be very individualized, certain requirements hold for all students:

1. **Students will be expected to attend all lessons and must make up ones they miss due to illness or any other reason.** Students are to contact the professor AS SOON AS POSSIBLE if they know they will be absent for a lesson and make arrangements to make it up, perhaps even BEFORE the absence. If the instructor is unable to give a lesson, we will attempt to make up this lesson, if feasible.

2. Students will be expected to have all materials with them for every lesson and to have purchased or paid the professor for music as assigned. Borrowed materials are to be returned in good shape and promptly after students are finished with them.

3. Students will be expected to practice at least five days a week for a minimum of the time that the lesson lasts, i.e., a half hour lesson requires a minimum of a half hour of practice per day.

4. Students will be expected to set written goals for himself or herself toward the beginning of the semester, with input from the instructor. These will form a sort of contract for the term.

5. If there are several students taking the course, two or three seminars will be arranged throughout the semester for these students to perform for each other.

6. Written quizzes may be used to check on the level of understanding of theory- and technique-related information taught in the course.

COURSE EVALUATION

Evaluation in such a course as this tends to be quite subjective but much will be based on the students' demonstration of effort toward the goals set by him or her and the professor at the beginning of the term. The student will be given a chance to evaluate his or her success in reaching the goals set, although the student will not determine the grade given. Reaching the goal is important, but *effort* toward the goal will be more important. If quizzes are given, these will be counted for no more than 10% of the grade.

GRADING SCALE

A—More than the required effort is demonstrated, with skills mastered and contract goals exceeded

B—More than the required effort is demonstrated, with skills mastered and goals reached

C—Acceptable effort, with most goals reached; mastery of skills only partially demonstrated

D—Effort falls short, with goals not reached and skills not mastered

F—Effort is not demonstrated; falling short on goals and skills

NOTE: Missed lessons which are not made up will result in the lowering of the grade by one letter, unless the professor is unable to make them up.

BEGINNING PIANO–MUS 130—2nd Semester

Spring 2008

Professor-Sally Hart

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TEXTBOOK/SUPPLIES

Bastien, Jane Smisor, et. al., Piano for Adults, book 1 (without the CD); if advanced, also book 2

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Beginning Piano—2nd semester is a semester course designed to build on skills learned during the first semester of MUS 130, further developing the ability to deal with basic hymn melodies and their harmonization. Further work on fundamental technique, basic rhythms, reading notes on the treble and bass staves, and harmonization with basic chords in simple keys will be covered. Lessons are 30 minutes each week.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. Ability to identify all notes on the piano and on the bass and treble staves quickly, plus the addition of ledger lines within two lines above or below the staff.
2. Understanding of and ability to use time signatures and rhythm as expressed in notes, rests and measures. Less usual time signatures and some use of syncopation will be covered in this semester.
3. Review of flats, sharps and key signatures, including minor key signatures.
4. Ability to play minor 5-finger patterns, plus scales, hands alone, and cadence chords in C, G, D, A, F, B flat and E flat.
5. Further understanding and more reflexive use of chord symbols.
6. Ability to play beginning level songs from the text, as assigned by the professor.
7. Ability to play the melody line of a hymn with accuracy in notes and rhythm. The difficulty of the hymns will increase over the first semester..
8. Ability to provide very basic harmonies for a melody in keys beyond C, F and G, and with the use of more difficult chords and inversions.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. **Practice!** Because there will not be any graded daily written assignments, daily practicing, with careful attention to correct notes and rhythm, is vital to succeeding in this class.
2. Students will be expected to complete the written assignments in the text as a way of ensuring they understand the material and are ready to participate in class discussion. These will not be graded.
3. Students will complete any non-text written assignments on time; assignments must be turned in within a week after an excused absence or no credit will be given.
4. **Students will be expected to attend all lessons and must make up ones they miss due to illness or any other reason.** Students are to contact the professor AS SOON AS POSSIBLE if they know they will be absent for a lesson and made arrangements to make it up. Not making up a lesson will result in the grade being lowered to the next letter.

GRADING--POINTS per ASSIGNMENT

Assigned pieces from text--5 points each

Minor 5-fingers patterns--2 points each

Scales and chords--4 points each

Harmonizations--5 points for chords; 10 points for playing; final harmonization--10 & 20

Quiz 1--50; final exam--100 (Tentative amounts)

GRADING--SCALE

A -	94 - 100%
A- -	91 - 93%
B+ -	88 - 90%
B -	85 - 87%
B- -	82 - 84%
C+ -	79 - 81%
C -	76 - 78%
C- -	73 - 75%
D+ -	70 - 72%
D -	67 - 69%
D- -	66%
F -	0 - 65%

TENTATIVE CLASS SCHEDULE

Students will be expected to work on 2-3 songs or exercises from the text each week, passing each in a week or two, if of moderate difficulty, and three weeks if songs are longer and more difficult. Three harmonizations will be done throughout the semester, to be worked on until mastered.