

**College of San Mateo
Official Course Outline**

1. COURSE ID: MUS. 301 **TITLE:** Piano I

Units: 2.0 units **Hours/Semester:** 24.0-27.0 Lecture hours; 24.0-27.0 Lab hours; and 48.0-54.0 Homework hours

Method of Grading: Letter Grade Only

Recommended Preparation:

Eligibility for ENGL 838 or ENGL 848

MUS. 100

2. COURSE DESIGNATION:

Degree Credit

Transfer credit: CSU; UC

3. COURSE DESCRIPTIONS:

Catalog Description:

Study in the techniques of piano playing. Individual attention, assignments, and performance in a class situation. Designed only for those students who have no previous piano playing experience. Individual practice outside of class hours is required.

4. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOME(S) (SLO'S):

Upon successful completion of this course, a student will meet the following outcomes:

1. Students will be able to read pitches in treble and bass clefs, basic rhythm values, and be able to incorporate dynamics, legato and staccato, concepts of phrasing, and melody and accompaniment
2. Demonstrate an understanding of the piano's basic construction and history in relation to playing the piano
3. Write short evaluative reports based on personal experience of directed listening
4. Be able to reflect upon and articulate students' own musical learning process

5. SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONAL OBJECTIVES:

Upon successful completion of this course, a student will be able to:

1. Perform beginning elements of piano technique
2. Be able to read music notes
3. Name the keys on a piano
4. Select the proper piano keys corresponding to written music notes

6. COURSE CONTENT:

Lecture Content:

1. Music reading
 - A. Study and memorize the basic symbols of music notation
 - B. Sight read accurately
2. Piano Technique
 - A. Technical skills: basic hand position, 5-finger technique, coordination between hands, etc.
 - B. Functional harmony skills: introduction of concept of triads, intervals, scales
 - C. Establish effective practice procedures and habits

Lab Content:

1. Reading The Necessary Clefs, Time Signatures, Notes, and Symbols
2. Short, Five-Finger position Pieces, In Parallel Motion, using Whole, Half, And Quarter Notes
 - A. simple Techniques for Successful Practice
 - a. practice means doing something correctly over and over until it is a habit
 - b. Work on small portions, slowly, keeping a steady beat, marking errors immediately with a pencil
 - c. practice at the same time for the same amount, daily
 - d. keep a practice notebook to record progress/questions
 - B. Good physical Habits to Form at the Keyboard
 - C. Playing with Metric Stress and Dynamics
 - D. Using a Metronome
 - E. Pattern Thinking in Music compositions
3. Additional symbols

- A. The Five Chromatic signs, Key signatures, and Accidentals
- B. Tied and Dotted Notes
- 4. Melodies that Answer Each Other in Alternate Hands
 - A. Importance of Flexible Joints, Fingers to Shoulder
 - B. How to Interpret Volume Levels when Unwritten.
- 5. Pieces In contrary Motion
- 6. Major Scales
 - A. The Major Scale Pattern
 - B. Techniques for Developing Coordination of Two Hands
- 7. Exercises
 - A. Thinking in Patterns
 - B. Maintaining Flexibility of all Joints while Playing
 - C. The Correct way to Maintain Keys Depressed
- 8. Pieces Requiring Two Or More Five-Finger positions
 - A. Thumb and Finger Substitution
 - B. Imitation and Transposition
- 9. Pieces In contrapuntal Style Requiring Different Rhythmic Patterns In Each Hand But one Hand Position

7. REPRESENTATIVE METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:

Typical methods of instruction may include:

- A. Lecture
- B. Lab
- C. Activity
- D. Other (Specify): 1. Music reading will be explained verbally by the instructor 2. Piano playing techniques will be demonstrated by the instructor 3. Assignments in the textbook will augment all material covered in the course

8. REPRESENTATIVE ASSIGNMENTS

Representative assignments in this course may include, but are not limited to the following:

Writing Assignments:

Students attend a live professional piano concert and prepare a report on technical and artistic features observed.

Reading Assignments:

Weekly reading assignment from assigned texts.

Other Outside Assignments:

individual practice

9. REPRESENTATIVE METHODS OF EVALUATION

Representative methods of evaluation may include:

- A. Class Participation
- B. Class Performance
- C. Exams/Tests

10. REPRESENTATIVE TEXT(S):

Possible textbooks include:

- A. Agay, Denes. *Joy of First Year Piano*, ed. Yorktown Press, 1972
- B. Lee, Roberts. *Piano--Plain and Simple*, ed. Lee Roberts Music Publications, Inc, 2010
- C. Faber, Nancy and Randall. *Adult Piano Adventures, Volume 1*, ed. Hal Leonard Corp, 2016

Origination Date: November 2016

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Effective Term: Fall 2017

Course Originator: Jane Jackson