

College of San Mateo
Official Course Outline

1. COURSE ID: MUS. 303 **TITLE:** Piano III

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

Prerequisite: MUS. 302

Recommended Preparation:

Eligibility for ENGL 838 or ENGL 848

2. COURSE DESIGNATION:

Degree Credit

Transfer credit: CSU; UC

3. COURSE DESCRIPTIONS:

Catalog Description:

Continuation of study in the techniques of piano playing. Individual attention, assignments, and performance in a class situation. 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. Interpret at the piano musical symbols commensurate with students' individual level representing concepts such as articulation, pedalling, and phraseology
2. Learn and be able to perform in front of a group at least two significant piano works at students' own level
3. Exercises: Be able to execute technical skills such as playing scales, arpeggios, and triads as related to students' individual level of ability

5. SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONAL OBJECTIVES:

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

1. Interpret at the piano musical symbols commensurate with students' individual level representing concepts such as articulation, pedaling, and phraseology
2. Learn and be able to perform in front of a group at least two significant piano works at students' own level
3. Exercises: Be able to execute technical skills such as playing scales, arpeggios, and triads as related to students' individual level of ability
4. Students will gain greater ease and comfort playing in front of peers and friends and will gradually develop an understanding that success in performance goes way beyond technical accuracy

6. COURSE CONTENT:

Lecture Content:

1. "COMPOSER-IN-RESIDENCE":
 - A. Research of one composer in depth - his/her life, works, historical context
 - B. Learn to play and perform at least one piece of music by that composer
 - C. Perform in a class recital involving all students playing that particular composers' works
2. TECHNICAL SKILLS:
 - A. Individually tailored technical skills assigned, independently learned at students' pace
3. CONCERT ATTENDANCE:
 - A. Attend one public piano recital and write a paper summarizing the experience
4. PERFORMANCE:
 - A. Play on at least two in-class recitals
 - B. Optional end-of-term evening public recital on campus open to family and friends

Lab Content:

1. Additional Techniques For Practice
 - A. More physical techniques for successful practice
 - a. throw-off exercises for a free forearm and wrist
 - b. practicing more complex passages in different keys
 - c. forearm and upper arm weight; curved and flat fingers
 - B. Good physical habits to form at the keyboard
 - a. muscular tests for flexibility

- b. emphasis on arm rotation
- C. Dynamic and velocity contrasts resulting from the various forms of touch coupled with holding one note depressed
 - a. finger, hand, fore-arm touch coupled with weight touch
- D. Using a metronome for practicing two against three
- E. Pattern thinking in more complex compositions
 - a. The concept of basic melody or primary and secondary pitches
- 2. Major Scales For Four Octaves Or More
- 3. Exercises For Improved Flexibility And Velocity
 - A. Techniques for increasing speed
 - a. Placing accents farther apart
 - b. the ballistic effect
 - c. practicing a finger pattern in opposite hands
 - d. exaggerated movements for wrist and elbow flexibility
 - B. Reiteration of the tests for maintaining flexibility of all joints While playing
 - C. Reiteration of the tests for the correct way to maintain keys depressed
- 4. Pieces Requiring various Hand Positions
 - A. Learn to shift positions first, then learning the notes
- 5. Pieces In contrapuntal style Requiring More Complex Rhythmic Patterns In Two Voices And More Than One Hand Position

7. REPRESENTATIVE METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:

Typical methods of instruction may include:

- A. Activity
- B. Discussion
- C. Other (Specify): 1. Class divided into levels of ability to target specific issues relevant to students' level. 2. Less experienced pianists learn short, specific technical exercises given each week. 3. Research project given on a composer they are playing to enhance contextual understanding. 4. "Masterclass" setting in which students listen to each other each week and take part in the critical feedback process. 5. In-class recitals and masterclass setting to promote comfort playing in front of others. 6. Discussion and handout relating to "listening actively" to help aid students' appreciation of and comprehension at public concerts.

8. REPRESENTATIVE ASSIGNMENTS

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

Writing Assignments:

Research essay on composers, style, historical context of piano literature as applicable to subject area studied

Reading Assignments:

Reading assignments based on handouts and/or independent research

Other Outside Assignments:

individual practice

9. REPRESENTATIVE METHODS OF EVALUATION

Representative methods of evaluation may include:

- A. Class Performance
- B. Exams/Tests

10. REPRESENTATIVE TEXT(S):

Possible textbooks include:

- A. Toronto Royal Conservatory. *Celebration Series, Preliminary through Advanced*, ed. Frederick Harris Music, 2015
- B. Lang Lang Piano Academy. *Mastering the Piano, Levels 1-5*, ed. Faber Music, 2014
- C. Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music. *Piano Exam Pieces, Preliminary through Advanced*, ed. ABRSM, 2017

Origination Date: November 2016
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Course Originator: Jane Jackson