

**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; 48.0-54.0 Homework hours; 96.0-108.0 Total Student Learning hours

**Method of Grading:** Letter Grade Only

**Recommended Preparation:**  
MUS. 100

**2. COURSE DESIGNATION:**

**Degree Credit**

**Transfer credit:** CSU; UC

**3. COURSE DESCRIPTIONS:**

**Catalog Description:**

Study in the basics of reading music and the techniques of piano playing. Group and individual attention, assignments, and performance in a class situation. Designed for students with 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. Read pitches in treble and bass clefs as well as basic rhythm values.
2. Incorporate musical concepts of dynamics, articulation, and phrasing in playing.
3. Incorporate technical aspects of piano playing to enhance musical expression.
4. 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. Read pitches in treble and bass clefs as well as basic rhythm values
2. Incorporate musical concepts of dynamics, articulation, and phrasing in their playing.
3. Incorporate technical aspects of piano playing to enhance musical expression.
4. Reflect upon and articulate students' own musical learning process

**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: Basic hand position, 5-finger technique, coordination, legato and staccato playing, basic wrist action, etc.
3. Establish effective practice procedures and habits
4. Functional Harmony skills: introduction of concept of triads, intervals, scales

**Lab Content:**

1. Reading Treble and Bass Clefs, Time Signatures, Notes, and other Musical Symbols
2. Short, Five-Finger Position Pieces in Parallel Motion and Contrary Motion, using Whole, Half, And Quarter Notes
  - A. Simple Techniques for Successful Practice
    - a. scanning/studying score before beginning
    - b. drilling small portions
    - c. slow practice, keeping a steady beat
    - d. hands alone, then together in same sitting
    - e. importance of regular practice
    - f. keeping a practice journal to record practice times, progress/questions
  - B. Establishing Good Physical Piano Techniques - hand position, legato playing, etc
  - 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. Eighth, Tied and Dotted Notes
- 4. Melodies that Answer Each Other in Alternate Hands
  - A. Importance of Flexible Wrists, Fingers to Shoulder
  - B. How to Interpret Dynamics
- 5. Major Scales
  - A. The Major Scale Pattern
  - B. Techniques for Developing Coordination of Two Hands
- 6. Exercises
  - A. Thinking in Patterns
  - B. Playing Staccato, Phrasing, Intervals and Chords
- 7. Hand Position Shifts
  - A. Thumb Crossing and Extension
  - B. Imitation and Transposition
- 8. Pieces In Contrapuntal Style

**7. REPRESENTATIVE METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:**

Typical methods of instruction may include:

- A. Lecture
- B. Lab
- C. Activity
- D. Discussion
- E. Individualized Instruction
- F. Observation and Demonstration
- G. 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 hand in a weekly written journal regarding their practice

**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. Class Work
- D. Exams/Tests
- E. Final Class Performance
- F. Quizzes
- G. Written examination

**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 All-in-One Piano Course, Volume 1*, ed. Hal Leonard Corp, 2022

**Origination Date:** October 2023

**Curriculum Committee Approval Date:** November 2023

**Effective Term:** Fall 2024

**Course Originator:** Jane Jackson