

Rhode Island College

MUS 104 CLASS PIANO I

Required Text:

Contemporary Class Piano, 7th edition, by Elyse Mach

Course Description

An introduction to the keyboard with emphasis placed on proper technique, treble and bass clef reading, key signatures, interval reading, 5-finger patterns, and major scales, arpeggios, and primary chord patterns. Development of these skills will lead to piano repertoire selections, accompaniments to simple melodies, transposition, and ensemble playing.

Class Rules and Requirements

Absolutely no cell phones in class.

Attendance is recorded; after 3 absences, your grade will be lowered one degree per absence.

A minimum of ½ hour daily practice (in addition to class time) is required.

Always have a pencil at hand during class.

Class Schedule

Quizzes (announced and surprise) will be given at least weekly.

There will be five exams during the course of the semester with the final exam during the last week.

Week 1

- pp. 1-14 - keyboard posture; finger numbers; 2- and 3-black key groups; accidentals
- pp. 14-21 - major five-finger pattern
- pp. 22-27 - treble and bass clef note names; harmonic and melodic interval reading; meter
- pp. 28-32 - five-finger melodies; slurs; phrases
- pp. 33 - rhythmic studies

Week 2

- pp. 39-65 - five-finger patterns in keys of G, F, and D; transposition; drone bass
- Sight-reading
- p. 72 - technical studies
- p. 62 – Repertoire – Surfing
- pp. 82-83 – ensemble pieces
- pp. 129-133 – major five-finger patterns and triads

Week 3

- pp. 91-96 – playing in different registers
- pp. 99-110 – dotted quarter notes; accidentals; slurs; parallel motion
- pp. 134-147[126-139] – minor five-finger pattern

Week 4

pp. 176-186 – dominant 7th chord
pp. 256-260 – one-octave major scales: C, G, D, A, E
p. 237 – Technical study
pp. 111-113 – 6/8 meter

Week 5

Finish one-octave major scales: B, F#, C#, Ab, Eb, Bb, F
Sight-reading
pp. 115-124 – five-finger patterns in keys of Gb, A, E; ensemble playing; contrary motion
pp. 187-191 – subdominant chord; chord progression: I-IV-I-V7-I; cadences

Week 6

Two-octave major scales, arpeggios, chord progressions: C, G
pp. 192-196 – pieces with primary chord accompaniments
Sight-reading
pp. 199-207 – five-finger pattern in keys of Db, Bb, B; transposition

Week 7

pp. 198-199 – composite meter
pp. 208-209 – creating chord accompaniments
p. 236 – rhythmic studies
Sight-reading
Continue with major scales, arpeggios, chord progressions: D, A

Week 8

pp. 199-207 – continuation, if needed
pp. 210-216 – changing five-finger positions
Sight-reading
Continue with major scales, arpeggios, chord progressions: E, B

Week 9

p. 218 – repertoire
pp. 262-271 – intervals of a 6th, 7th, and octave; extending the five-finger position
pp. 271-274 – sixteenth note rhythmic studies
Repertoire: p. 550 – The Bear
Continue with major scales, arpeggios, chord progressions: F#, C#

Week 10

pp. 274-276 – dotted eighth note rhythmic studies
pp. 277-278 – technique: crossing, extension, substitution
Continue with major scales, arpeggios, chord progressions: Ab, Eb
Continue with repertoire pieces

Week 11

Sight-reading
pp. 279-281 – musical forms: AB and ABA
pp. 282-283 – creating chord accompaniments
Continue with major scales, arpeggios, chord progressions: Bb, F

Week 12

Sight-reading

Continue with major scales, arpeggios, chord progressions

pp. 296-299 – syncopation

Week 13

Sight- reading

Continue with major scales, arpeggios, chord progressions

p. 298 – The Entertainer

Repertoire selection

Week 14

Sight-reading

pp. 160-161 – Ensemble playing

pp. 283 – providing accompaniment to melody, transposition

Continue with major scales, arpeggios, chord progressions

Week 15

Review of major scales, arpeggios, chord progressions

Review of repertoire

Review of final exam material

Grading Policy

Grades will include keyboard skills, preparation, classroom participation, preparedness, and attendance, and will be calculated as follows:

Exam 1 – 5	50% of final grade (10% each)
Final Exam	20% of final grade
Quizzes/preparation/ participation	30% of final grade
	100%

Any absences beyond the 3 allowed will lower grade one degree per absence. Two tardies count as one absence.

There are no make-up quizzes. If you are absent on the day of a quiz, you will get a zero; at the end of the semester, the lowest quiz grade will be dropped.

The syllabus outlined above is an expected goal and may be changed as necessary, depending on the make-up of the class.