



Music 321-324 – Elementary Piano I, II, III, or IV (2 Units)

Associate Degree Applicable: General Studies, Music for Transfer, Local GE Plan, CSU GE Plan, IGETC, Arts & Humanities

Transferable: UC, CSU, and most accredited four-year institutions (keep this syllabus)

Spring 2020: TTh 10:30 am - 12:00 pm

Instructor: Dr. Joshua R. Wentz

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Office Hours: Mon & Wed 1:30-3:30 or by appt

Office Locations: AMP building 202-h

Course Description: This course provides an introduction to piano performance in a group setting. The goal is to increase students' enjoyment and appreciation of music through active participation at the piano.

Catalog Course Description: Covers keyboard geography and functional keyboard skills in each key using popular tunes and classics arranged for the elementary pianist.

Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Demonstrate basic techniques and skills in piano playing.
2. Perform excerpts from European classics, American folk songs, musicals, marches, and spirituals.

Course Objectives:

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

1. Define and discuss beginning music terminology and learn basic music theory and basic performance skills, including rhythm, melody, harmony, note reading, note-writing, listening, and expression.
2. Understand keys, including accidentals, key signatures, and harmonic structure within each key.
3. Develop a musical phrase.
4. Demonstrate proper technique for playing piano.
5. Exhibit proficiency of reading music notation by performing on the piano keyboard in class and during scheduled recitals.
6. Write a short musical composition.
7. Improvise using basic chords and harmonic structure (I-IV-V⁷) in basic keys.

Policies

(as adapted from Los Angeles Mission College Catalog)

Attendance Students who have pre-registered for a class and who do not attend the first meeting of the class forfeit their right to a place in the class. Students are expected to attend every meeting of all classes for which he or she is registered. A student absent from classes for emergency reasons must inform the instructor of the reason for the absence.

Whenever absences “in hours” exceed the number of hours the class meets per week, the student may be excluded from the class by the instructor. This means if you miss more than one class, you may be excluded. It is the student’s responsibility to officially drop any class he/she does not continue to attend.

Standards of Student Conduct - Students are expected to maintain a professional level of conduct to facilitate a learning environment. Use of profanity in class is not appropriate and will not be tolerated. Please see the LAMC College Catalog, page 35 for more information on Student Conduct. Procedures as outlined in the College Catalog will be followed regarding student discipline.

Cheating and Plagiarism is the “wrongful appropriation” and “stealing and publication” of another author’s “language, thoughts, ideas, or expressions” and the representation of them as one’s own original work. Plagiarism is considered academic dishonesty (Wikipedia on Plagiarism). The instructor reserves the right to determine if cheating or plagiarism has occurred; if it does the student will receive a “F” on the assignment or exam, and may receive a “F” for the course.

Children and Animals - Children and animals are not allowed in the classroom for safety purposes (other than registered dogs that help people with disabilities).

Cell Phones: Turn them off or set to vibrate, as to not disrupt lectures and learning environment. Do not text on your cell phone during class. Conducting research for a project or discussion is okay during designated times.

Students with Disabilities - Disabled Students Programs and Services (DSP&S) at Los Angeles Mission College is a support system that enables students to fully participate in the college’s regular programs and activities. DSP&S provides a variety of services from academic and vocational support to assistance with Financial Aid. If you are a disabled student and need a modification, special assistance or accommodation in order to participate in this class, alert the instructor promptly and contact the DSP&S office at 818 364-7732 or 818 364-7861. Modifications, special assistance or accommodations can only be made with proper documentation and coordination with DSP&S.

Management of Stress and Mental Health: As a student, not only do you have the pressure of succeeding in school, you may also be contending with work, financial issues, relationships, managing time effectively, getting enough sleep, etc. The staff and faculty of Los Angeles Mission College are here to provide support that will help you to be successful in your academic pursuits. You can learn more about the broad range of confidential student services offered on campus, including counseling and mental health services, by either visiting the Student Health Center (SHC), which is currently located in the Bungalow just west of the Collaborative Studies Building*, checking out the SHC webpage at: <https://www.lamission.edu/healthcenter/> or calling: 818 362-6182. I also encourage you to enter the **National Suicide Prevention Lifeline number (1-800-273-8255)** into your cell phone in case you or someone you know is in distress and needs someone with whom to talk. *Please note that the SHC is slated to move into its new location, between the President’s Office and Administrative Services, in the spring 2016 semester.

Break: Students are encouraged to take a break, not to exceed 10 minutes during the middle portion of the class. This is a non-smoking campus. Do not smoke near walkways or doorways.

Books

Required: *Ada Richter's Piano Course – The Older Student Book I.* Alfred. (available on Amazon and in bookstore)

ISBN-13: 978-0-7692-5267-4; ISBN-10: 0769252672

***The Complete Book of Scales, Chords, Arpeggios & Cadences.* Alfred.** (available on Amazon and in bookstore)

ISBN-13: 978-0-7390-0368-8; ISBN-10: 0739003682

Always have the following to be fully prepared for class:

- Required textbooks (above)
- Quarter-inch (3/4") to mini stereo adapter plug
- Headphones
- Lined Note Book (or loose paper) for notes and quizzes
- Blank music notation staff paper
- Pencils
- **YOU MUST HAVE ACCESS TO A PIANO/KEYBOARD TO PRACTICE OUTSIDE OF CLASS!!!**

Evaluation

Grading:	Recitals	=	30%	(300 points)	2 @ 150 each
	Technique Quizzes	=	25%	(250 points)	5 @ 50 each
	Practice Log	=	20%	(200 points)	
	Final Recital / Jury	=	25%	(250 points)	

Assessment

Recitals: There will be three recitals that you perform throughout the semester, including the final recital/jury. You will be graded on Accuracy, Fingerings, Tempo, Dynamics, Technique, and Tone. You must attend each recital except in rare, extenuating circumstances (serious illness, death in the family, religious holiday). Please provide written documentation prior to the recital if you have an extenuating circumstance. Dress is concert attire, appropriate for a recital. They will be recorded. Family and friends are invited to the final. A rubric is available on Canvas.

*****Final:** If you cannot attend the final you must make arrangements with the instructor prior to this date. A student who does not participate in the final or does not turn in the final assignment and does not qualify for an "Incomplete" will be assigned the grade of "F" for the final. This grade will be averaged in to determine the course grade.

Quizzes: There will be six technical quizzes throughout the semester from the "Scales" book. They are to ensure you are staying engaged with the class and keeping up with the practice requirement. The quizzes should be an easy way to accumulate points, *IF* you are practicing at home. I will drop the lowest grade.

Practice Log: You will keep a weekly practice log to track your practice habits. Students enrolled in MUSIC 321 are expected to practice four hours each week. It's understandable that life gets busy sometimes and it's hard to keep up. If you miss an hour from one week, be prepared to make it up the following week. Practice logs will include technical exercises that you should practice to develop good playing habits. We will use musictheory.net for practice assignments, written/technical help, and quizzes.

Scale:

A = 3.8 - 4.0	C = 2.0 - 2.2	A = 100% - 90%
A- = 3.5 - 3.7	C- = 1.6 - 1.9	B = 89% - 80%
B+ = 3.2 - 3.4	D+ = 1.3 - 1.5	C = 79% - 70%
B = 2.9 - 3.1	D = 1.2 - .09	D = 69% - 60%
B- = 2.6 - 2.8	D- = 0.7 - 0.9	F = 59% - 0%
C+ = 2.3 - 2.5	F = 0.0 - 0.6	

Calendar

Spring 2020 LAMC Student Deadlines and College Holidays

- Classes begin: **February 10**
- Last day to add: Credit/Audit: **February 9**
- Last day to add a class with an Add Permission Code: **February 24**
- Last day to drop classes with a refund or without incurring fees: **February 23**
- Last day to drop classes with a "W" – A letter grade is required after this date – **May 10**
- Classes end: **June 1**
- FINAL EXAMS: **June 2 - 8**

Holidays (College CLOSED)

- President's Day – **February 14 & 17**
- Non-Instructional Days – **February 15 & 16**
- Cesar Chavez Day – **March 31**
- Spring Break – **April 6 – April 12**
- Non-Instructional Day – **April 13**
- Memorial Day – **May 25**

******This schedule is so darned incredibly subject to change******

Date	Scheduled activity	Practice Assignments
2/11	Intro to Class / Go over syllabus / Keyboard, Hands, & Posture	Jingle Bells (p. 4) w/ finger numbers and note (letter) names aloud
2/13	Notation, Five-finger scales (legato), Clefs, Note Values & Rhythm	"Play and Count" & "Right in Time"; musictheory.net Note ID (Treble clef)
2/18	Steps and Skips	Pg. 8, three songs; musictheory.net Note ID (Bass clef)
2/20	Chords (C Major & G ⁷)	Pg 9, "A Stephen Foster Song"; musictheory.net Keyboard Note ID
2/25	Rests and more rhythms	Technical quiz #1 – Chords
2/27	C Major Scale	Pg. 11 (AR) and pp. 4-5 (SCAC), master C Major scale (both hands)
3/3	Practice and catch up / review	Practice & Prepare for Recital #1
3/8	Prepare for Recital #1 (pieces from pp. 9-10)	Technical quiz #2 – C Major scale
3/10	Recital #1	Practice log check #1 (50 points)
3/12	Tie, Dynamics, Triads	"Scaling the Heights" & "March of the Triads"
3/17	Slur, Tempo	"German Folk Song" & "Waltz"
3/19	Eighth note, Eighth rest, Rhythm building / Takadimi	"Mexican Dance"
3/24	C Chord Inversions (SCAC book) pp. 6-7	Practice C Major inversions both hands (apart, then together)
3/26	Staccato	Technical quiz #3 – C Inversions , Practice pg. 17 for next class
3/31	NO CLASS – Cesar Chavez Day	
4/2	Intervals, Upbeat	Pg. 17 & 19; musictheory.net Interval ID (change keys and intervals)
4/14	Flat and Key of F Major, pp. 20-21	"Etude in F Major"
4/16	F Major Scale	Pg. 21 (AR) and pp. 4-5 (SCAC), master F Major scale (both hands)
4/21	Prepare for Recital #2 (pieces from pg. 16, 17, 19, or 21)	Technical quiz #4 – F Major scale
4/23	Recital #2	Practice log check #2 (50 points)
4/28	Dotted Quarter, Rhythm building	"Shoo Fly" (don't forget the B flat!)
4/30	Continue practicing "Shoo Fly" and earlier pieces	Continue practicing
5/5	Pedaling	"Waltz"
5/7	Primary Chords in C (SCAC) pp. 8-9 & Chord Progressions	Practice I-IV-V-I and I-IV-V ⁷ -I
5/12	Lecture on scales, keys, and circle of fifths	Technical quiz #5 – Chord progressions in C Major
5/14	Sharp and Key of G Major	"Etude in G Major" and G Major scale
5/19	Phrasing pp. 28-29	"Auld Lang Syne" & two others on pg. 29
5/21	Arpeggios (SCAC book) pg. 11	Technical quiz #6 – C Arpeggio
5/26	New signs, repeats, etc.	"When Irish Eyes Are Smiling"
5/28	Prepare for Recital #3 (pieces from pg 22/23, 24/25, or 30/31)	
6/4	Final Recital and PARTY (10 AM – 12 PM)	Practice Log Due