

KEYBOARD SKILLS III
MUSC 2501-01 and 03 Fall 2019
University of West Georgia

Dr. Carol Gingerich
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Humanities Room 335 678-839-6273
Office Hours as Posted (please knock loudly)

A. Prerequisites

Music Theory II and passing of Keyboard Skills II with a grade appropriate to your major (Music Education majors must have earned the grade of C in KS II).

B. General Objectives

1. To build on the ideas presented in Keyboard Skills II. This is a 2000 level course and at a higher difficulty level than KS II, which was a 1000 level course, and so more practicing will be needed in order to conquer the more advanced challenges found in KS III. This is a rigorous course, demanding the highest level of excellence.

2. To acquire the piano skills and music theory knowledge needed for the UWG Piano Proficiency module tests, and that are also included in outside tests such as GACE and Graduate School Entrance Exams. Piano Proficiency prepares students to function in the real world as professional musicians, and is part of the best, accredited professional music degree programs (NASM). Additionally, it trains the mind for mental acuity and intellectual self-discipline, and provides cognitive musical training and habits that influence all forms of music making.

3. To increase student's critical listening and thinking skills through the use of creative, and collaborative group work.

4. To provide students with the opportunity to use the piano in a range of ways that are of particular individual interest, such as improvisation, composition, and application to other UWG music courses. **[COAH Collaborates]**

5. To assist students with acquiring standards appropriate for their success as adult learners and future professional musicians in the Information Age, such as the ability to organize and retrieve information, to meet professional technological standards, and habits of punctuality and diligent effort. **Being a professional musician is both challenging and fun, and so this course is both challenging and fun!**

C. Specific Musical Objectives

REQUIRED

Module E

Harmonic Minor Scales HS 2 octaves: a, e, d, g

Minor Triad Arpeggios HS 2 octaves: a, e, d, g

Harmonize and Transpose Moderate Level Melodies using Secondary Dominants

Sight Read Moderate Difficulty Piano Piece HT

Perform at Concert Pitch Bb Trumpet, Clarinet, Coronet, Eb saxophone, F horn:

Independent Preparation

Module F

Harmonic Minor Scales HS 2 octaves: f, c

Minor Triad Arpeggios HS 2 octaves: f, c

Cadential Pattern in Minor Keys: Text p. 210 top: f#,c#,b

Modulate to the Dominant starting in G, D, F, Bb: Textbook p. 184

Harmonize & Transpose Moderate Level Melodies and Accompaniments

Sight Read Moderate Difficulty Piano Piece HT

Improvise an Accompaniment from a Given Pattern

OPTIONAL

To harmonize and transpose a popular melody from a hard copy score, as approved by Dr. Gingerich

D. Required Materials

1. Lancaster and Renfrow. Alfred's Group Piano for Adults, Book 2, 2nd edition.

***note: this is a REQUIRED material and students who attend class without the textbook will lose 0.5% per class** (recommended: borrow from someone in the hall). **Sharing the textbook in class is not permitted as this is distracting and physically uncomfortable.**

2. pencil brought to ALL classes!

3. practice room access - must be obtained from the music dept office

4. Metronome – physical or APP – *brought to class when indicated*

5. practice time- Total of 3-4 hours per week as needed

OPTIMAL: 2/15 minute focused and concentrated sessions each day for 6 days/week (this is worth more than 45 minutes/day unfocused).

-30 minutes total every day is better than 3 hours on weekend

-grab 5 minutes here or there-it's fun to practice

Students earning an A or B in previous semesters can expect to need to **double or triple their practice time** in order to conquer the more advanced challenges of KS III.

OPTIONAL

Alfred's Group Piano for Adults: Popular Music, Book 2. DO NOT BUY ON AMAZON! Buy for \$9 on sheetmusicplus.com [**COAH Collaborate!**]

E. Evaluation Assignments

I. Playing Tests - 2 tests each worth 2%; one with chanting, one for UWG music course; "try it out" preparation for Module E and F tests

II. Piano Proficiency Modules E and F

a) General Requirements

- each module must be passed with a grade of C or above in order to demonstrate and pass Piano Proficiency and in order to pass KS III

-each SECTION of each module (eg. Technique, Harmonization, Transposition, Sight Reading, etc) must be passed with a C or above in order to pass the Proficiency module and in order to pass KS III.

b) Specific Requirements

-specific requirements are given on page 1 and 2 and the textbook page numbers are given two weeks prior to the test date.

III. Creative Project – 2% [COAH Collaborates]

-must submit proposal by the *indicated deadline in order to be eligible*. Choose ONE of the following:

- a) Choose a page in either textbook and perform for the class:
 - i) an improvisation based on the textbook piece
 - ii) an original composition based on/inspired by the textbook piece
 - iii) a guided improvisation created by Dr. Gingerich

IV. Transposed Harmonization Score 4% total (2% each)

-hard copy submitted -may be handwritten or use notational software (Finale, Sibelius, etc)
 -ONE assigned excerpt for each Module E and F
 -specific 4-8 bars as indicated

V. Class Attendance - attendance is taken on a daily basis and is the best assurance of succeeding in this course

-each unexcused absence results in a 0.5% reduction of the 10% allocated for attendance.
Attending class without the textbook is equivalent to being absent and will count towards the attendance policy. Class begins at the official time indicated by the university. *Students arriving after the door has been closed may not enter the room and should not knock and thus disturb the class*, and will be considered absent.

-----O P T I O N A L -----

VI. OPTIONAL

1. Second Chance Test

-earn grade of 60-69% AND pass at least 3 of the sections on Module E and/or F, earn chance to perform the test a second time during Final Exam week

2. Bonus Points – total 4%

-are eligible if complete and pass all components of the course
 2% *each* – two Open Book Syllabus Policy tests

3. Test Out Early

a) Introductory Statement

“After enrolling in the course, students may test out early, according to the individual instructor’s policies.” This option is intended primarily for students who:

- i) have had more than 3 years of pre-college private piano study or
- ii) have earned the grade of A or B in previous Keyboard Skills courses or
- iii) are currently doing excellent work in the course or
- iv) were previously enrolled in this course AND passed either Module E or Module F
- v) AND are able to devote ample time to practicing independently, without assistance from the instructor.”

b) Policy

-after successful completion of BOTH modules students will receive an email indicating that they have completed Piano Proficiency for this semester and have passed KS III and that they will no longer need to attend class for the remainder of the semester. Their final grade will be calculated using the grades earned on each module and a mathematically prorated amount for the remaining 20% of the course. The prorated amount will utilize the grades they earned up until the date they tested out of the course. Students must continue **to attend all classes** until they have received this email. Students are asked to complete the online evaluation form, which usually becomes available in late November.

c) Procedure

-by the due date, a student must send a commitment email to Dr. Gingerich indicating their intention to complete this process

F. Academic PoliciesAttendance Requirements

Class attendance is important in order to create musical excellence in the acquisition of skill development and knowledge of the subject matter, and is a form of the daily practice and focus exhibited by professional musicians. However, occasionally important life matters prevent students from attending class, and so students are allowed three absences if needed. This attendance policy is designed to support and reward professional standards.

A student is allowed three absences. Upon the fourth and fifth absence, the student's final grade will be lowered by 1 letter grade. Upon the sixth and seventh absence their final grade will be lowered 2 letter grades. Upon the eighth and ninth absence, their final grade will be lowered 3 letter grades. ***It is the student's responsibility to keep count of their number of absences.***

UWG provides excellent resources to students, and exceptions to the above attendance policy occur if Dr. Gingerich receives an ***email*** notification **stating that the student should be excused**, from a UWG Professional designated and trained to provide ongoing assistance in your area of need:

- a) Physical Health: Health Services Patient Advocate (J Hendricks, C Hindman, J Gaddy)
- b) Emotional Health: UWG Cares: www.westga.edu/UWGCares
- c) Academic: (time management, learning disabilities): Center for Academic Success (UCC)
- d) UWG music instructor concerning date and time of departure for an ensemble tour or conference.
- e) Miscellaneous: Dean of Students Office: www.westga.edu/vpsa
- f) Miscellaneous: Dr. Hibbard (non-medical, funerals, car troubles, etc)

It is the student's responsibility to ensure that the information concerning the Exception is sent to Dr. Gingerich WITHIN TWO WEEKS OF THE ABSENCE and is complete. (highly

recommended: ask them to cc the student). **It is the student's responsibility to make up any missed work, by contacting their "piano buddy."**

Please note: communication regarding absences is via email only. Dr. Gingerich is well qualified to assist with musical and pianistic problems. But for reasons of confidentiality and in order to obtain the best professional advice, assistance for situations which are non-musical or non-pianistic must be provided by one of the UWG professional listed above.

Excused Absence Procedure:

- a) -an email sent from a UWG email address and copied to the student's UWG email address
-statement "Please excuse _____ (your name) _____ (your student ID number) on _____ (date(s))"
-must include UWG professional's name and UWG position
- b) Questions about the Procedure:
 - i) **first thoroughly read the syllabus**
 - ii) sent VIA EMAIL to Dr. Gingerich AND including a pasted copy of the exact section from the syllabus to which the question pertains

Disruptive Behavior

Students will be dismissed from any class meeting at which they exhibit behavior that disrupts the learning environment of others. Such behavior includes – but is not limited to – speaking disrespectfully to the instructor and/or to other students, the use of personal audio or video devices, tapping, drumming, distracting body movements, and creating noise while the instructor is speaking. Each dismissal of this kind will count as an absence and will be applied toward the attendance requirements policy. **The instructor has the right to teach and ALL students have the right to learn!**

Smartphones, Tablets, Etc may be utilized **ONLY WHEN INDICATED BY THE INSTRUCTOR**

Unauthorized use is a form of disruptive behavior.

Makeup Policy –tests, presentations can be rescheduled only if Dr. Gingerich receives an email from any of the UWG Professionals listed above.

Due Dates –all assignments and tests are due at the beginning of the assigned class. Late assignments or test attendance earn the grade of zero.

Email –official communication is through "my.westga.edu" accounts only.

Grade Queries If you have questions about your grade during the semester, please describe your specific question and send it **via email**. It is easy to keep track of your grade from class to class since the course percentages are also points, and mathematically you simply need to add your total points. However, questions about your grade totals and percentages *are welcome and must be sent via email*.

Credit – Work utilized in other courses is not permissible.

Disclaimer- *university professors do not function in a parental role and university students are considered to be adults.* However, *if you wish*, I can guide you towards appropriate UWG professionals who can assist you with non- musical problems. But, I am an expert in piano/musical topics and am happy to assist you with these.

Contract –by remaining a registered student in this course, the student agrees to the obligations set forth in this syllabus for the satisfactory completion of this course. Detailed applications of and adjustments to the syllabus are explained, described and reviewed during class meetings. Before each module exam students will be asked to verbally confirm that they have read and understood the syllabus. Additional information: <http://tinyurl.com/UWGSyllabusPolicies>

G. Grading

Piano Proficiency Module E (Midterm Exam)	40%
Piano Proficiency Module F (Final Exam)	40%
Playing Tests (2 at 2% each)	4%
Creative Project	2%
Transposed Harmonization Score	4%
Attendance	10%

90-100A	80-90B	70-80C	60-70D	Below 60F
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H. Syllabus (*subject to change*)

August 14	Explanation of Syllabus
Week 1: Aug 19/21	Necessary Musical Foundations
Week 2: Aug 26/28	Module E Necessary Musical Foundations
Week 3: Sept 4	Module E Test Out Early Email Commitment Due Sept 4 7:00 am
Week 4: Sept 9/11	Module E Playing Test #1
Week 5: Sept 16/18	Module E Sept 18: no class- Test Out Early Tests only Creative Project Proposal Due Sept 16

Week 6: Sept 23/25	Module E
Week 7: Sept 30/ Oct 2	Creative Projects Module E Transposed Harmonization Score due
Week 8: Oct 7/9	Module E Open Book Syllabus Policy Test
Week 9: Oct 14/16	Piano Proficiency Module E Test: Midterm Exam
Week 10: Oct 21	Oct 23 No Class – Dr. G performing in Vienna, Austria Module F Creative Projects
Week 11: Oct 28/30	Module F
Week 12: Nov 4/6	Module F Playing Test #2
Week 13: Nov 11/13	Module F Creative Projects Module F Transposed Harmonization Score due
Week 14: Nov 18/20	Module F Open Book Syllabus Policy Test
Week 15: Dec 2/4	Piano Proficiency Module F Test: Final Exam
Mon Dec 10 8-10:00 am	“Second Chance” Module Tests: Section 01 Mon Dec 9, 8 – 10 am Section 03 Wed Dec 11, 11 am-1pm