

KEYBOARD SKILLS IV
MUSC 2502-01, 02
University of West Georgia, Spring 2017
Dr. Carol Gingerich
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Humanities Room 335, Office Hours as Posted

A. Prerequisites

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

B. General Objectives

1. To continue the ideas presented in Keyboard Skills III.
2. To acquire the piano skills and music theory knowledge needed for the Piano Proficiency module tests. Piano Proficiency prepares students to function in the real world as professional musicians, is part of accredited professional music degree programs, and is the culmination of the Keyboard Skills I-IV course sequence..
3. To increase student's critical listening and thinking skills through the use of self and peer evaluation, especially in collaborative group settings.
4. To prepare students for professional uses of the piano such as Auditions for Employment, and accompanying in vocal and instrumental settings, through the use of nongraded, simulated exercises.
5. To introduce students to professional standards appropriate for their role as adult learners in the Information Age, such as the ability to organize and retrieve information, and to meet professional technological standards.

C. Specific Musical Objectives

As outlined in the "Piano Proficiency Module Requirements" (revised April 21, 2015) document.

D. Required Materials

1. Lancaster and Renfrow. Alfred's Group Piano for Adults, Book 2, second 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. Optional for Recorded Modules: one regular mailing envelope (homemade envelopes earn the grade of zero)
 4. Optional for Recorded Modules: 4G thumbdrive Dr. Gingerich may keep for one week.
 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 everyday is better than 3 hours on weekend
-grab 10 minutes here or there-it's fun to practice.

E. Evaluation (subject to change)

I. Playing Tests - 2 tests each worth 2%; one combining peer and self evaluation

II. Piano Proficiency Modules G and H

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 have had more than 3 years of pre-college private piano study (KS I), and/or have earned the grade of A in previous Keyboard Skills courses, **and are able to devote ample time to practicing independently, without assistance from the instructor.**”

b) General Requirements

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

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

-students have three options for completion of the modules:

a) students may choose to perform the module in person during the scheduled in class time and their performance will be recorded by the instructor

b) OR students may submit a recording at the beginning of the scheduled test time, instead of playing in person. Students must indicate their desire to do so, via email, by the date given by Dr. Gingerich

c) OR students may submit a recording (s) “early” during the scheduled “Early Submission Period”

-for any modules earning below the grade of C, students have the option of retaking that particular Module test during the designated time during Final Exam week. **This “second chance” is available only if the original test was attempted during the semester.**

-for any module(s) not successfully performed during the semester, the student will register in KS IV the next spring, and may submit these module(s) during the Early Submission Period (requirements are below), and thus “test out” early from the course.

c) Early Submission Period

Introduction:

Early Submission is a privilege automatically available to students who earned a final grade of A or B in KS III. This privilege may also be granted, by permission of the instructor, to students currently enrolled in KS IV who consistently demonstrate excellent work in class and who are earning the grade of A on all course components prior to the requested Early Submission date. There are two possible Early Submission dates.

Requirements:

-Students wishing to use the Early Submission Period must notify the instructor via email at least 3 weeks in advance of the Early Submission date, and must indicate which Module (s) they will

be submitting. This email promises a commitment on the part of the student to submit the particular Module (s), and any recorded Modules which are not completed by the due date, will earn the grade of F, and the policy concerning Requirements for Recorded Tests will be in effect.

- after receiving the email notification from the student, within one week (two weeks prior to the Early Submission due date) the instructor will email the test requirements. This will provide the student with two weeks in which to polish their performance and record the test materials.
- students may not submit Modules after the in-class Module test date
- after successful completion of both modules students will receive a hard copy letter indicating that they have completed Piano Proficiency for this semester and have passed KS IV 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 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 been notified that they will receive this letter.

c) Recorded Modules

- detailed instructions will be sent via email regarding professional recording standards.
- recordings are due to room 335(232) 10 minutes prior to the start of class on their due date, and late recordings earn the grade of F. Please do not knock after the door is closed, as students choosing to perform the class in person will be taking their tests.

Requirements for Recorded Tests: students may continue to use the recording “privilege” as long as their recordings:

- a) include all portions of the test
- b) pass with the grade of C or higher
- c) have no technological problems and play properly when the instructor views them

Students who turn in recordings with any of the above missing, will lose their privilege or option of submitting recorded modules for the remainder of that particular semester. The recorded privilege is reinstated at the beginning of each semester

III. Recital –2%

- to be held in Cashen Hall
- invited friends and family, optional
- perform Piano Proficiency memorized solo repertoire as a “try out”

IV. Non Graded Experiences

-in order to prepare for “real life” experiences students will perform in class on their principal applied instrument or voice, in simulated situations related to their specific degree program.

V. Written Test-optional 2% bonus points. Tips for harmonizing melodies as given in class.

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

-each class is worth 0.5%. **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.

F. Academic Policies

Attendance 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 one letter grade. Upon the sixth and seventh absence their final grade will be lowered two letter grades. Upon the eighth and ninth absence, their final grade will be lowered three 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:

- a) Physical Health: Health Services Patient Advocate(Jill Hendricks, Corey Hindman)
- b) Emotional Health: UWG Cares: www.westga.edu/UWGCares
- c) Academic:(time management, learning disabilities): EXCEL Center: www.westga.edu/excel
- d) Miscellaneous: Dean of Students Office: www.westga.edu/vpsa
- e) UWG music instructor concerning date and time of departure for an ensemble tour or conference.

It is the student's responsibility to ensure that the information concerning the Exception is sent to Dr. Gingerich WITHIN TWO WEEKS OF THE END 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.

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!**

Makeup Policy –tests, presentations can be rescheduled only if Dr. Gingerich receives an email stating that the student is excused, 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.

Extra Credit -2% bonus points for Written Test. Work utilized in other courses is not permissible.

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

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. Additional information: <http://tinyurl.com/UWGSyllabusPolicies>

G. Grading

Piano Proficiency Module G (Midterm Exam)				40%
Piano Proficiency Module H (Final Exam)				40%
Playing Tests (2 at 2% each)				4%
Recital				2%
Attendance				14%
Bonus Points-Written Test				2%
90-100A	80-90B	70-80C	60-70D	Below 60F

H. Syllabus (subject to change)

Week 1: Jan 9/11	Syllabus Presentation Necessary Fundamentals Review Recital Repertoire Module G
Week 2: Jan 18	
Week 3: Jan 23/25	Early Submission Email Due (Jan 23) GMEA Conference – TBD?
Week 4: Jan 30/Feb 1	Test #1
Week 5: Feb 6/8	
Week 6: Feb 13/15	Early Submission Recordings Due (Feb 13)
Week 7: Feb 20/22	Written Test – optional bonus points Module G Recorded Test Intent Email due Feb 20
Week 8: Feb 27/Mar 1	
Week 9: Mar 6/8	Module G: Midterm Exam
Week 10: Mar 13/15	Module H Early Submission Email Due (Mar 15)
Week 11: Mar 27/29	
Week 12: Apr 3/5	Test #2 Module H Recorded Test Intent Email Due Apr 3
Week 13: Apr 10/12	Recital – Cashen Hall (TBD) Early Submission Recordings Due Apr 12
Week 14: Apr 17/19	
Week 15: Apr 24/26 May 1	Module H: Final Exam
Exam Week:	Second Attempt Module Tests Wed May 3 8:00 am -12:30