

KEYBOARD SKILLS IV
MUSC 2502-01, 02
University of West Georgia, Spring 2019
Dr. Carol Gingerich
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Humanities Room 335, Office Hours as Posted
(note: email is generally returned Mon-Wed)

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. This is the culmination and highest level of the Keyboard Skills I-IV course sequence and as such is the most 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 prepare students for post- graduation professional uses of the piano such as Auditions for Employment, and accompanying in vocal and instrumental settings, through the use of non-graded, simulated exercises.
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, 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

1. To harmonize and transpose melodies beyond those in the textbook in all genres of music. Melodies will be chosen with student input and chosen based on their appeal when performed as solo piano pieces.

2. Module G

Harmonic Minor Scales HS 2 octaves: c,# f#, b

Minor Triad Arpeggios HS 2 octaves: c,# f#, b

Modulate to the Relative Minor Starting in G, D, F, Bb: Textbook p. 228

Harmonize and Transpose Complex Melodies and Accompaniments: Independent Preparation

Choral Score: perform 2 adjacent parts simultaneously: Independent Preparation

Sight Read Piano Piece HT

Module H

Modulate to the Subdominant starting in G, D, F, Bb: Textbook p. 195

Improvise an Accompaniment Following a Given Pattern: Independent Preparation

Perform Piano Solo from Memory with Expression

Choral Score: perform 2 non-adjacent parts simultaneously: Independent Preparation

Star Spangled Banner

Sight Read Piano Piece HT

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. Metronome- physical or APP- *brought to class when indicated*

4. practice time- 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 IV. 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. Small Playing Test - 1 test worth 2%; "try it out" preparation for Module G

II. Piano Proficiency Modules G and H

a) 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, Harmonization, Transposition, Sight Reading, etc**) must be passed with a **C or above** in order to have passed the Proficiency module and in order to pass KS IV.

b) Specific Requirements

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

III. Recital –2%

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

IV. Practice Schedule – 1%

- weekly plan (7 days with one day off recommended) showing 3 hours keyboard skills practice
- hard copy typed or handwritten, CLEARLY showing piano practice times

V. Practice Time Report #1– 1%

- report of ACTUAL time spent practicing keyboard skills for the seven days prior to the due date (one day off recommended)
- hard copy typed or handwritten-indicate TOTAL time spent

VI. 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.

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.

FREQUENT PIANO PRACTICE REWARDS (FPPR) [OPTIONAL]

1. Day Off

-pass Module G on the 1st attempt and do not need to attend the Review class

2. Second Chance Test

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

3. Bonus Points – total 4%

-are eligible if complete and pass all components of the course

1%- Practice Time Report #2

2% (1% each) – Open Book Syllabus Policy test

1% - Hard copy of Module G Transposition

4. Test Out Earlya) 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 G or Module H
- 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 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 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.

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 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 designated and trained to provide ongoing assistance in your area of need:

- a) Physical Health: Health Services Patient Advocate (Jill Hendricks, Corey Hindman, Jamie Gaddy)
- b) Emotional Health: UWG Cares: www.westga.edu/UWGCares
- c) Academic:(time management, learning disabilities): Center for Academic Success (UCC)
- d) Miscellaneous: Dr. Hibbard (non-medical, funerals, car problems, etc)
- e) Miscellaneous: Dean of Students Office: www.westga.edu/vpsa
- f) 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. Reminder: *Dr. Gingerich does not grant Excused Absences*; she simply follows the recommendations of a qualified UWG professional. 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 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.

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%
Small Playing Test	2%
Practice Schedule	1%
Practice Time Report #1	1%
Recital	2%
Attendance	14%
Bonus Points	4%

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

Week 1: Jan 7/9	Syllabus Presentation Necessary Fundamentals Review Recital Repertoire Module G
Week 2: Jan 14/16	Practice Schedule Due Jan 16 Test -Out Early Email Commitment Due Jan 16 7:00 am
Week 3: Jan 23	
Week 4: Jan 28/30	Jan 30: no class-Test Out Early Tests only
Week 5: Feb 4/6	
Week 6: Feb 11/13	Small Playing Test
Week 7: Feb 18/20	
Week 8: Feb 25/27	Feb 27: Bonus Points- Staff Paper Transposition due
Week 9: Mar 4/6	Mar 4: Practice Time Report #1 due Mar 4: Bonus Points – Open Book Syllabus Policy Test
Week 10: Mar 11/13	Module G: Midterm
Week 11: Mar 25/27	Mar 25: Review Class Module H
Week 12: Apr 1/3	
Week 13: Apr 8/10	Apr 10: Recital Cashen Hall (TBD)
Week 14: Apr 15/17	Apr 17: Bonus Points-Practice Time Report #2 Apr 17: Bonus Points – Open Book Syllabus Policy Test
Week 15: Apr 22/24/29	Module H: Final Exam
Exam Week:	Second Attempt Module Tests Fri May 3 8-10 am