

BUTTE COLLEGE

COURSE OUTLINE

I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION

MUS 40 - Piano I

1 Unit(s)

Prerequisite(s): NONE

Limitation on Enrollment: Selected by audition

Recommended Prep: NONE

Transfer Status: CSU/UC

8.5 hours Lecture

25.5 hours Lab

This course consists of individualized study of the appropriate techniques and repertoire for the piano. The focus of the course is on fundamentals: reading music, posture, hand position, fingering, rhythm, chord structure and progressions, and performance. Emphasis is on the progressive development of skills needed for solo performance. Achievement is evaluated through a juried performance. This course is primarily intended for music majors.

II. OBJECTIVES

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

- A. Play with precise rhythm.
- B. Play the correct pitches with accurate intonation.
- C. Play with the articulation, dynamics, phrasing, and expression appropriate to the literature being studied.
- D. Play in a stylistically appropriate manner suitable to the genre, period, and style of the literature.
- E. Memorize performance literature when appropriate to the performance medium and artistic tradition.
- F. Perform improvised solos as applicable.
- G. Demonstrate appropriate of blend and balance when performing as an accompanist.

III. COURSE CONTENT

A. Unit Titles/Suggested Time Schedule

Lecture

<u>Topics</u>	<u>Hours</u>
1. Keyboard basics: sitting, posture, hand position, the geography of the keyboard	2.50
2. Introduction to piano music notation: the clefs, note time values, ties, symbols	4.00
3. Scales and chords	2.00
Total Hours	8.50

Lab

<u>Topics</u>	<u>Hours</u>
1. Major five-finger patterns on white keys; triads	2.00
2. Major five-finger patterns on black keys	2.00
3. Minor five-finger patterns on white keys; triads; relative minor	2.00
4. Minor five-finger patterns on black keys; triplets	2.00
5. Chord qualities: augmented, diminished; dotted note values	4.50

6. Tetrachords and major scales; octaves; the damper pedal	4.00
7. Major scales, arpeggios; triads of the key	2.00
8. Chord inversions; triads in all positions	2.00
9. The dominant and dominant seventh chords	1.00
10. Primary chords in major keys: I-IV-V chord progressions	1.00
11. Tetrachords in minor scales; arpeggios	1.00
12. Primary chords in minor keys: I-IV-V chord progressions	1.00
13. Performance evaluation and analysis	1.00
Total Hours	25.50

IV. **METHODS OF INSTRUCTION**

- A. Lecture
- B. Instructor Demonstrations
- C. Homework: Students are required to complete two hours of outside-of-class homework for each hour of lecture
- D. Demonstrations
- E. Problem-Solving Sessions
- F. Individual instruction

V. **METHODS OF EVALUATION**

- A. Exams/Tests
- B. Papers
- C. Class participation
- D. Final Examination
- E. Performance Examinations
- F. In-class performance
- G. Research paper or Concert report

VI. **EXAMPLES OF ASSIGNMENTS**

- A. Reading Assignments
 - 1. Go online and read a back issue of "Clavier" dealing with effective practicing techniques. Be prepared to demonstrate in class.
 - 2. Read in Grove's Encyclopedia of Music about a prominent piano performer. Be prepared to discuss in class.
- B. Writing Assignments
 - 1. Write a 1500 word research paper about the development of the piano keyboard action and how this affected piano technique.
 - 2. Attend a concert where the piano is the principal instrument or plays a substantial role in the performance, and write a 2 page paper detailing your experience.
- C. Out-of-Class Assignments
 - 1. Listen to a CD where the piano is the principal instrument or plays a substantial role in the performance. Be prepared to discuss the piano techniques used in class.
 - 2. Practice assigned technique exercises a minimum of 6 hours per week.

VII. **RECOMMENDED MATERIALS OF INSTRUCTION**

Textbooks:

- A. Baker, K.. The Complete Piano Player. 2nd Edition. Amsco Publications, 2010.

Materials Other Than Textbooks:

A. Handouts

Created/Revised by: Mark Latham

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