

Las Positas College
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Course Outline for MUS 25
TEACHING BEGINNING PIANO
Effective: Fall 2008

I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

MUS 25 — TEACHING BEGINNING PIANO — 2.00 units

Principles of successful piano teaching with emphasis upon development of technique and reading ability in beginner level students; private and group piano teaching methods; personal development as teacher and musician. Observation of piano lessons or classes and supervised practice teaching of private or class piano students may be required. Intended for pianists with intermediate or advanced skills.

2.00 Units Lecture

Strongly Recommended

MUS 21B - Beginning Piano: Intermediate

Grading Methods:

Discipline:

	MIN
Lecture Hours:	36.00
Total Hours:	36.00

II. NUMBER OF TIMES COURSE MAY BE TAKEN FOR CREDIT: 1

III. PREREQUISITE AND/OR ADVISORY SKILLS:

Before entering this course, it is strongly recommended that the student should be able to:

A. MUS21B

IV. MEASURABLE OBJECTIVES:

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

- A. plan a series of lessons for a beginning student;
- B. select appropriate exercises, literature and theory assignments;
- C. analyze and address special problems encountered in teaching;
- D. evaluate progress of a beginning piano student, taking into consideration hand position and technique, reading ability, rhythmic accuracy, practice habits and knowledge of theory.

V. CONTENT:

- A. The instrument
 - 1. Pitch
 - 2. Duration
 - 3. Volume
 - 4. Timbre
- B. The human body – physical principles involved in playing the piano
 - 1. Sitting Position
 - a. Height of bench
 - b. Distance from keyboard
 - c. Special considerations for the small child
 - 2. Hand position
 - 3. Use of the arms
 - 4. Principles of tension and relaxation
- C. Elements of technique
 - 1. Free fall
 - 2. Use of the thumb
 - 3. Crossings
 - 4. Rotation
 - 5. Fingering
 - 6. Two hand coordination
 - 7. Projection
 - 8. Register balance
- D. Theoretical elements

1. Pulse and meter
2. Intervals
3. Scale groups
4. Chord groups
5. Keyboard patterns
6. Rhythms
7. Form
- E. Expressive elements
 1. Elementary phrasing
 2. Pedal
 3. Legato
 4. Climax
 5. Contrast
 6. Singing tone
 7. Mood
 8. Voicing
 9. Musical content
 10. Style
- F. Sight reading
- G. Improvisation
- H. Lesson planning
- I. Practice techniques

VI. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:

- A. **Lecture** -
- B. Small group and whole class discussion
- C. Possible field trip. Examples: 1. Visiting music studios of local working teachers 2. Attendance at a piano recital
- D. Live presentations when available/feasible
- E. Teaching demonstrations
- F. Films and recordings

VII. TYPICAL ASSIGNMENTS:

- A. Reading: 1. Read Chapter 3, *The Human Performing Mechanism*, in *On Piano Playing* by Gyorgy Sandor and be prepared to evaluate your own sitting and hand position and those of others. 2. Find and read an article on technique in a journal such as *MENC Journal*, *California Music Teacher*, or *Clavier* magazine. Report on the article to the class.
- B. Writing, listening, problem solving/critical thinking: 1. Discuss the special problems unique to the adult beginner and how you would address them. 2. Attend a student recital. Select one performer with a technical problem, and tell how you would address the problem as a teacher.

VIII. EVALUATION:

- A. **Methods**
- B. **Frequency**
 1. Two written examinations (mid-term and final)
 2. One individual field assignment (written) mid-semester
 3. One oral report presented at end of semester.

IX. TYPICAL TEXTS:

1. Bogas, Roy *The True Art of Playing the Piano.*, Self Published, 2007.
2. Jacobson, Jeanine M., Ed by E. L. Lancaster *essional Piano Teaching: A Comprehensive Piano Pedagogy Textbook for Teaching Elementary?Level Students.*, Alfred Publishing Company, Inc., 2006.
3. Sandor, Gyorgy *On Piano Playing: Motion, Sound and Expression.*, Wadsworth, 1995.
4. Bastien, James *How to Teach Piano Successfully.* 3rd ed., Neil A. Kjos Music Company, 1988.
5. Shaum, Wesley *Keyboard Teaching with Greater Success and Satisfaction.* 5th ed., Schaum Pub., 1998.
6. Agay, Denes, ed. *Art of Teaching Piano.*, Music Sales Corporation, 2004.
7. Bruckner, Susan *The Whole Musician, A Multi-Sensory Guide to Practice, Performance and Pedagogy.* 3rd ed., Effey Street Press, 1998.

X. OTHER MATERIALS REQUIRED OF STUDENTS: