

Course Outline for MUS 25
TEACHING BEGINNING PIANO
Effective: Spring 2018

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:

Letter or P/NP

Discipline:

- Music

Family: Music Piano Pedagogy

	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

1. Perform early intermediate pieces in correct rhythm and at a reasonable tempo
2. Exhibit technical skills adequate for early intermediate pieces
3. Demonstrate knowledge of all major and minor keys
4. Practice in a disciplined fashion
5. Perform scales in all major and minor keys
6. Perform chord progressions (I, IV6/4, V6/3, I) in all major and minor keys
7. Sight-read intermediate level pieces
8. Perform in ensemble with 1 or more other students
9. Perform expressively with regard to stylistic considerations of Baroque, Classic, Romantic and 20th Century music

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. **Projects** -
- B. **Lecture** -
- C. Films and recordings
- D. **Research** -
- E. Teaching demonstrations
- F. Video-recorded presentations when of relevant topics
- G. **Discussion** -
- H. Virtual field trips

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. Using Internet research, find and read an article on technique in a journal such as MENC Journal, California Music Teacher, or Clavier magazine. Write a short essay about the article, post your essay to the discussion board, and respond to at least 2 other postings.
- B. Writing, listening, problem solving/critical thinking:
 1. Discuss the special problems unique to the adult beginner and how you would address them. Write a short essay about the article, post your essay to the discussion board, and respond to at least 2 other postings.
 2. Attend a student recital. Select one performer with a technical problem, and write an essay about how you would address the problem as a teacher. Post your essay to the discussion board, and respond to at least 2 other postings
- C. Teaching Practicum:
 - You will be paired with at least one beginning piano student. Develop an effective lesson plan, teach a 30 minute video-recorded lesson, and post the video to the discussion board. Respond to at least 2 other postings.

VIII. EVALUATION:

A. **Methods**

1. Exams/Tests
2. Quizzes
3. Research Projects
4. Papers
5. Oral Presentation
6. Projects
7. Field Trips
8. Group Projects
9. Class Participation
10. Class Work
11. Home Work
12. Class Performance
13. Other:
 - a. Examinations - 3 per semester
 1. typical questions: objective
 - a. The _____ is the home of the muscles that move the fingers up and down.
 1. wrist
 2. forearm
 3. hand
 4. upper arm
 - a. What are the two variables in piano sound production?
 2. typical questions: essay
 - a. Select one area of technical work that was addressed in class and discuss how you plan to incorporate it into your teaching.

- b. Describe in detail an ideal first lesson for an 8 year old student.
- b. Possible individual field assignments:
 1. Observe a private lesson taught by another teacher and write a report, discussing in detail the pedagogical problems that were addressed.
 2. Visit several music stores and investigate portable keyboards and assess their usefulness as practice keyboards for the beginning student. Present your findings to the class.
 3. Teach a lesson and video-record it. Develop a lesson plan. Upload the video to the discussion board and comment on at least 2 of your peer's videos.

B. Frequency

1. Two written examinations (mid-term and final)
2. One individual field assignment (written) mid-semester
3. Two-Three video-recorded lesson assignments.

IX. TYPICAL TEXTS:

1. Bogas, Roy *The True Art of Playing the Piano.*, Self Published, 2007.
2. Jacobson, Jeanine . *Professional Piano Teaching Vol. 1* . 2nd ed., Alfred Music, Inc., 2016.
3. Agay, Denes, ed. *Art of Teaching Piano.*, Music Sales Corporation, 2004.
4. Baird, Gary. *How to Start a Successful Piano Teaching Business.* 1st ed., CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform, 2016.
5. Gorin, Irina. *Tales of a Musical Journey: Handbook for Piano Teachers.* Kindle ed., Gorin Publishing, 2016.

X. OTHER MATERIALS REQUIRED OF STUDENTS: