

Las Positas College  
3000 Campus Hill Drive  
Livermore, CA 94551-7650  
(925) 424-1000  
(925) 443-0742 (Fax)

## Course Outline for MUS 31

### STUDY OF PIANO

Effective: Fall 2010

#### I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

MUS 31 — STUDY OF PIANO — 1.00 units

Development of functional piano skill. Designed for knowledge and skill of intermediate or advanced level.

1.00 Units Lab

#### Prerequisite

MUS 21B - Beginning Piano: Intermediate  
with a minimum grade of C

#### Grading Methods:

Letter or P/NP

#### Discipline:

**Family:** Music Piano

	<u>MIN</u>
<b>Lab Hours:</b>	54.00
<b>Total Hours:</b>	54.00

#### II. NUMBER OF TIMES COURSE MAY BE TAKEN FOR CREDIT: 4

#### III. PREREQUISITE AND/OR ADVISORY SKILLS:

**Before entering the course a student should be able to:**

A. MUS21B

#### IV. MEASURABLE OBJECTIVES:

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

- A. sight-read early intermediate level pieces;
- B. perform intermediate pieces in correct rhythm and at a reasonable tempo;
- C. exhibit technical skills adequate for intermediate pieces;
- D. practice in a disciplined fashion;
- E. perform scales in all major and minor keys with hands together at a moderate or fast tempo;
- F. perform chord progressions (such as I, IV 6/4, ii, V 6/5, I) in all major and minor keys;
- G. perform in ensemble with one or more other students;
- H. perform appropriate intermediate or advanced literature with regard to stylistic considerations of Baroque, Classic, Romantic and 20th Century music.

#### V. CONTENT:

- A. Intermediate or advanced piano literature
  - 1. Baroque
  - 2. Classic
  - 3. Romantic
  - 4. 20th Century
  - 5. Popular styles
- B. Reading music notation at the keyboard
  - 1. Reading music of increasing complexity in all major and minor keys
  - 2. Reading music of increasing rhythmic complexity
  - 3. Expressive markings
- C. Major and minor scales
  - 1. Three and four octaves
  - 2. Hands together
  - 3. Varied rhythms
  - 4. Two-against-three patterns
- D. Chord Progressions
  - 1. Major and minor keys
  - 2. Hands together
  - 3. More complex progressions as appropriate to the level of the student

- E. Sight-reading
  - 1. Principles of good sight-reading
  - 2. Skill building
  - 3. Practice techniques
- F. Improvisation
  - 1. Reading from a melody line only
  - 2. Improvising a melody over a given chord structure
  - 3. Adding complexity to a simple piece
  - 4. Improvising in an ensemble piece
- G. Technical exercises in increasing complexity
- H. Ensemble playing
  - 1. Duets
  - 2. Larger ensembles
- I. Literature
  - 1. Intermediate or advanced level pieces in Baroque, Classic, Romantic and 20th Century styles appropriate to the level of the student
  - 2. Supplementary music in popular styles

#### VI. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:

- A. **Lecture** -
- B. **Demonstration** -
- C. Guest presentations when available/feasible
- D. Audio and video sources for playback and recording
- E. Individual and ensemble performance

#### VII. TYPICAL ASSIGNMENTS:

- A. In reading
  - 1. Read the handout on the adult piano student and consider its applicability to your own work.
- B. In writing, listening, problem solving/critical thinking
  - 1. Provide chord symbols for a given melody.
  - 2. Analyze a given melody and suggest suitable accompaniment figures.
  - 3. Listen to the performance of another student and give constructive suggestions.
- C. In performance
  - 1. Play the C Minor scale in a two-against-three pattern.
  - 2. Prepare Invention No. 1 by Bach and perform it for the class.

#### VIII. EVALUATION:

- A. **Methods**
- B. **Frequency**
  - 1. Weekly practical performance activities
  - 2. One mid-term practical examination
  - 3. One final examination

#### IX. TYPICAL TEXTS:

- 1. Heerema, Elmer. *Progressive Class Piano*. 2nd ed., Alfred Publishing, 1984.
- 2. Hilley, Martha and Lynn Freeman Olson *Piano for the Developing Musician*. 5th ed., Schirmer, 2002.
- 3. Lancaster, E. L. and Kenon D. Renfrow *Alfred's Group Piano for Adults*. 2nd ed., Alfred Publishing, 2008.
- 4. Intermediate or advanced literature selected from the standard teaching repertoire suitable to the level of the student.

#### X. OTHER MATERIALS REQUIRED OF STUDENTS:

- A. Supplementary piano literature of the student's choice, selected with the guidance and approval of the instructor