

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 2017

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>
Lab Hours:	54.00
Total Hours:	54.00

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

III. PREREQUISITE AND/OR ADVISORY SKILLS:

Before entering the course a 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. Sight-read intermediate level pieces
7. Perform in ensemble with 1 or more other students
8. 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. Sight-read intermediate/advanced level pieces
- B. Perform intermediate/advanced pieces in correct rhythm and at a reasonable tempo
- C. Exhibit technical skills adequate for intermediate/advanced 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 recital
 3. One mid-term practical examination
 4. One final recital
 5. One final examination

IX. TYPICAL TEXTS:

1. Lancaster, E. L. and Kenon D. Renfrow *Alfred's Group Piano for Adults*. 2nd ed., Alfred Publishing, 2008.
2. Terzibaschitsch, Anne. *Piano Dreams Solo Book 2*. 1st ed., Trinity College London Press, 2016.
3. Goodine, Elizabeth. *Simplifying Chords: A Textbook For the Classroom and a Reference For the Road*. 1st ed., Tate Publishing, 2016.
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