**MUS 1111 Piano For Beginners**

***Description:***

This course is for both students with little or no basic piano skills. Students will be given basic skills in handling, care, andmaintenance of the piano as well as handling of Rehearsals. Emphasis is on fundamentals: Reading music, posture, hand position, fingering, rhythm, chord structure and progressions, and performance. The course is heavily grounded in practical performance and theory is only to enhance the practice. Every student must participate in the Departmental Performances as part of course work.

***Objectives:***

1. To introduce students to the performance techniques of the piano
2. To offer knowledge of handling, maintenance of the piano
3. To offer a foundation in the basics of piano-playing (posture, hand position, fingering, technique, sight-reading, improvisation, and performance)
4. To develop in students an awareness, understanding, and appreciation for the basic elements of piano music
5. To equip students with sight singing and aural skills

*Course Outline*

Topic 1: Introduction to Piano Playing

* Handling and Caring for piano
* Handling Rehearsals

Topic 2: Basics in Piano Playing

* Keyboard Basics
* Sitting, Posture, Hand Posture
* Structure of the Keyboard
* Introduction to Music Notation

Topic 3: Major Five-Finger Patterns on White and Black Keys: Triads

Topic 4: Minor Five-Finger Patterns on White and Black Keys:

* Relative Minor Triads
* Rhythmic Qualities: Triplets

Topic 5: Chord Rhythmic Qualities and

* Augmented and Diminished
* Chord Inversions
* Doted Note Values

Topic 6: Tetrachords and Major Scales

* Octaves
* The Damper Pedal
* Major Scales, Arpeggios
* Triads of The Key
* Triads In All Positions

Topic 7: Dominant and Dominant Seventh Chords

Topic 8: Primary Chords in Major Keys: I-IV-V Chord Progressions

Topic 9: Aural Skills

Topic 10: Sight Singing Skills

*Learning Outcomes*

* 1. Ability to explain the basic elements of music
  2. Ability to read simple piano music scores
  3. Demonstration of the proper posture and hand position while playing the piano
  4. Performance of a repertoire of three simple pieces
  5. Ability to hear and write down (aural skills) simple melodies
  6. Ability to sight sing simple melodies

*Methods of Teaching/Delivery*

Homework, lecture, demonstration, individual instruction, tutorial

*Modes of Assessment*

Course work

* Attendance and participation in class: 5%
* Weekly performance assessment: 20%
* Sight Singing: 5%
* Aural assignment: 5%
* Departmental Performances: 5%

Final examinations

* Practical:
  + Sight singing: 5%
  + Aural: 5%
  + Performance: 20%
* Written: 30%

*Selected Readings*

Lancaster, A. and Refrow. 2004. Group Piano for Adults, Book I. 2nd Edition. Alfred Publishing.

Lawson, Colin James and Robin Stowell. 2003. *The Historical Performance of Music: An Introduction.* Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press.

# Morin, Alexander. Ed. 2002.*Classical Music: The Listener's Companion.* Backbeat Books.

# Rink, John. 2002. *Musical Performance: A Guide to Understanding.* Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press.