



**Reedley College, MUS 20
Beginning Piano, Level 1
Syllabus, Spring 2024
Humanities Division**



Micah Davison, Instructor

micah.davison@reedleycollege.edu
(559) 517-4376

Class Times, Location:

Tues/Thurs: 2:00-2:50pm in HUM 64
Lab Time/Practice: 3:00-4:00pm in HUM 64

Office hours:

By appointment only. You may reach out via email/text to schedule an appointment.

Required Materials

Alfred's Basic Adult Piano Course Level 1:
Adult All-in-one Course
Fundamentals of Piano Theory by Keith Snell,
Martha Ashleigh

Welcome

Welcome to Beginning Piano Class! This semester you will gain skills in playing the piano, understanding the piano keyboard, learning the basics of how to read and write music, and learning how to play music in different keys. This will give you a great foundation to build on in further semesters of piano at Reedley College.

Attendance and Participation is "KEY"! For every hour of class, you will need to spend one hour of practice to meet your full potential in the course. These practice (lab) hours are required.

Course Description:

This course develops fundamental piano skills including theory, terminology, technique, and beginning level repertoire. It is designed for the general student as well as the classroom teacher. Recommended for all Music Majors.

Student Learning Outcomes:

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- MUS-20 SLO1: Upon completion of this course, students will demonstrate a knowledge of topics in basic music theory as it applies to the piano
- MUS-20 SLO2: Upon completion of this course, students will demonstrate ability to perform simple piano pieces while reading music.
- MUS-20 SLO3: Upon completion of this course, students will demonstrate ability to play triads and 5-note scales in all 12 major keys.

Objectives:

In the process of completing this course, students will:

1. Analyze the relationship between half-steps and whole-steps and how they apply to scales, sharps, flats, naturals, and transposition on the piano keyboard.
2. Play triads and five-note major scale patterns in all twelve major keys.
3. Develop and use vocabulary specific to music and musical context.
4. Practice strategies for quickly learning music.
5. Identify notes of the Treble Clef and Bass Clef including ledger lines.
6. Develop a repertoire of simple songs.
7. Identify sharps, flats, and natural symbols.
8. Recognize rhythmic symbols and interpret them appropriately.
9. Develop fundamental technical skills for playing passages on piano.
10. Identify the Treble Clef, Bass Clef, and Grand Staff.
11. Develop finger and hand independence as it relates to piano playing.

Course Expectations, Late Work, Visitors, and Extra Credit

- Attend all classes. Any absences beyond three will merit being dropped from the class. Contact the instructor in advance if you need to miss class for any reason.
- Make sure you complete all your practice/lab hours and acquire a faculty signature to verify them. Your lab hours can be rescheduled or arranged, so just be sure to stay on top of them. Missed hours will cause a deduction in the final grade.
- Be on time for class. Three tardies are equivalent to one absence.
- Complete all assignments. Submit the assignments on time to avoid a buildup of incomplete work, and a deduction in your grade.
- Put the final recital on your calendar and be sure to attend. Performing in the recital is 20% of your grade
- Check the Canvas page and school email regularly to see if there are announcements and to know what assignments are upcoming or due. All assignments for the semester are on the Canvas page.
- Per the SCCD policy, visitors (including children) are not allowed in classes without prior written consent of the instructor

Course Grading and Evaluation

Grade Breakdown:

- Theory Book Work 10%
- Piano Book Song Mastery 20%
- Skills Tests 20%
- Recital 20%
- Final (Cumulative Skills) 10%
- Piano Lab Participation 20%

Students with Disabilities

If you have a verified need for an academic accommodation or materials in alternate media (i.e., Braille, large print, electronic text, etc.) per the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, please contact the instructor as soon as possible.

Academic Honesty and Disruption

For detailed information regarding Academic Dishonesty, Plagiarism, and Disruption, please see pages 46-47 of the Reedley College Catalogue. From the catalogue: Because cheating, plagiarism, and collusion in dishonest activities erode the integrity of the college, each student is expected to exert an entirely honest effort in all academic endeavors. Academic dishonesty in any form is a very serious offense and will incur serious consequences.

Please turn off and stow all cell phones and other electronic devices during class. Students may be dismissed from class and counted as absent for creating excessive disruptions.

Advisories: English 1A or 1AH and Mathematics 3A or 45.

Continuation: To continue in the piano sequence, students need to get a 70 or higher in this class.