WINDWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE MISSION STATEMENT

Windward Community College is committed to excellence in the liberal arts and career development; we support and challenge individuals to develop skills, fulfill their potential, enrich their lives, and become contributing, culturally aware members of our community.

CATALOG DESCRIPTION

Basic principles of performance. Relevant problems in piano literature at elementary level. MUS 121C, 122C must be taken in sequence. Repeatable up to 6 credits; 2 credits applicable toward A.A. degree.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of MUS 121C, the student should be able to:

1. Identify and write the basic concepts of music notation.
2. Demonstrate knowledge of basic concepts in accurate performances.
3. Demonstrate knowledge of the history of piano development.
4. Perform in class with confidence.

COURSE CONTENT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concepts or Topics</th>
<th>Skills or Competencies</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Posture, including hand position</td>
<td>Play pieces with correct notes and fingering.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Note values</td>
<td>Apply concepts of articulation to playing.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pitch names</td>
<td>Observe dynamic markings.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Time signatures</td>
<td>Play five-finger patterns in sequence with the recorded background.</td>
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<td>Staccato vs. Legato</td>
<td>Play pieces with accurate rhythms.</td>
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<td>Phrase</td>
<td>Learn to set up the keyboard to play with recorded music.</td>
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<td>Intervals</td>
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<td>Triads/Chord progressions</td>
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<tr>
<td>Five-finger patterns, major and minor</td>
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<td>Major scales</td>
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<td>Dynamics</td>
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COURSE TASKS
1. **Learn and Demonstrate the Basic Aspects of Piano Technique**
   
   a. *Five-Finger Scale Patterns* in all major and minor keys. These should be practiced daily in contrary and parallel motion and will be included on in-class quizzes and exams.

   b. *Major Scales*: one octave, two hands. These should be practiced daily and will be included on in-class quizzes.

   c. *Primary Chords* in all keys in block and broken patterns. These should be practiced daily and will be included on in-class quizzes.

   d. *Harmonization of lead-sheet melodies* using the primary chords for certain keys. Harmonization may be included on exams.

   e. *Intervals*: Learning to recognize the look and feel of each interval in an octave.

2. **Apply Piano Techniques to musical compositions**

   Every time you read a piece of music for the first time without any practice, you are sight reading. The key to sight reading is **NOT STOP, KEEP GOING**! Once you stop and go over a part, it is not sight reading anymore. You are now practicing. You **will** make mistakes. It is not meant to be perfect. You are trying to catch as many notes and symbols as possible. Sight reading techniques will be emphasized in the teaching methods practiced in each class session. This should be practiced daily at home, as well.

   Transposition is playing a composition in a different position (key) than it was originally written in. This technique will be practiced regularly in class and should be a part of your home practice.

   Improvisation. You will try your hand at making up short melodies. There is no right or wrong in this activity and you will not be graded on your responses.

3. **Attendance**

   The nature of this course requires you to attend every class session. Please arrive at least 15 minutes before class in order to settle in, warm-up, and be ready. In the event that you are absent, it is your responsibility to make sure you schedule a time with me to catch-up on the work missed.

4. **Performance**

   **Criteria for performance evaluation are as follows:**
   
   1) Accuracy of notes and rhythm
   2) Observance of dynamic markings
   3) Correct articulation (legato and staccato)
   4) Musical interpretation
   5) Fluidity of performance

5. **Ensemble Exam**

   Playing the piano also involves playing with other musicians, so it is important to know how to work as an ensemble. You will be broken up into groups of 4 and will be graded as a group on a prepared piece.

6. **Music Theory**
Class work will include learning to read and write:

Pitches on the staff on both clefs
Intervals of the octave
Major and minor five-pattern groups
Major, minor, augmented and diminished chords
Chord progressions
Rhythmic patterns and time signatures
Arpeggios

7. **Note Identification**

You will be given a 1-minute note identification quiz every class period. Once you are able to identify all notes, you will be able to move on to the next level. There will be 10 levels. You need to complete all levels by the end of the semester.

**Grading**

Grades will be assigned in the following manner:

| Attendance/Participation | 20% |
| Playing Exams | 20% |
| Ensemble Exam | 20% |
| Note Identification | 20% |
| Final Exam | 20% |
| TOTAL | 100% |

**Important Dates**

<table>
<thead>
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<th>8/31/10</th>
<th>9/30/10</th>
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<tr>
<td>In-class Performance #1</td>
<td>In-class Performance #2</td>
<td>Ensemble #1</td>
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<td>10/14/10</td>
<td>10/19/10</td>
<td>10/28/10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ensemble #2</td>
<td>Ensemble #3</td>
<td>In-class Performance #3</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/30/10</td>
<td>12/16/10</td>
<td>12/17/10</td>
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<tr>
<td>In-class Performance #4</td>
<td>Final Exam 9:30 AM - 11:20 AM</td>
<td>Fall Recital - Paliku Theater</td>
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*Playing exam dates TBA*

**Learning Resources**

Required:
E.L. Lancaster & Kenon D. Renfrow: Alfred's *Piano 101*
Manuscript (music) paper
Pencil

**Additional Information**

Student Responsibilities:

Attend class regularly.
Practice at least ONE HOUR outside of class for each class session.
Participate actively in class discussions and drills.
Prepare ALL assignments on time.
Be present for exams.
Practice Hints:

Prepare to play a piece by scanning it through with your eyes for note and rhythm patterns.
Practice SLOWLY and ACCURATELY; learn hands separately.
Don’t allow yourself to make mistakes. Play only when you are ready.
Don’t play the wrong note, then right note in sequence more than once, because that is the pattern you will learn.
Don’t play pieces straight through each time. You are only hoping that you will play it right the next time. Try these alternatives:
  Practice one measure + one note.
  Isolate the problem. Find the section in the music that is giving you the most difficulty and start your practice from there. Only move on to another section if you are satisfied with what you just did.
COUNT ALOUD! It works!!!

Disabilities Accommodation Statement

If you have a physical, sensory, health, cognitive, or mental health disability that could limit your ability to fully participate in this class, you are encouraged to contact the Disability Specialist Counselor to discuss reasonable accommodations that will help you succeed in this class. Ann Lemke can be reached at 235-7448, lemke@hawaii.edu, or you may stop by Hale ‘Akoakoa 213 for more information.