MUSIC 121C
PIANO 1
Spring 2018, CRN 62275
MW 10:00 am – 11:15 am

INSTRUCTOR: So Jin Kimura
OFFICE HOURS: MW 9-10 am
By appointment

OFFICE: Hale Palanakila 109
TELEPHONE: 236-9145
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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 the basic concepts of music notation.
2. Demonstrate knowledge of basic concepts in accurate performances.
3. Demonstrate ability to learn and play pieces.
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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</thead>
<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.</td>
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<td>Staccato vs. Legato</td>
<td>Play pieces with accurate rhythms.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Intervals</td>
<td>Learn to perform as a group.</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; LH and RH together.
   b. One-octave Major Scales; LH and RH separately.
   c. Primary Chords in block and broken patterns; LH and RH separately.
   d. Harmonization of lead-sheet melodies using the primary chords for certain keys.
   e. Learning to recognize the look and feel of intervals in an octave.
   f. Playing a new piece for the first time (sight-reading.)

2. **Practice Hints**

   a. Prepare to play a piece by scanning it through with your eyes for note and rhythm patterns.
   b. Practice SLOWLY and ACCURATELY; learn hands separately. Once you’re ready, put the hands together, still going SLOWLY and ACCURATELY.
   c. Don’t **allow** yourself to make mistakes. Play only when you are ready.
   d. Don’t play the wrong note, then right note in sequence more than once, because that is the pattern you will learn.
   e. Don’t play pieces straight through every time. That is not practicing. That is performing. 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.
   f. **COUNT ALOUD!** It works!!!
   g. Consistent practice is what will lead to success.
   h. Most of all, have fun!

3. **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 to **KEEP GOING! DO NOT STOP!** Once you stop and go over a part again, 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.

4. **Attendance**

   The nature of this course requires you to attend every class session as much as possible. Please try to arrive early in order to settle in, warm-up, and be ready.

   You will receive one point for every class attended and ½ point for tardiness, which is anything after 15 minutes from the start of class. You are allowed two unexcused absences with no penalty during the semester. Additional unexcused absences will result in deductions from your final grade. Excused absences will be granted for genuine illness (doctor’s note) or emergencies (must be documented). An email will alert me to your situation.

   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. It is very easy to fall behind. Each class session builds on the last class, so keep on top of things. If you miss more than one class, do not give up. I will help you catch up to the rest of the class.

5. **Class Performances**

   There will be three In-Class Performances throughout the semester as well as the Spring Piano Concert at the end of the semester. For the In-Class Performances, you will perform the solo piece you prepared for the exam. These performances will either be held in the Piano Lab or Paliku Theater. You will also need to email me a
self-evaluation of your performance within one week of the In-Class Performance. This will help you to see what needs work for the next performance. Videos will be uploaded into a PRIVATE YouTube channel. You will be sent a link to view the video. You may watch it as many times as you like.

Everyone will play a solo and a duet for the Spring Concert. Both of you need to be present at all class rehearsals and performance. Your grade will depend on both of you being present. Each of you has your own part to play, so if one of you is missing, it will have a great effect on the duet. You may also need to rehearse outside of class, so be sure to collect contact information from your partner.

6. Playing Exams

There will be 3 playing exams. All exams will be conducted in my office. The piano lab will be open for you to practice. If it is closed, come to my office and I will open it for you.

A sign-up sheet will go up for you to schedule your exam. Make sure you write down the date and time in your book to remind you. Be ready in front of my office at least 5 minutes before your exam time. You will only have 15 minutes for your exam. We need to keep on schedule so as not to disrupt others who have other classes to attend.

**GRADING**

Grades will be assigned in the following manner:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attendance</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 Playing Exams</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In-Class Performances and Self-Evaluation</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring Concert (Dress rehearsal and Concert)</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
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**IMPORTANT DATES** *(These dates may change.)*

**Exam 1** – February 5  
**In-Class Performance 1** – February 7  
**Exam 2** – March 12  
**In-Class Performance 2** – March 14  
**Exam 3** – April 16  
**In-Class Performance 3** – April 18  
**Spring Piano Concert Dress Rehearsal** – Monday, April 30 at 5 pm  
**Spring Piano Concert** – Tuesday, May 1 at 7 pm

*ALL DATES ARE MANDATORY IN ORDER TO SUCCESSFULLY PASS THE COURSE*

**LEARNING RESOURCES**

**Required:** E.L. Lancaster & Kenon D. Renfrow: Alfred's *Piano 101*

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

- **Cell phones are to remain out of sight. No texting or playing with phones during class.**
- **No matter how tempting it is, do not write in the note names in your book. You are here to learn how to read music, not letters.**
- Participate actively in class discussions and be present for exams.
- Practice at much as you can outside of class for each class session. Consistent practice will help you succeed.
e. Practice rooms (105 and 107) are available for use with a key from the library. You will need to show your ID before they can issue you a key. The key will go onto your student account, so please make sure you return the key or you will be responsible for it if it is lost.

f. Please make sure you close the door behind you. Some of the doors do not shut on their own. Let’s all make sure we help in keeping our property safe.

g. Room 107 has 4 keyboards. If you and your ensemble would like to practice, you have priority over others who are practicing on a single keyboard.

h. You may practice in the Piano Lab before and after class. If you are the last one in the room, make sure all keyboards are turned off, turn off the lights, and close the door. It is very important that the room is secured when everyone leaves.

i. You will be learning the necessary tools to interpret music. If you are not sure about something, first look in the book. When it comes to note reading, answers will not be given to you, so use what you have learned in class to figure out the answer. Learning music is a lot like Math.

**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 ʻAkoakoa 213 for more information.*
Spring Concert Dress Code

It is very important that we dress appropriately for our annual Spring Concert. We are representing the Piano Program as well as the school. The concert will be held in the evening, so there is a dress code we need to follow:

Acceptable Attire for Men
Long-sleeved collared shirt, any color, tucked in
Tie is optional
Long slacks, any color
Socks
Covered dress shoes

NO T-shirts
NO Shorts
NO Jeans
NO Slippers

Acceptable Attire for Women
Long dress with sleeve, any color
Short dress with sleeve, any color (needs to be below knees)
Blouse with sleeve and long skirt
Blouse with sleeve and short skirt (needs to be below knees)
Covered shoes (high heels or flats)
Hair needs to be out of your face.

*Spaghetti strap and strapless dresses are allowed ONLY if you wear a cardigan over it.*

NO T-shirt
NO Shorts
NO Jeans
NO Slippers, sandals
NO Tube dresses or dresses that stick to your body
NO see-through material

Additional dress code information
1. Keep jewelry to a minimum. Please refrain from wearing bracelets or rings. They can damage the piano.

2. Please refrain from too much perfume and cologne. The general rule is, “If we can smell you but not see you, that’s too much.”

3. Our dress rehearsal will be in concert attire. This is so you can practice walking on and off with the clothes you picked out. Ladies, it is important to bring your shoes because you will be able to see if they are practical to wear while walking to the piano. Also keep in mind that if you are wearing a long dress and heels, the heel can get caught on the hem of your dress, so practice picking up your dress and walking. If you wear a top that is loose by the neck area, place your hand on your chest and bow.

4. If you decide that what you wore at dress rehearsal is not comfortable, please make sure you talk to me before changing your wardrobe.