



MUSIC 121C

PIANO 1

Spring 2015
MW 10:00 – 11:15 am

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

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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

Concepts or Topics

Posture, including hand position
Note values
Pitch names
Time signatures
Staccato vs. Legato
Intervals
Triads/Chord progressions
Five-finger patterns, major and minor
Major scales
Dynamics

Skills or Competencies

Play pieces with correct notes and fingering.
Apply concepts of articulation to playing.
Observe dynamic markings.
Play five-finger patterns in sequence.
Play pieces with accurate rhythms.
Learn to perform as a group.

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. *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.

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. 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, but you need to take the first step of contacting me.

4. *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. You will also need to email me a self-evaluation of your performance within one week of the In-Class Performance. For the Spring Piano Concert, all students will perform in a Quartet and you may be asked to perform the solo piece that you prepared for the last exam.

GRADING

Grades will be assigned in the following manner:

Attendance	25%
3 Playing Exams	25%
In-Class Performances (self-evaluation)	25%
<u>4-part Ensemble for Spring Concert (Dress rehearsal and Concert)</u>	<u>25%</u>
TOTAL	100%

IMPORTANT DATES **(These dates may change.)**

Exam 1 – Week of February 2

In-Class Performance 1 – February 9 & 10

Exam 2 – Week of March 16

In-Class Performance 2 – March 30 & 31 (this is the week AFTER Spring Break)

Exam 3 – Week of April 27

In-Class Performance 3 – May 4 & 5

Fall Piano Concert Dress Rehearsal – Thursday, May 7 at 5 pm (**MANDATORY**)

Fall Piano Concert – Friday, May 8 at 7 pm (**MANDATORY**)

LEARNING RESOURCES

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

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- a. Attend class regularly. 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.
- b. Participate actively in class discussions and be present for exams.
- c. No matter how tempting it may be, do not write in the note names in your books. You are here to learn how to read music.
- d. Cell phones are to remain out of sight. No texting or playing with phones during class.**
- e. 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.**
- f. Practice at much as you can outside of class for each class session. Consistent practice will help you succeed.
- g. Practice rooms (105, 107, and 109A) 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.
- h. 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.
- i. Everyone will be part of a 4-part ensemble for the Spring Concert. Once you are assigned to a group, all members of your ensemble need to be present at all class rehearsals and performance. Your grade will depend on all members being present. Each of you has your own part to play, so one missing person will have a great affect on the group. You may also need to rehearse outside of class, so be sure to collect contact information for your entire group.
- j. 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. Each member will need to submit their ID to be able to use this room.
- k. 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.
- l. Piano tutors are available through Trio. Tutors are able to meet with you individually for about an hour a week. You may also request for more time. Tutors will be working with you only on material covered in class. They are not there to play your music for you. Also keep in mind that working with a tutor does not mean you do not need to be in class.

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!

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.