Casper College Course Syllabus

MUSC 1301-01: Class Piano II

Spring 2016

Lecture hours: 0          Laboratory hours: 2          Credits: 1

Class Day & Time: M/W 8-8:50am          MU 106

Instructor: Jennifer Cowell          Office: MU 211          Phone: 268-2531

Email: jcowell@caspercollege.edu

Office Hours:  Posted on my office door –MU211

Contact Info: Please e-mail me or call my office. These two means of communication are my preferred method of contact. If you happen to have other contact information for me, please know that they are not official Casper College lines of communication. I will return your call or email within 24 hours.

Course Description: Group instruction for music majors concurrently enrolled in MUSC 1031. Designed to equip students with the practical aspects of keyboard fundamentals including technique, rhythm, note reading, scales, intervals, and primary chords. Non-music majors must have permission of the instructor.

Statement of Prerequisites: Music majors only. Non-music majors may enroll with the permission of the instructor, provided there is sufficient availability. The course is designed to be concurrent with MUSC 1031: Written Theory II

Goal: The goal is to develop the student’s musicality, reading skills and physical coordination necessary to read and perform elementary piano repertoire. Emphasis is also placed on the development of functional skills such as harmonizing, accompanying and improvising, along with keyboard technique and basic music theory.

Outcomes:

- Appreciate aesthetic and creative activities
- Use appropriate technology and information to conduct research

Course Objectives:

A. The student will increase the degree of technical proficiency with which he/she plays the piano.

B. The student will development their ability to sight-read elementary piano music by using Piano Marvel.

C. The student will develop an increased understanding of music theory as it relates to the study of the piano.
D. The student will perform two selections of piano literature representative of his/her skill level.

**Methodology:** Two fifty minute class sessions per week will include demonstrations, solo and ensemble playing, individual mini lessons, discussions, and other assignments as required.

To progress effectively and efficiently, you are expected to practice outside of class a minimum of 30 minutes to 45 minutes daily. Regular daily practice throughout the semester, as opposed to last minute, “emergency” practice, is strongly emphasized.

**Practice checklist:**

- Schedule a regular daily piano practice time in your weekly schedule NOW!
- If you choose not to practice in the music building, look for a quiet and comfortable place where you can be A LOT.
- Don’t strain yourself. Check that you are relaxed and supple while you play. Stretch before and after practice.
- Take a short break every half hour and stretch.
- 20 minutes of focused practice are more productive than 2 hours of unfocused practice.
- Have a pencil, your class notes and assignments with you when you practice.
- Plan your practice before sitting down at the piano. Some pieces may need more attention than others.
- Conscious and purposeful repetition is the key to improvement.
- Contact your instructor if you have questions or to get an assignment.
- Contact your instructor if practicing hurts!

**Sight-reading with Piano Marvel:** Starting on week 3 you are required to spend 30 minutes per week sight-reading pieces at a level appropriate to your skills (to be determined by the SASR test at the beginning of each month). You must get at least 86% on each piece in order to get full grade. Some of these minutes may be done in class at the discretion of the instructor.

**Evaluation Criteria:** The final grade is determined by the following:

- 5 pts: Attendance and Participation
- 20 pts: Prepared and polished solos (PP)
- 30 pts: Piano Marvel assignments (PM)
- 30 pts: Performance Evaluations (PE)
- 15 pts: Final Exam
Grade Calculation

A=91-100 points
B=81-90 points
C=71-80 points
D=61-70 points
F=60 points or less

Casper College may collect samples of student work demonstrating achievement of the above outcomes. Any personally identifying information will be removed from student work.

Required Text, Readings, and Materials:


Unruh, Eric W. *Keyboard Essentials for Musicianship* © 2001 (distributed in class)

Metronome—Download an APP

Piano Marvel subscription. First semester is free, then $12 per month. To create a Piano Marvel account:

1. Visit http://pianomarvel.com/app
2. Click “Start a Free Account Now”
3. Be sure to enter your instructor’s email address in “Teacher code”. Use email listed above in this syllabus.

Class Policies: Last Date to Change to Audit Status or to Withdraw

with a W Grade: April 14

Attendance Policy: Regular attendance is required and necessary to meet the proficiency requirements of this course. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of class. In order to receive attendance points, students must be in their seats, computers ready and textbook available.

Unexcused Absences will affect the final grade as follows:

4 absences – final grade lowered by one letter grade
5 absences – final grade lowered by two letter grades
6 or more absences–Instructor reserves the right to withdraw the student from the course.

Please notify the instructor if you need to miss the class. The instructor will determine if the absence is excused or unexcused.
Three tardies will equal one unexcused absence. If the student enters class after attendance has been taken it is the responsibility of that student to speak to the instructor at the end of that class period and inform the instructor that he/she had been in class and should be marked tardy rather than absent. If the student does not do this, the recorded absence will remain and will not be changed at a later date. It is your responsibility to work out your schedule with other instructor/ employer so that there is not a conflict that would prevent you from being on time.

Exams missed because of unexcused absences are not made up. Arrangements to take exams missed due to approved college functions (e.g. ensemble tours) should be made in advance. Exams missed due to illness will be made up only at the instructor’s discretion.

“Testing Out” of the course: Credit for the course is available to those students who have past piano experience. The student must contact the instructor before the end of the first week of class. The final exam must be taken before the end of the 2nd week of classes in order to “test out” of the course.

**Cell Phone and Technology Policy:** Pagers and cell phones must be turned off before entering the classroom. If this is not done and one of these devices erupts during class, that student will be asked to leave and will be marked absent for that class period.

Checking e-mail or using chat programs is NOT allowed while class is in progress.

**Student Rights and Responsibilities:** Please refer to the Casper College Student Conduct and Judicial Code for information concerning your rights and responsibilities as a Casper College Student.

**Chain of Command:** If you have any problems with this class, you should first contact the instructor to attempt to solve the problem. If you are not satisfied with the solution offered by the instructor, you should then take the matter through the appropriate chain of command starting with the Department Head/Program Director, the Dean, and lastly the Vice President for Academic Affairs.

**Academic Dishonesty:** (Cheating & Plagiarism) Casper College demands intellectual honesty. Proven plagiarism or any form of dishonesty associated with the academic process can result in the offender failing the course in which the offense was committed or expulsion from school. See the Casper College Student Code of Conduct for more information on this topic.

**Official Means of Communication:** Casper College faculty and staff will employ the student's assigned Casper College email account as a primary method of communication. Students are responsible to check their account regularly.

**ADA Accommodations Policy:** If you need academic accommodations because of a disability, please inform me as soon as possible. See me privately after class, or during my office hours. To request academic accommodations, students must first consult with the college’s Disability Services Counselor located in the Gateway Building, Room 344, (307) 268-2557, bheuer@caspercollege.edu. The Disability Services Counselor is responsible for reviewing documentation provided by students requesting accommodations, determining eligibility for accommodations, and helping students request and use appropriate accommodations.
## Calendar of Course Content

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Content</th>
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| **January 20th** | Piano Marvel Level 3B  
Book: Unit 14 |
| **January 25th** | Piano Marvel Level 3C  
Book: Unit 14/15 |
| **January 27th** | Piano Marvel Level 3C  
Book: Unit 15 |
| **February 1st** | Piano Marvel Level 3D  
Book: Unit 16 |
| **February 3rd** | Piano Marvel Level 3D  
Book: Unit 16 |
| **February 8th** | Piano Marvel Level 3E  
Book: Unit 17 |
| **February 10th** | Piano Marvel Level 3E  
Book: Unit 17 |
| **February 15th** | Piano Marvel Level 4A  
Book: Unit 18  
1st Performance Evaluation (PE)  
1st PP Solo (TBD) |
| **February 17th** | Piano Marvel Level 4A  
Book: Unit 18 |
| **February 22nd** | Piano Marvel Level 4B  
Book: Unit 19  
1st PP Solo (TBD) |
| **February 29th** | Piano Marvel Level 4C  
Book: Unit 20 |
| **March 2nd** | Piano Marvel Level 4C  
Book: Unit 20 |
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<th>Date</th>
<th>Monthly Piano Marvel Sight-reading test</th>
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<td>March 7th</td>
<td>Piano Marvel Level 4D Book: Unit 20</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 9th</td>
<td>Piano Marvel Level 4D Book: Unit 20</td>
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<td>2nd Performance Evaluation (PE)</td>
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<td>March 14th</td>
<td>SPRING BREAK</td>
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<td>March 16th</td>
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<td>April 13th</td>
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