

MUSA 130-131
Colorado Mesa University
Department of Music
Class piano I & II
(Fall/spring - for music/music theatre majors or minors)

- Class hours (MPAC 125): MW 8:00-8:50 AM (contingent on enrollment); MW 9:00-9:50 AM, & MW 1:00-1:50 PM
- Instructors: Mrs. Lisa Bush & Dr. Arthur Houle
- Office hours: as posted on MPAC 130 (Dr. Houle is available to students of all sections.)
- Contacts: 970.248.1069 ahoule@coloradomesa.edu (Houle) & 970.216.1022 lisabushpiano@yahoo.com (Bush)

- **PLEASE BRING YOUR BOOKS, BLOCKING HANDOUT & CHECKLIST TO EVERY CLASS!**
Write your name on *everything!!!*

I. Course Description:

A practical, sequential, 4-semester course to develop a basic knowledge of piano playing, including good reading habits, building a technical foundation, learning scales, triads and cadences, harmonizing simple melodies, improvising and ensemble playing.

II. Course Materials:

- [Piano Marvel \(www.pianomarvel.com\)](http://www.pianomarvel.com) subscription (student discount rate)
- Alfred's Basic Piano Library Intermediate Musicianship Book 2 (Palmer, Manus, Lethco) (optional; can be helpful, but not necessary)
- "Blocking" schematic handout: You will be given *one* free copy; if you lose it, download from: www.pianofestival.org/prizes/prizeoriginal.htm#techres

III. Students Learning Outcomes:

Institutional:

The CMU baccalaureate degree graduate will be able to:

- Construct a summative project, paper or practiced-based performance that draws on current research, scholarship and/or techniques, and specialized knowledge in the discipline (applied learning; specialized knowledge)

Program/Department/Concentration level:

Students must demonstrate:

- The ability to hear, identify, and realize the elements of music (such as rhythm, melody, harmony, structure, timbre, texture), demonstrating general musicianship and skills appropriate for the particular music concentration.
- Keyboard competency at the level determined by the piano proficiency requirements outlined in the Music Student Handbook (*which is consistent with this syllabus*).

Specific to this course:

To complete this course, students must be able to:

- Demonstrate required piano proficiency skills as specified in the course [checklist](#) [revised Fall 2014] (<http://www.coloradomesa.edu/music/StudentResources.html>.)

IV. Methodology

Course methodology is detailed in this downloadable article (from CMU Music Student Resources page): (http://www.coloradomesa.edu/music/documents/Class_Piano_I-IV_Proficiency_Methodology.pdf)

V. Grading:

- Completion of checklist skills = final grade (minus excessive tardies/absences). Those who complete minimum checklist tasks (and have no absence issues) are encouraged to go farther and are waived from Final Exams at the end of the semester ☺.
- **90 to 100+ points = A**
80 to 89 = B
70 to 79 = C
60 to 69 = D
59 or less = F.
- **A final grade of C or higher is necessary to satisfy the piano proficiency requirement.**
- We wish to foster a fun, disciplined teamwork spirit in this class. There is no "curve." Please help your classmates so that everyone can master the required material. Exchange phone #'s, emails, etc. and have fun by practicing together and going to each other for help. If the class moves too fast for you, practice harder and find someone in the class who can help. If the class moves too slowly for you, please be a Good Samaritan and seek out others who can benefit from your skills. You could even solicit help from students in *other* sections of Class Piano I. Please also feel free to drop by Dr. Houle's office (room 130) for additional help when needed (don't be shy!).

Attendance:

PROMPTNESS: It is important that classes begin promptly. Please arrive 5 minutes *early* if possible; check that your computer and keyboard are working properly, and have all class materials out and ready by class time.

ABSENCES: Since this is a "skills and results, quantified by checklist" class, we do not deduct points for absences. However, each absence translates into points not earned, which has a direct impact on your final grade. We will still keep track of attendance, but only because administrators may request that information of us.

TARDIES: Same policy as applied to absences. That said, please be courteous and arrive, if anything, early to class. Late arrivals, while better than not showing up at all, are disruptive to the class.

FINALS: Those who have achieved their desired grade (and have no absence issues) need not be at finals (that said, you are still welcome to come and earn extra points toward up an upcoming semester). You may attend any of the **Finals times** during **Finals week** (mark your calendars!); think of these times as your last chance to earn points toward your desired grade:

M 8-10 AM
W 8-10 AM

W 12-3 PM
Th 9-10 AM

CMU general expectations statement (see also "Practicing" below):

An undergraduate student should expect to spend on this course a minimum of two hours outside the classroom for every hour in the classroom. The outside hours may vary depending on the number of credit hours or type of course. More details are available from the faculty member or department office and in CMU's *Curriculum Policies and Procedures Manual* (<http://www.coloradomesa.edu/facsenate/documents/CurriculumPoliciesandProceduresManualApril262012.pdf>).

Practicing:

For most people, practicing outside of class is essential for success. Please select one or more practice partners with whom you will work at least once a week in a practice room with two pianos, or in the classroom lab when possible. BOTH kinds of practice - with partner(s) and by yourself - are recommended. The lab may be used any time the building is open and not being used by other classes. Strive to NOT look at your hands when playing and practicing; keep eyes focused on the music. This will help your sight-reading.

Borrowed materials:

If you borrow any materials from the instructor, you are responsible for returning (or reimbursing for cost, or replacing) all items by the end of the semester. Failure to do so may result in the withholding of your grade.

VI. Colorado Music Content Standards:

- A. 8.15 (5, a, ii) Experience in instrumental performances; solo and small ensembles.
- B. 8.15 (5, a, I) Knowledge of and performance ability on wind, string & percussion instruments.

VII. Colorado Performance Based Standards:

- A. 5.1 Create a learning environment characterized by acceptable student behavior, efficient use of time, and disciplined acquisition of knowledge, skills, and understanding.
- B. 8.2 Develop, on the part of the students, positive behavior & respect for the rights of others, and those moral standards necessary for personal well-being.

VIII. Students needing special academic accommodations:

In coordination with Educational Access Services, reasonable accommodations will be provided for qualified students with disabilities. Students must register with the EAS office to receive assistance. Please meet with the instructor the first week of class for information and/or contact Dana VandeBurgt, the Coordinator of Educational Access Services, directly by phone at 248-1801, or in person in Houston Hall, Suite 108.

IX.

Service animal syllabus statement

Service dogs are permitted in any areas of public access on campus. Service dogs are allowed in all classrooms and other environments used by students or other program participants with the exception of areas that for health or safety reasons exclude the presence of animals.

Dogs and other animals whose sole function is to provide comfort or emotional support do not qualify as service animals under the ADA. Therapy and emotional support animals are not allowed in campus buildings, except in residence halls if the owner is a resident.

The campus service animal policy is online at:

www.coloradomesa.edu/eas/ServiceAnimalPolicy.html

IX. Tutorial Learning Center (TLC) in HH 113

The TLC is a **FREE** academic service for all Colorado Mesa University students. Tutors are available on a walk-in basis for many courses. Do you have a quick question? Do you need homework clarification or feedback on a paper? Are you reviewing for a test? Help is available at the TLC!

At the main campus, come to Houston Hall 113 to meet with one of our friendly peer tutors. TLC is open M, W, & Th 8 A.M. - 6 P.M.; T 8 A.M. - 7 P.M.; F 8 A.M. - 5 P.M. & Sundays 1 P.M. – 6 P.M. Tutoring at branch campuses & distance tutoring is also available. See www.coloradomesa.edu/tutoring for schedules & locations or call 248-1392 with any questions.

MUSA 130 Fall Class Piano I Proficiency Rubric [Revised Fall 2014]

Student's name: _____

Instructors: Professor Arthur Houle & Lisa Bush

Grading

90 to 100+ points = A
80 to 89 = B

70 to 79 = C*
60 to 69 = D

59 or less = F

*** IMPORTANT: A final grade of "C" or higher is necessary to satisfy the piano proficiency requirement.**

Technique

Alfred Intermediate Musicianship Book pp. 11-25, fluently.

Houle handouts for scales, arpeggios, cadences & choir warm-up: <http://www.pianofestival.org/prizes/prizeoriginal.htm#techres>

- **Major scales** - easiest to hardest (½ pt. per check; **12 total**):

Demonstrate "blocking" (pp. 8-10 Houle handout) two 8^{va}, hands together, up & down:

- 1) Pass on Piano Marvel with a 96% or higher [1st check]
- 2) Repeat for instructor to ensure correct fingerings [2nd check]:

C# (Db) ___ B ___ F# (Gb) ___ F ___ Eb ___ Ab ___ Bb ___ E ___ A ___ D ___ G ___ C ___

- **Major cadences** – see Houle schematic (preferable) or Alfred Int. Musicianship pp. 11-25 (1 pt. per check; **12 total**):

C ___ G ___ D ___ A ___ E ___ B ___ F# ___ C# ___ Ab ___ Eb ___ Bb ___ F ___

- "Choir Warm-Up" drill (see Houle handout p. 22): **4 points** _____
- "Circle of 5ths" drill (explained in class; refer to p. 42 in Alfred Int. Musicianship Book): **3 points** _____

Total technique points (31 maximum) _____

Transposition

- Transpose a random "Music Machine" selection (or another comparable selection chosen by instructor) up a half step (imagine that every note is sharped) 1 pt. _____
- Transpose a random "Music Machine" selection (or another comparable selection chosen by instructor) down a half step (imagine that every note is flatted) 1 pt. _____
- Figure out by ear the melody for Happy Birthday in the key of C – 1 pt. _____
- Play p. 43 (scales/cadences) of Alfred Int. Musicianship Book as written & transpose to all other Major keys (1 pt. each; 12 total): C ___ C# ___ D ___ Eb ___ E ___ F ___ F# ___ G ___ Ab ___ A ___ Bb ___ B ___

Total transposition points (15 max.) _____

Harmonization and Sight Reading

- After you've played Happy Birthday, flesh out the harmonies and introduce at least one extra and/or creative alternative harmony 2 pts. _____
- Sight-read a random selection in *Music Machine* (or comparable piece selected by instructor) 2 pts. _____

Total harmonization and sight reading points (4 max.) _____

Repertory

▲ Piano Marvel Levels 1 & 2 (0 – 5 pts each level = 50 points maximum)

Bronze Trophy = 1 pt. Silver Trophy = 2 pts. Gold Trophy = 3 pts. (30 pts. max.)

One piece from each level must be played for instructor for Expression = 2 pts. (20 pts. max.)

Level 1A ___ 1B ___ 1C ___ 1D ___ 1E ___
Level 2A ___ 2B ___ 2C ___ 2D ___ 2E ___

Total repertory 50 points _____

MUSA 131 Class Piano II Proficiency Rubric [Revised Spring 2014]

Student's name: _____

Instructors: Dr. Arthur Houle
& Lisa Bush

Grading

90 to 100 points = A
80 to 89 = B

70 to 79 = C*
60 to 69 = D

59 or less = F

*** IMPORTANT: A final grade of "C" or higher is necessary to satisfy the piano proficiency requirement. For Class Piano II you MUST pass at least one component of every category.**

Technique

Scales, cadences, arpeggios and inversions

Alfred Intermediate Musicianship Book pp. 11-25, fluently. Suggested tempo is quarter note = 72.

Houle handouts for scales, arpeggios, cadences & choir warm-up: <http://www.pianofestival.org/prizes/prizeoriginal.htm#techres>

- **Major scales** - easiest to hardest (1st check Piano Marvel Gold; 2nd check play for instructor – ¼ pt. per check; 6 total)
Demonstrate "blocking" (see pp. 8-10 Houle handout), then play two 8^{ves}, hands together, up & down

C# (Db) ___ B ___ F# (Gb) ___ F ___ Eb ___ Ab ___ Bb ___ E ___ A ___ D ___ G ___ C ___

- **Major cadences** - easiest to hardest (1st check Piano Marvel Gold; 2nd check play for instructor – ¼ pt. per check; 6 total)

C ___ G ___ F ___ D ___ A ___ E ___ Bb ___ Eb ___ Ab ___ C# (Db) ___ F# (Gb) ___ B ___

- **Major arpeggios** - easiest to hardest (1st check Piano Marvel Gold; 2nd check play for instructor – ½ pt. per check; 12 total)
Demonstrate "blocking" (see pp. 14-15 Houle handout), then play two 8^{ves}, hands together, up & down

B ___ F# (Gb) ___ C# (Db) ___ Eb ___ Ab ___ D ___ E ___ A ___ C ___ F ___ G ___ Bb ___

- **Inversions** – see Alfred Int. Musicianship pp. 11-25; also do inversions of suspended chords

(1st check Piano Marvel Gold; 2nd check for instructor; ½ pt. per check; 12 total)

C ___ G ___ D ___ A ___ E ___ B ___ F# ___ C# ___ Ab ___ Eb ___ Bb ___ F ___

- **"Choir Warm-Up" drill** (see Houle handout): 3 points _____

- **"Circle of 5ths" drill** (explained in class; refer to p. 42 in Alfred Int. Musicianship Book): 2 points _____

Total technique points (41 maximum) _____

Transposition

- Transpose a random Section One "Music Machine" melody (or another melody chosen by instructor) up a half step (imagine that every note is sharped) ½ pt. _____

- Transpose a random Section One "Music Machine" melody (or another melody chosen by instructor) down a half step (imagine that every note is flatted) ½ pt. _____

- Play Happy Birthday transposed to all Major keys (1 pt. each; 12 total):

C ___ C# ___ D ___ Eb ___ E ___ F ___ F# ___ G ___ Ab ___ A ___ Bb ___ B ___

- Play p. 43 (scales/cadences) of Alfred Int. Musicianship Book as written & transpose to all other Major keys (½ pt. each; 6 total): C ___ C# ___ D ___ Eb ___ E ___ F ___ F# ___ G ___ Ab ___ A ___ Bb ___ B ___

Total transposition points (19 max.) _____

Harmonization

- After you've played Happy Birthday, flesh out the harmonies, and introduce at least one extra and/or creative alternative harmony. 1 pt. _____

- Get "Flying Trapeze" melody from instructor. Write in "fake chart" chord symbols and fingerings. Practice hands separately at first. Perform with chord pattern accompaniment
Correct notes 1 pt. ___ Steady tempo 1 pt. ___ Expression (R.H. louder/L.H. very soft) 2 pts. _____

- Harmonize a random Section 1 "Music Machine" Primer level melody
(or equivalent simple melody chosen by instructor, such as those found in Heerema text)
1 pt. _____

Total harmonization points (6 max.) _____

Required CMU addendum:

YOUR SUCCESS AT COLORADO MESA UNIVERSITY OR WESTERN COLORADO COMMUNITY COLLEGE

The faculty and staff are glad you have elected to attend Colorado Mesa University or Western Colorado Community College and want you to succeed in achieving your academic goals. The following information is shared with you to enhance the likelihood that you will be successful.

1. Attend class.

Institutional research shows that class attendance and participation are closely linked to your success as a student (i.e., the better your attendance, the better your grade is likely to be). When you are always present, you will understand the course content and how it contributes to your growth as a college student. You are required to attend this class regularly, adhering to the attendance policy established in this course syllabus by your instructor. Additionally, you should review the Attendance Policy of the institution's [Catalog](#) for further details on expectations. For online courses, check with your instructor and/or class syllabus for expectations delivered in that format.

2. Prepare for and participate in class.

It takes more than showing up for class to succeed. You need to be prepared to actively participate in class. Your instructor has given you a schedule of course topics for the semester, along with readings and/or activities that should be completed prior to coming to class. If you aren't clear about these expectations, talk with your instructor. In general, you should follow the 2:1 rule: two hours of study/homework time for every 1 hour of classroom time. This can vary some from week to week, but on average, most instructors will assume you are putting in the time and keeping pace with the class. So make the effort to stay current and don't leave everything to the end of the term.

By meeting deadlines and managing your time wisely, you will get much more from the class and earn higher grades. Assume that faculty members will not accept late homework and don't offer extra credit assignments. Some may – and by reviewing the syllabus you will know their policies – but instructors have no obligation to do so. A final note. If you need help with study skills, time management, note-taking and the like, consider registering for SUPP 101, a course that helps first-year students with their transition to college life.

3. Use technology to support your success.

All members of this class are expected to show respect to each other and to contribute to a positive academic learning environment of the class. Please turn off cellphones or set them to silent when you are in class. Text messaging, checking email, working on social networking sites, and performing non-class related activities on any electronic device (cell phone, laptop, iPad, etc.) is disruptive and not acceptable behavior during the class session. Check your course syllabus for the consequence of using these devices during class time.

4. Take advantage of campus resources.

We offer numerous academic support resources to help you. The staff of [Tomlinson Library](#) can assist you with finding information resources either in person or online. The [Tutorial Learning Center](#) offers *free, walk-in* tutoring for a wide variety of subjects. Maybe it's just a math problem that's not making sense, or perhaps having a peer take a look at your assignment is what you need. The TLC can help with the smallest issue or provide you with tutoring if you have a particularly challenging course. Get help before a small problem becomes a big one. Stop by and see the services they offer, most of which are provided by other students. If your semester gets a little overwhelming, contact the [Office of Student Services](#) for assistance. Need to engage in some activity outside of classes? Stop by the [Maverick Center](#) for a good workout, or find students with some similar interests by joining a [student club](#).

5. Build relationships with your instructors, advisor, and other students.

- a. Your best guidance for success will come from your instructors, and research tells us that your interactions with faculty members is the most important determinate in college success. Instructors genuinely want you to be successful and will do what they can to help you reach your goals. Locate their contact information on the syllabus and store that information in your phone. Each instructor keeps office hours that they set aside to meet with students. If you cannot meet during their office hours, schedule an appointment in advance. For more information on why you should get to know your instructor, go to *Why You Should Meet Your College Professors at:* <http://www.cliffsnotes.com/Section/id-310989,articleId-122943.html>.
- b. Plan to meet with your advisor at least once a semester. At a minimum, consult with your advisor on your schedule for the next semester before registration opens. Popular required courses fill quickly, so if you delay registration, you might not get your preferred courses and could possibly delay your graduation. Advisors provide valuable assistance in determining which courses you need to take for your degree and the best order to take courses. Advisors can also direct you to the most appropriate networks when you are in need of assistance.

If you do not know the name of your advisor, log into MAVzone:

<http://luminis.mesastate.edu/cp/home/loginf> and click on the Student Academics tab. Scroll down the Academic Profile column to Advisors; directly email your advisor by clicking on the envelope icon.

- c. Connect with other students in all your classes. You and your peers have similar goals and will face similar challenges; this can help you feel less alone in solving problems. Being active in a study group can enrich your understanding of course materials and can provide extra motivation and support to succeed. Learn more about the value of creating a study group at *Fight for First Year in College: Form Study Groups* at: http://www.academictips.org/acad/first_year/formstudygroups.html

6. Use financial aid wisely.

Be aware that your decisions about attending class and considering whether to add or drop a class can affect your financial aid. Discuss potential changes with your advisor before making them. You must complete at least 12 credit hours each semester to be considered full-time, often a requirement to receive financial aid. Part-time students should check with the [Office of Financial Aid](#) for credit hour requirements. Audited classes do not count for enrollment purposes.

To retain your aid for the next term, you are required to make satisfactory academic progress toward your degree and maintain the following minimum grade point averages below. **If you receive all F's for one term, you will be suspended from financial aid and must repay all Title IV funds.**

Cumulative Credit Hours Earned	Minimum GPA
1 to 15	1.70
16 to 30	1.80
31 to 45	1.90
46+	2.00

To remain eligible to receive financial aid, students must be successfully completing 75% of classes attempted. Aid will be suspended until the student successfully increases the completion rate to 75%. Be sure to report any changes in your enrollment, residency status, or receipt of additional resources in writing to the Office of Financial Aid. Financial aid is not available if you have not graduated from your program but exceed the total undergraduate cumulative hours as show below.

Baccalaureate degree:	170 hours
Associate degree:	80 hours
One-year certificate:	40 hours