

---

Brazosport College  
MUSI 1182: Piano Class 2

---

Instructor: Dr. Carla Salas-Ruiz/she, her, hers  
Email: carla.salas-ruiz@brazosport.edu  
Office location: 110, The Clarion  
Office hours: by appointment  
Prerequisite: MUSI 1181

Spring 2024  
Mon & Wed  
10:10AM-11:00AM

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course provides a foundational understanding of piano technique and sight-reading. Students taking this course will develop the ability to play fundamental scales and perform music in both hands at the keyboard. Students will learn to recognize key signatures, time signatures, and rhythmic patterns through the study of technical exercises and elementary pieces. This class emphasizes the development of aural, theory, and keyboard skills to provide a useful tool for students to succeed in their current music courses, but also in their future professional life. It has a functional orientation emphasizing aspects such as: improvisation, harmonization, accompaniment, transposition, sight reading, and repertoire.

## GENERAL OBJECTIVES

As a result of this course, you will be able to:

- To demonstrate understanding of the fundamentals of music notation and terminology
- To demonstrate understanding of scales, chords, and chord functions
- To demonstrate the ability to use proper piano technique
- To demonstrate the ability to realize musical notation, scales, chords and chord progressions at the keyboard

## SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES AND COURSE CONTENT

Upon successful completion of this course, you will learn basic musical notation and principles by covering the following topics:

- Pitch notation in treble and bass clef / Grand staff
- Rhythmic notation / time signatures / counting language
- Major scales / key signatures
- Major and minor chords / Chord speller
- Chord inversions
- Chord function
- Chord progression I-IV<sup>6</sup>/<sub>4</sub> - I - V<sup>6</sup> - I
- Harmonization using Primary and Secondary Chords

You will also learn the following keyboard skills:

- All major and minor pentascales with chords
- Selected technical exercises
- Chain of chord Inversions - I - I<sub>6</sub> - I<sub>6/4</sub> – I, all Major and Minor Triads
- Major scales and minor scales - hands separated, 2 octaves
- Chord progression I - IV<sub>6/4</sub> - I - V<sub>6/5</sub> - I in all major and minor keys
- Accompaniment patterns
- Selected Repertoire
- Varied solo and/or ensemble pieces.

## REQUIRED MATERIALS AND RESOURCES

- Selected technical studies & repertoire provided by your instructor during the first two weeks of classes after individual hearing
- A resource to take notes (notebook, cellphone, tablet...)
- Staff paper - buy a spiral or print for free from [freesheetmusic.net](http://freesheetmusic.net)
- Binder dedicated to this course – bring it with you to every class

## TEACHING PHILOSOPHY

As an educator, I work on being comfortable recognizing my privileges, strengths, and weaknesses in hopes that it will foster the same abilities in my students and allow them to be engaged with their learning processes. As a music educator/piano teacher, I strive to achieve a profound understanding and level of reflection about music education, performance, and piano pedagogy. The student that leaves my class is one who loves experiencing music in all its dimensions, a student that loves learning, and that is not afraid of to ask the BIG questions. I aspire for the students who leave my class to be not only the ones that read music effectively and participate with a fulfillment feeling in recitals, or small and informal ensembles, but also feel free to take their own path and express their own creativity by exploring their unique voice. They are aware of their sociocultural environment and recognize the crucial role that they have in the community.

## ATTENDANCE AND PUNCTUALITY

Due to the participatory nature of the course, attendance is required for each class period. Also, since the development of professional behavior is one of the course goals, attendance is essential. The committed and respectful discussion of ideas will be vital to the achievement of the course objectives. Inform me when you have an important reason that does not allow you to arrive on time or will prevent you from attending. Excused absences include personal emergencies, health/medical appointments, and audition/sports tournament travel. You must email me prior to your absence for it to be excused – unless it is an emergency.

## COMMUNICATION

Students may contact me via e-mail since I check email at least once a day. I am also available via office hours, or meeting via Skype, Zoom, or any other videoconference platform. Any problem or concern related to exam dates, due dates, or quizzes may be discussed at length beforehand.

## PRACTICE

Your success is my success too! To be successful in this class, you will need at least 30 minutes of daily practice. For this, the student must remember that during their practice sessions, the main objective is to maintain an attitude of constant listening, and therefore, it will be necessary to maintain an absolute physical and mental awareness of the work being done. In other words, organize each study session with defined objectives.

## CLASSROOM POLICIES

The work in the classroom will be collaborative and an opportunity to apply new knowledge, contribute to the generation of ideas, analyze what has been produced, give feedback, and critically discuss the assigned materials. Each class will cover improvisation, harmonization, technical/sight reading exercises and repertoire. In this class, you will be treated with respect and dignity and where all individuals are provided equitable opportunity to participate, contribute, and succeed. In Class Piano I, all students are welcome regardless of race/ethnicity, gender identities, gender expressions, sexual orientation, socio-economic status, age, disabilities, religion, regional background, citizenship status, nationality, and other diverse identities that we each bring to class. The success of an inclusive classroom relies on the participation, support, and understanding of you and your peers. We encourage you to speak up and share your views, but also understand that you are doing so in a learning environment in which we all are expected to engage respectfully and with regard to the dignity of all others.<sup>1</sup>

## FOOD RISK

Any student who has difficulty affording groceries or who lacks a safe and stable place to live and believes this may affect your performance in the course please contact me.<sup>2</sup>

---

### Assignments & Evaluations

---

Deadlines for all assignments are listed in the course calendar at the end of this syllabus.

**Class Participation ..... 20%**

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://cte.ku.edu/creating-inclusive-syllabus>

<sup>2</sup> <https://cte.ku.edu/creating-inclusive-syllabus>

**Practice Log Assignment #1 ..... 10%**

Along the semester, you will keep a practice log. Carla will ask for written and/or oral reflection based on your main discoveries from the practice log.

**Practice Video Project ..... 10%**

Video record two individual practice sessions from about 30 minutes. In this practice session, you will cover repertoire, sight reading, improvisation, and transposition. During the recording, you will say aloud the practice strategies that you're using and why are you going to use it.

**Exam 1 ..... 15%**

Exam requirements (performance based) will be provided a week before the exam day.

**Exam 2 ..... 15%**

Exam requirements (performance based) will be provided a week before the exam day.

**Quizzes ..... 15%**

Expect weekly quizzes from your assigned homework

**Final Jury ..... 15%**

Exam requirements (performance based) will be provided a week before the exam day.

**GRADING:** To determine your final grade in the course, I will calculate your percentage by dividing your total earned points by the total points possible. These will be converted to letter grades as follows:

90-100% = A    80-89% = B    70-79% = C    60-69% = D    < 60% = F

**QUIZZES:** Weekly quizzes will be addressed based on instructor's discretion. The exercise might be without prior notice, at the beginning, half, or end of the class. Group piano classes is about working with your friends, so you need to be ready to play. The quizzes will come from any of the homework assignment. No sight reading or new content will be part of your quizzes.

**ASSIGNMENT SUBMISSION:** The written assignments will be submitted via email following the instructions indicated. Regular homework will be the basis for class activities, so it is vital for you to come prepared to class. Also, group activity (ensembles, pairs) will happen during class, so your classmates count on you to perform a successful exercise.

**MAKE-UP POLICY:** Each student is responsible for all assignments and work covered in class. Following an excused absence, any missed assignment must be turned in by or before the next class meeting. Also, make-up quizzes and exams are available for excused absences situations of documented illness or emergency and must be completed no later than one week after the absence. No-shows for make-ups (or for other

specially arranged times) will be assigned a “0” (zero) and cannot be further disputed or made up.

### ASPECTS TO BE EVALUATED IN EXAMS/QUIZZES

- Technique: good hand position—accurate fingerings/pitches—steady beat and divisions—firm tone
- Repertoire: appropriate tempo—steady beat with accurate rhythms—consistent and correct fingerings, phrasing, dynamics, articulation—balance of melody with accompaniment—appropriate use of the pedal(s)
- Harmonization/transposition/sight-reading/improvisation/score-reading): appropriate tempo—steady beat with accurate rhythms—consistently accurate fingering choices—appropriate chord choice and texture.

### ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY

Brazosport College assumes that students eligible to perform on the college level are familiar with the ordinary rules governing proper conduct including academic honesty. The principle of academic honesty is that all work presented by you is yours alone. Academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, and collusion shall be treated appropriately. Please refer to the Brazosport College Student Guide for more information. This is available online at <http://www.brazosport.edu>. Academic dishonesty violates both the policies of this course and the Student Code of Conduct. In this class, any occurrence of academic dishonesty will be referred to the Dean of Student Services for prompt adjudication, and may, at a minimum, result in failing this course. Sanctions may be imposed beyond your grade in this course by the Dean of Student Services.

### TITLE IX STATEMENT

Brazosport College faculty and staff are committed to supporting students and upholding the College District’s non-discrimination policy. Under Title IX and Brazosport College’s policy FFDA (Local), discrimination based on sex, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression is prohibited. If you experience an incident of discrimination, we encourage you to report it. While you may talk to a faculty or staff member at BC, please understand that they are “Responsible Employees” and must report what you tell them to college officials. You can also contact the Title IX Coordinators directly by using the contact information below. Additional information is found on the Sexual Misconduct webpage at [www.brazosport.edu/sexualmisconduct](http://www.brazosport.edu/sexualmisconduct).

Alex Crouse, Director of Student Life and Deputy Title IX Coordinator; 979-230-3355; [alex.crouse@brazosport.edu](mailto:alex.crouse@brazosport.edu)

Mareille Rolon, HR Coordinator and Deputy Title IX Coordinator Office C-114; 979-230-3303; [mareille.rolon@brazosport.edu](mailto:mareille.rolon@brazosport.edu)

## STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Brazosport College is committed to providing equal education opportunities to every student. BC offers services for individuals with special needs and capabilities including counseling, tutoring, equipment, and software to assist students with special needs. For student to receive any accommodation, documentation must be completed in the Office of Disability Services. Please contact Phil Robertson, Special Populations Counselor at 979-230-3236 for further information.

## STUDENT SUPPORT

To help you on your educational pathway, Brazosport College provides all students with access to TimelyCare. If you're stressed, challenged, or need help, download the TimelyCare app today! It's your free virtual health and well-being service platform, available 24/7, 365 days of the year. Search "TimelyCare" in your app store. Then, register with your student email to access your health care services.

COURSE CALENDAR			
These dates are subject to change at the discretion of the instructor			
Week	Date	Agenda/Topic	Due on this Date
1	01/17	<b>Syllabus</b>  <b>Unit 12: Review</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• I-IV<sub>64</sub>-I chord progressions in all major keys</li><li>• Solo repertoire</li><li>• Sight reading, harmonization, and transposition</li><li>• Two-hand accompaniments</li></ul>	
2	01/22  01/24	<b>How do I organize my practicing?</b>  <b>Practice Log Project</b> <b>Practice Video Project</b>  <b>Unit 13: Introduce I-IV<sub>64</sub>-I-V<sub>65</sub>-I chord progressions in all major keys</b> Review of Major Scales, hands separated, 2 octaves	

3	01/29 - 01/31	<p><b>How many practice strategies can I use?</b></p> <p><b>Unit 14:</b> Minor Scales in tetrachord position, Solo repertoire, Sight reading, Harmonization, and Transposition Two-hand accompaniments</p>	
4	02/05 - 02/07	<p><b>Unit 15:</b> Minor Scales, hands separated, 2 octaves, Solo repertoire, Sight reading, Harmonization, and Transposition Two-hand accompaniments</p>	
5	02/12 - 02/14	<p><b>Unit 16:</b> Primary chord progressions in minor keys, Solo repertoire, Sight reading, Harmonization, and Transposition Two-hand accompaniments</p>	<p><b>Exam 1</b> <b>Written Reflection (practice log + practice video)</b></p>
6	02/19 - 02/21	<p><b>Unit 16:</b> Primary chord progressions in minor keys, Solo repertoire, Sight reading, Harmonization, and Transposition Two-hand accompaniments</p>	
7	02/26 - 02/28	<p><b>Unit 17:</b> Minor Scales, hands separated, 2 octaves, Solo repertoire, Sight reading, Harmonization, and Transposition</p>	

		Two-hand accompaniments	
8	03/04 - 03/06	<b>Unit 17:</b> Review of Major and Minor Scales, Sight reading, Harmonization, and Transposition  Two-hand accompaniments	
	03/11 - 03/13	<b>Spring Break</b>	
9	03/18 - 03/20	<b>Unit 18:</b> Primary Chord Progressions in both major and minor keys Sight reading, Harmonization, and Transposition  Two-hand accompaniments	
10	03/25 - 03/27	<b>Unit 18:</b> Primary Chord Progressions in both major and minor keys Sight reading, Harmonization, and Transposition  Two-hand accompaniments	
11	04/01 - 04/03	<b>Unit 19:</b> Secondary Chords (ii)	<b>Exam 2</b>  <b>Written Reflection (practice log + practice video)</b>
12	04/08 - 04/10	<b>Unit 20:</b> Secondary Chords (vi)  Sight reading  Transposition	

		Chord progressions using secondary chords	
13	04/15 - 04/17	<b>Unit 21:</b> Secondary Chords (iii) Sight reading Transposition Chord progressions using secondary chords	
14	04/22 - 04/24	<b>Unit 23:</b> Seventh Chords Sight reading Transposition	
15	04/29 - 05/01	<b>Final Review</b>	
15	05/06 - 05/08	<b>Exam 3</b>	<b>Exam 3</b>  <b>Written Reflection (practice log + practice video)</b>