



Basic Course Information:
Spring Semester 2023

Course Number: MUSC 216.01

Course Title: Piano Class

Elective Course

Class Meeting Times: UTR 10:00-10:50am

Instructional Modality: On-campus

Class Location: C10

Instructor: Kinga Masternak

Email: kmasternak@auk.edu.kw

Office Location: G305

Office Hours: UTR 8:00-10:00am

AUK Mission Statement:

The American University of Kuwait is a liberal arts institution dedicated to teaching, learning, and scholarship. The University offers programs that provide students with the knowledge and skills necessary for lifelong learning and professional success. AUK enriches society by fostering an environment that encourages critical thinking, effective communication, personal growth, service, and leadership.

Department Mission Statement:

The Department of Music and Drama explores music and drama in the context of a liberal arts education through both academic study and performances. By doing so, it provides artistic and cultural enrichment to the University and the surrounding community. Moreover, by educating students in culture, history, and theory, and providing training in applied skills, the Department fosters artistic proficiency, cultural appreciation, a sense of camaraderie, and a lifelong commitment to the arts.

Catalog Course Description:

A course for non-music majors with very limited or no previous piano experience. In this class the student will acquire the reading skills and physical coordination necessary to play piano pieces. Emphasis is on basic functional skills such as reading music in treble and bass clefs, building a functional playing technique, and an introduction to chords.

Course Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to:

Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs)
CLO1: demonstrate a basic understanding of musical elements (rhythm, melody, harmony, structure and notation).
CLO2: perform using correct posture and piano technique.
CLO3: read and perform simple piano pieces using both hands at the piano.
CLO4: sight- read basic music notation and symbols.
CLO5: To recognize the place of music in relationship to history and culture.

Course Delivery/Methodology:

For this course we will be meeting 3 days per week and material will be presented through lectures and videos. All lecture materials will be posted on Moodle, which can be accessed at lms.auk.edu.kw. All assignments/presentations must also be submitted through Moodle. You will be completing the following evaluations for this course: assignments and exams. To successfully complete this course, you must attend the classes regularly and actively participate in class discussions and activities. Students are also expected to submit all works by the posted due dates and times.

You will acquire and apply new skills in every class. These skills are comprehensive, meaning new skills will require mastery of previously learned skills. Missing class will not only have an impact on your attendance grade, but also on your skill development and thus your performance exam grade.

Required Textbook/Required Readings:

The classical Piano Method (Method Book 1) by Hans-Günter Heumann. All materials will be provided by your instructor.

Course material and songs may be modified according to your personal ability and previous experience. Everyone may not necessarily work on the same song at the same time.

Although it is possible to practice on campus, you may find it convenient to buy a digital keyboard. An inexpensive piano like the Casio CKT 3500 will suffice. Look for these features:

- Full-size keys
- At least 50 keys
- Touch sensitive
- MIDI connectivity (usually through a “USB to Host” port in all recent keyboards, but older keyboards may have two rounded MIDI ports)

Practice:

Skills such as reading music and playing the piano are only acquired through conscious practice and reflective repetition. In this course you will learn to play piano pieces to develop these skills. You will be required to practice those pieces daily to develop the necessary sense of rhythm, coordination, and reading and performance skill. **It is VERY important that you practice consistently and regularly and that you don't fall behind - otherwise it will be very difficult to complete the assignments by the deadline.**

Practice checklist:

- Schedule a regular daily piano practice time in your weekly schedule
- If you choose to practice in the music building, ask security to open the practice room for you and to lock it after you finish. You should be undisturbed during practicing. If you are sharing the practice room with other classmate, use the headphones. You can use the practice room maximum for an hour a day (don't occupy the room for a whole day)
- Be sure you are sitting in good posture and with good hand and body position. Bad physical posture may lead to physical pain and other problems
- Don't strain yourself. Check that you are relaxed and supple while you play. Stretch upper body 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 your class notes and syllabus with you at all times
- Plan your practice before sitting down at the piano. Some pieces may need more attention than others
- As in sports, conscious and purposeful repetition is the key to improvement

Evaluations and Grading:

Evaluation Type	Weight	Link to CLO
Participation	10%	CLO1, CLO2, CLO3, CLO4, CLO 5
Assignments	30%	CLO1, CLO2, CLO3, CLO4
Sight-reading exams	20%	CLO1, CLO2, CLO4
Final Performance Exam	30%	CLO1, CLO2, CLO3
Final Written Exam	10%	CLO1, CLO5
Total	100%	

Students are expected to participate during the course by taking a part in class discussions and playing activities. Attendance is also considered as a part of participation and will have an impact on your overall grade.

Students will be given assignments to complete (approx. every 2 weeks). The assignments will be based on the material presented during the week.

Sight-reading exam will check your ability of reading music notation. You will be given two exercises which you never heard before and with limited time you will have to present them.

Final performance exam will check your acquaintance of final project song introduced and practiced during a class time.

Final written exam is a paper-pen test with a various kind of questions (short-answer, matching, multiple-choice, essay etc.) based on material of the whole course.

AUK Official Grading Scale:

Letter Grade	Percentage	University Points
A	94-100	4.0
A-	90-93	3.7
B+	87-89	3.3
B	84-86	3.0
B-	80-83	2.7
C+	77-79	2.3
C	74-76	2.0
C-	70-73	1.7
D+	67-69	1.3
D	64-66	1.0
D-	60-63	0.7
F	0-59	0.0

AUK Attendance Policy:

Any student who misses more than 15% of class sessions of any course during a semester should expect to fail, unless she/he submits documented evidence to the course instructor of inpatient medical care, death of an immediate family member, academic instructional activities, or national athletic activities. If excused, students are required to satisfy all coursework due or assigned during their absence as determined by the course instructor. If a student does not submit documented evidence for her/his absence exceeding the limit, it is the student's responsibility to withdraw from the course by the specified deadline, as indicated on the academic calendar. Students who withdraw from a course receive a grade of "W". Students who do not withdraw from a course nor submit supporting documents for excessive absences will receive a grade of "FN" (failure for non-attendance).

Code of Academic Honesty and Integrity:

Upon admission to the American University of Kuwait, students agree to act responsibly in all areas of academic, personal, and social conduct and to take full responsibility for their individual and collective action. Such regulations are found in the American University of Kuwait Catalogue, Student Handbook, and the AUK website at www.auk.edu.kw. Any question of interpretation regarding the code of academic honesty and Integrity shall be reported to the appropriate academic dean. The Code shall be reviewed annually at the discretion of the academic deans. Any student or student organization found to have committed the cited violations or misconduct, either on or off campus, is subject to the disciplinary sanctions outlined in adjudication procedures.

Plagiarism:

The term "plagiarism" includes, but is not limited to, an attempt of an individual to claim the work of another as the product of his or her own thoughts regardless of whether that work has been published. Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to, quoting improperly or paraphrasing text or other written materials without proper citation on an exam, term paper, homework, or other written material submitted to an instructor as one's own work. Plagiarism also includes handing in a paper to an instructor that was purchased from a term paper service or downloaded from the Internet and presenting another person's academic work as one's own.

Cheating:

The term "cheating" includes but is not limited to, copying homework assignments from another student; working together with another individual on a take-home test or homework when not approved by the instructor, looking at and/or copying text, notes or another person's paper during an examination when not permitted to do so. Cheating also includes the giving of work information to another student to be copied and/or used as his or her own. This includes but is not limited to giving someone answers to exam questions either when the exam is being given or after having taken an exam; informing another student of specific questions that appear or have appeared on an exam in the same academic semester; giving or selling a term paper, report, project, or other restricted written materials to another student.

Academic Support:

Learning Support Services focuses on empowering students to become independent and successful learners by developing their literacy skills, enhancing their understanding, and helping them improve their academic and study skills. Learning Support Services is comprised of two centers: the Tutoring Center and the Writing Center. The Tutoring Center provides free academic support in various subjects to AUK student. Email: tutoringcenter@auk.edu.kw. The Writing Center provides multilingual support (English, Arabic, French, and Spanish) through individual or small-group consultations. Email: writingcenter@auk.edu.kw

Disability Accommodations:

AUK provides equal and inclusive educational environment in order to enable all students to meet and perform requisite academic standards and to participate in the opportunities and activities of its community. If you believe you can benefit from accommodations for a learning, physical, or mental health disability, [click here to book a session through the Counseling Center/Disability Services Booking Page](#), to ask about disability services at AUK, initiate an accommodation plan, or receive disability services. You can also email counseling@auk.edu.kw if you need assistance in booking a session.

Course Policies/Student Responsibilities:

Pre-requisite skills

- communication using email
- reading documents online
- accessing internet websites
- use of Zoom
- viewing videos online
- posting on the discussion board
- uploading documents to Moodle
- proficiency with Microsoft Word

It is the student's responsibility to ensure that the browser used to access course material on his/her computer/electronic device is compatible with AUK's learning management system, Moodle. Problems in this area need to be discussed with faculty at the time of occurrence.

Late and Missing Work Policy:

If the student submits assignments late (up to one week from the due date), they will receive a late penalty (-20% of the assignment). The assignments submitted later than a week won't be accepted, and student will receive 0 grade.

Make-Up Work Policy:

The is no make-up examinations.

Communication Policy:

Please be sure to write your full name and indicate which class and section you are taking (MUSC 216.01) when you send me an email. If you have a question, please check the syllabus first and if your question is not answered there, then please feel free to send an email and I will be happy to clarify. I respond to emails within 24 hours of receiving them; if I do not respond within 24 hours,

please re-send the email. Please note I normally respond during these working hours: Sun, Tue, Thu 8-10 am. Emails sent on weekends will be responded to on Sunday.

Technology Issues:

All assignments must be submitted through Moodle. However, you may experience trouble submitting an assignment due to technology or internet issues. If such a situation does arise and you are unable to submit your assignment through Moodle, please send me an email at kmasternak@auk.edu.kw and include the **completed** assignment. Please make sure that you email me the assignment **before** the deadline as this documents that you did finish everything by the due date and time, but that you just had a technology issue. This will ensure that your assignment will be accepted, and you will not receive a late penalty. Once the technology or internet issue is resolved, please upload the assignment to Moodle. In general, always be sure to frequently save your files and keep backups of your assignments.

Course Schedule:

5th February	Introduction, syllabus review.
7th February	Piano. Sitting position. Hand and finger position. Fingering. The keyboard. Two black keys. Quarter note. Beat.
9th February	The keyboard- continuation. Three black keys. Half note. Three white keys. Measure, bar-line, 4/4 time. Whole note.
12th February	Four white keys. 3/4 time. Quarter rest. Summary. Drill exercises.
14th February	The staff. Bass and treble clefs.
16th February	The piano notation system. H.G.Heumann- "Take five fingers"
19th February	Prophet's Ancesion. University closed.
21st February	R.Wagner- "Wedding March"/W.A.Mozart- "A Little Night Music"
23rd February	R.Wagner- "Wedding March"/W.A.Mozart- "A Little Night Music" - further practice. Assignment 1
5th March	Dotted half note. Tie. L.v.Beethoven- "Pastoral song". Finger fitness 1.
7th March	2/4 time. D.C. al Fine. Ternary Form ABA. "Twinkle, twinkle, little star!". Finger fitness 2.
9th March	Sharp sign. J.Offenbach- "Cancan"
12th March	Staccato. Finger fitness 3. J.Haydn- "Surprise Symphony"

14th March	Flat sign. Upbeat. W.A.Mozart “Longing for Spring”
16th March	Playing with hands together. Finger fitness 4. J.Offenbach- “Barcarolle”
18th March	U pattern J.Offenbach- “Barcarolle”- further practice Eighth note. Rests. L.v.Beethoven- “Turkish March” Assignment 2
19th March	L.v.Beethoven- “Turkish March”- further practice D.G. Türk- “Presto”
21st March	L.v.Beethoven- “Turkish march”- further practice D.G. Türk- “Presto”- further practice
23rd March	Dotted quarter note. M.A.Charpentier- “Prelude”
26th March	Sight-Reading Exam 1
28th March	M.A.Charpentier- “Prelude”- further practice C Major 5-note pattern. Finger fitness 5.
30th March	J.S.Bach- “Musette”/ A.Vivaldi- „Spring“
2nd April	J.S.Bach- “Musette”/ A.Vivaldi- „Spring“- further practice Intervals. Finger fitness 6. Assignment 3
4th April	More intervals. A.Diabelli- “Scherzo”
6th April	A.Diabelli- “Scherzo”- further practice
9th April	A.Diabelli- “Scherzo”- further practice G Major 5-note pattern. Finger fitness 7.
11th April	L.v.Beethoven- “Ode to Joy”
13th April	L.v.Beethoven- “Ode to Joy”- further practice
16th April	L.v.Beethoven- “Ode to Joy”- further practice C major and G major triads. Finger fitness 8.
18th April	D major 5-note pattern. Finger fitness 9. H. Purcell – “Trumpet Tune”. Assignment 4
20th April	H. Purcell – “Trumpet Tune” – further practice.
30th April	A minor 5-note pattern. L. van Beethoven – “La Marmotte”
2nd May	L. van Beethoven – “La Marmotte”- further practice

4th May	Sight-Reading Exam 2
7th May	A.Dvorak- “Largo”
9th May	A.Dvorak- “Largo”- further practice
11th May	A.Dvorak- “Largo”- further practice
14th May	Performance Exam practice
16th May	Performance Exam practice
18th May	Performance Exam practice
21st May	Performance Exam practice
23rd May	Performance Exam practice
25 May	Performance Exam practice
28th May	Performance Exam practice
30th May	Performance Exam
1st June	Revision for final exam.
4th-8th June	Spring Final Exams – Final Written Exam

Syllabus Changes:

There may be changes to the schedule and syllabus during the semester. When this happens, I will inform you in class and over email.