



Muap 1111

Harmony & Keyboard I

9:00 – 9:50 TTh

Vicki Conway, Instructor

Fall 2025

FAC 1018

vconway@uttyler.edu

Meet the Instructor: Ms. Vicki Conway



Hello! I'm Mrs. Conway and I'm excited to welcome you to UT Tyler Music! Piano can be an intimidating instrument, but with guided practice it is very user friendly and a valuable support instrument for all your music classes and eventually your career. It does require a time commitment outside of class but my goal is to help you learn to *practice smarter, not longer - for lasting results with the least amount of effort!*

On a personal note, I live in Longview with my husband Bret, 2 dogs and 2 cats. I'm also a mom of 3 grown daughters and a grandma to 5 girls and 3 boys! I have degrees in both piano and organ, and love sharing my faith journey as I have been organist in many Protestant denominations and currently serve at St. Anthony's Catholic church. My hobby is learning! I did almost half the coursework for a doctorate degree at The University of Oklahoma, but family priorities ultimately prevented me from completing it. *So I fully understand the challenges of balancing school, work, family, and life. If/when you get overwhelmed and need extra time, extra space or extra help, just ask!* I love teaching piano and music to all ages and levels and if I'm ever coming across as intimidating, please let me know! My goal is to have some fun as you learn and improve your piano skills!

Office Hours / Contact Information

- Instructor Contact information
 - vconway@uttyler.edu (preferred - anytime)
 - 903-566-7293 (office)
 - 903-238-6121 (text) – please avoid nights/weekends
- Office Location: FAC 1221
- Office Hours (check office door for any updates)
 - Monday: 3:00 – 3:30
 - Tuesday: 10:00 – 10:30 & 3:00-4:30
 - Wednesday: 9:00 – 10:00
 - Thursday: 10:00 – 10:30
 - By Appointment - send an email request with your available times

Course Overview

Progress-Based Modules

Minimum 30 minutes
practice 4 - 5 days per
week recommended

No textbook requirement
All materials provided

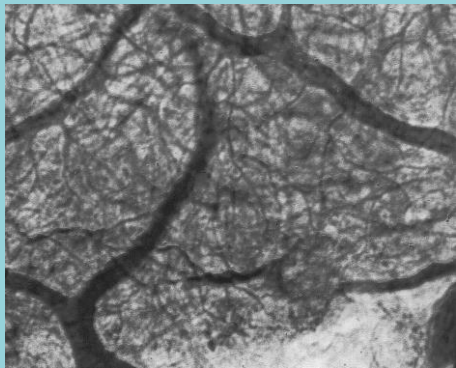
Module
Introduction/
Class Drills

Individual
Module Test

- Video Submission(s)
- In class

A repertoire excerpt
will be part of each
module
assignment

Mindless Repetition vs Smart Practice



Neural Networks

Repetitions with
random details

Follow learning
steps given in
class for fastest
and most secure
results!

Theory

Visual

Harmonic analysis

Form

Cadences

Phrases

Rhythm: Counts on Score

Patterns: Scales/Chords

Score/Keyboard Notes

Geography

HT Notes

Technique

Fingering

Posture and
Balance

Finger memory

Motor

Rhythm: counts with
pulse

Accompaniment:
(Harmonic
Progression)

Melody

Aural

HT Notes

Pitches:

solfege/interval
s

Hands together
playing first
requires **SLOW**
hands separate
processing!
Avoid HS motor
memory at all
costs!

Consistent layering

Course Objectives & Learning Outcomes

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- Develop and improve functional piano skills necessary for a successful career in any field of music.
- Areas of study
 - reading skills & technique
 - lead sheet & accompanying skills
 - music theory applications
- Fluency in each area will be necessary to pass the Piano Proficiency exam as the final exam of Harmony & Keyboard IV.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Perform fundamental technical skills appropriate for the first semester of piano study
- Learn and perform standard repertoire at a minimum Elementary Level 1*
- Sightread at a music fundamentals level
- Realize and perform lead sheets and harmonic progressions appropriate for the first semester of music theory

*Levels based on *The Pianist's Guide to Standard Teaching and Performance Literature* (Magrath)

Why Piano??

PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS



Visual and aural aid to help learn important theory concepts such as intervals, chords, and harmonic progressions



Supportive tool in playing/counting rhythms



Supportive tool for student's primary instrument in assessing pitch and hearing melodies



Build fundamental skills to **play for fun** & support career options in educational, sacred, and performance settings

- Hand Independence for conducting skills
- Student Teaching
- Music/Band/Choral Classrooms
- Praise band keyboard player &/or worship leader
- Enhance score reading abilities

Course Calendar (Subject to Change)

IMPORTANT DATES

Census Date: September 8

Withdrawal Deadline: November 4

▪ Weeks: Module

- 1-3: Piano and Music Basics I
- 4-6: Piano and Music Basics II
- 7-9: Scales
- 10-13: Theory
- 14: Repertoire / Review Week
- 15: Final Exam
 - Tuesday, December 8
 - 8:00 – 10:00 a.m.

Module Test

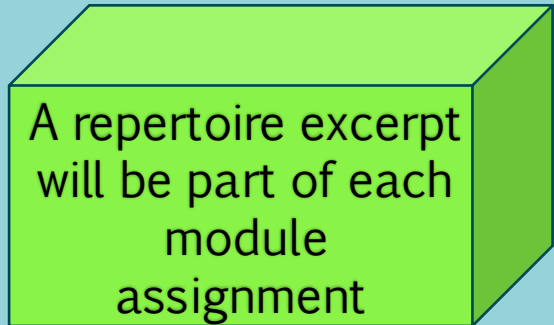
Thursday, Sept. 10

Thursday, Oct. 1

Thursday, Oct. 22

Tuesday Nov. 17

Thursday, Dec. 3



A repertoire excerpt
will be part of each
module
assignment

Course Grading Criteria

Modules avg 66%

- Preparatory Assn/Test

Final exam avg 34%

- 6 Skill Areas

A: 90-100
B: 80-89
C: 70-79
D: 60-69
F: 0-59

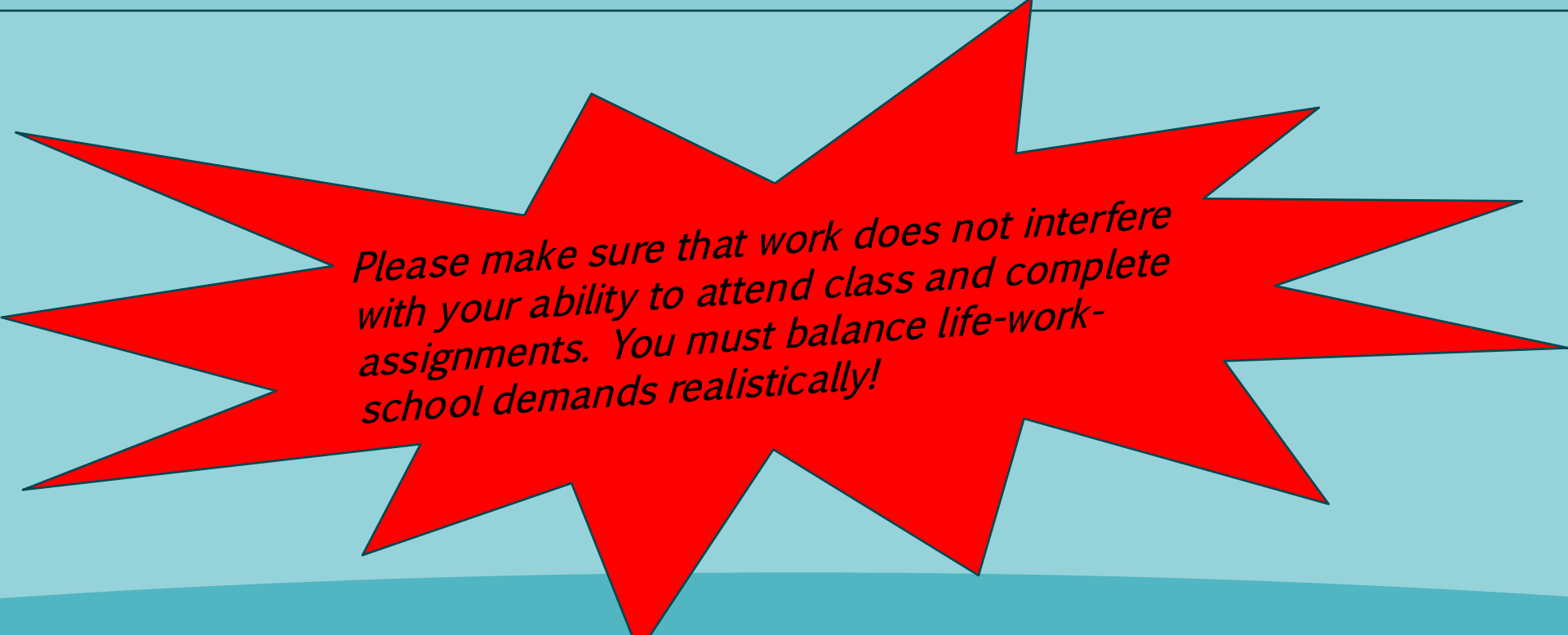
A Grade of C or better is required to pass the course

Video Submissions via Canvas

- Certain module assignments will be video submissions due by class time (9:00 am) on the date of the module test
- Recordings must meet the following criteria
 - Camera angle should be an overhead view of hands as if viewing from behind you
 - The back camera generally works better than the front selfie camera and it should be positioned either over your head or beside/behind the piano bench. Do not put camera so that it faces you!
 - In practice rooms, raise the music stand as high as possible so camera is looking down
 - Watch the video to make sure keyboard isn't backward or mirrored (RH on left side/LH on right side)
 - If mirrored, flip it before sending (this frequently happens using the front selfie camera)
 - If keyboard orientation is backward (black keys in front/white keys in back), reposition camera and re-record
 - Save the video and title it with an abbreviated assignment name (ex. Harm Prog 2)
 - Upload the video to either a YouTube channel or Google Drive and make it shareable
 - Copy the link and paste it on the Canvas assignment page
- **Feedback and specific grade will be given in the comment section of Canvas!**

Attendance Adulting 101!

ATTENDANCE is required at all classes in order to fully understand assignments/grading criteria and to benefit from in-class drills, learning strategies, and feedback. If you are ill, send an email to vconway@uttyler.edu PRIOR to class. Notify all instructors anytime you will be absent, just as you would an employer! Appropriate documentation is required for an excused absence, especially on test days.



Please make sure that work does not interfere with your ability to attend class and complete assignments. You must balance life-work-school demands realistically!

Late Work

Video Submission Deadlines are firm and tests will be given on the designated dates.

- Late assignments are accepted but will be limited to an 85 as the highest possible grade within one week and a 75 if later than one week.
- In case of excused absence on the date of a module test, students must submit any videos for late assignments *and* schedule a make up test *within one week* to avoid a late penalty. Extended illness considerations will be given on a case-by-case basis.
- Additional attempts to pass or improve a module test are allowed without penalty, *provided the test was taken on the due date*. You must however, move on to the next module with the class.

Some module assignments may be graded as Complete/Incomplete in Canvas. A check mark means the assignment received a passing score. An 'x' indicates the assignment is either missing or received a grade below 70. All assignments with an 'x' should be made up asap to raise your average and prepare for the final exam.

Special Course Notes

- **Set aside a 30 minute block of time 4 - 5 days per week for practice.**
 - On campus and between classes is ideal! Once you leave campus it will be harder to fit practicing in your schedule!
 - Short focused practices throughout the week are far more productive than fewer longer ones.
- **Come to every class *even if you haven't practiced or feel completely unprepared.***
 - Attendance is necessary to fully understand class assignments and be guided to the fastest/easiest way to learn them
 - The only time you should miss class is in case of illness. As this is a lab with shared keyboards and headphones, please do *not* come to class if you have a contagious illness.
 - Do your best with realistic expectations and grace – some modules will be harder than others and life happens! Please let me know if there are extenuating circumstances causing you to struggle.

Wellness – Don't forget to take care of YOU

Adulting requires balance and resilience!



Nutrition
and Sleep



Faith
Family
Friends
Fun

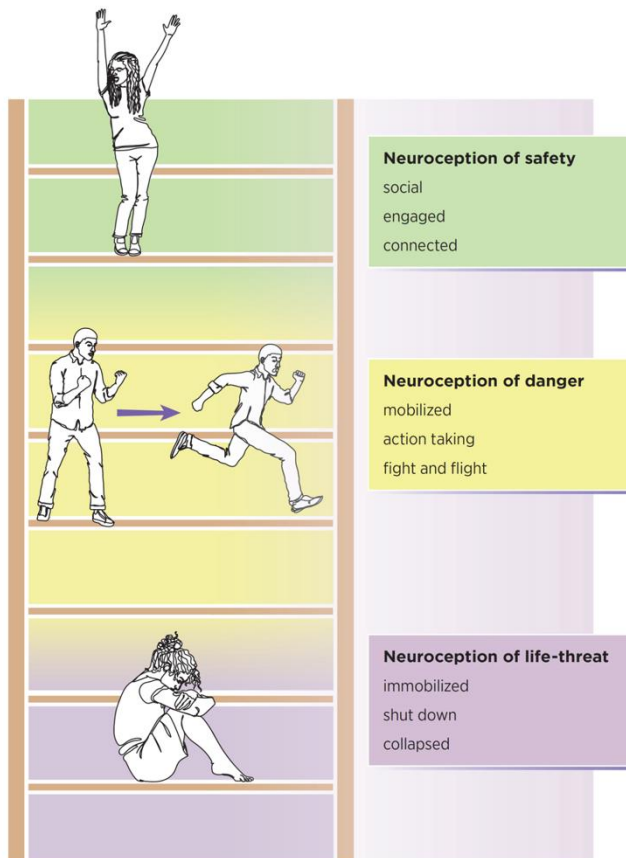


Practice and
Classwork

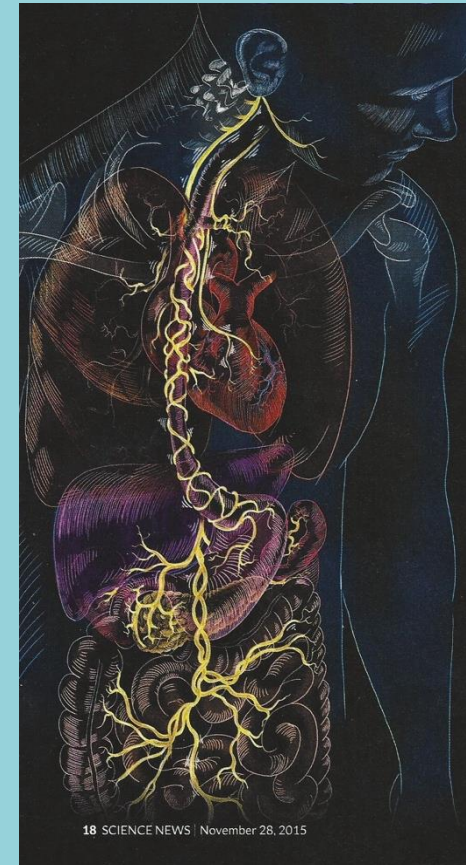


Understanding your Autonomic Nervous System (ANS)

The Autonomic Ladder



- Learn to recognize and honor what your 'body' is telling you
 - Vagus nerve is the longest nerve in the body and 80% of messages go from body to brain
- Lower states can hijack or interfere with learning/performing
 - Hard to focus or access what has been practiced
 - Why motor memory fails under pressure
- Strategies
 - Smart practice for secure learning
 - Drill short segments and **plan what to think**
 - Repeat the *process* allowing it to naturally get faster
 - Take full deep breaths/stretch/have realistic expectations and do your best!



Utilize free counseling services at UT Tyler!

Special Course Notes: Artificial Intelligence (AI)

- UT Tyler is committed to exploring and using artificial intelligence (AI) tools as appropriate for the discipline and task undertaken. We encourage discussing AI tools' ethical, societal, philosophical, and disciplinary implications. All uses of AI should be acknowledged as this aligns with our commitment to honor and integrity, as noted in UT Tyler's Honor Code. Faculty and students must not use protected information, data, or copyrighted materials when using any AI tool. Additionally, users should be aware that AI tools rely on predictive models to generate content that may appear correct but is sometimes shown to be incomplete, inaccurate, taken without attribution from other sources, and/or biased. Consequently, an AI tool should not be considered a substitute for traditional approaches to research. You are ultimately responsible for the quality and content of the information you submit. Misusing AI tools that violate the guidelines specified for this course (see below) is considered a breach of academic integrity. The student will be subject to disciplinary actions as outlined in UT Tyler's Academic Integrity Policy.
- **For this course, AI is permitted, but any use for written work must be acknowledged and properly documented.**