Muap 2111
Harmony & Keyboard III

8:00 – 8:50 TTh

Vicki Conway, Instructor

Fall 2026

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 & 3:30-4:30
  - Wednesday: 3:30-4:30
  - 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

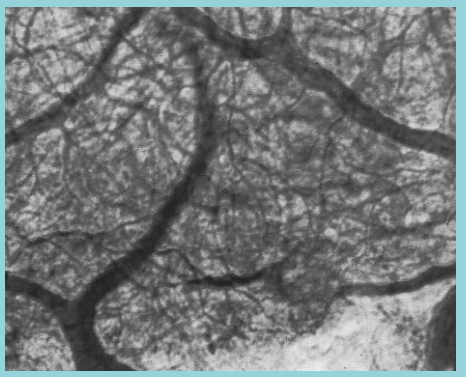
Module Introduction/ Class Drills

Individual Module Test

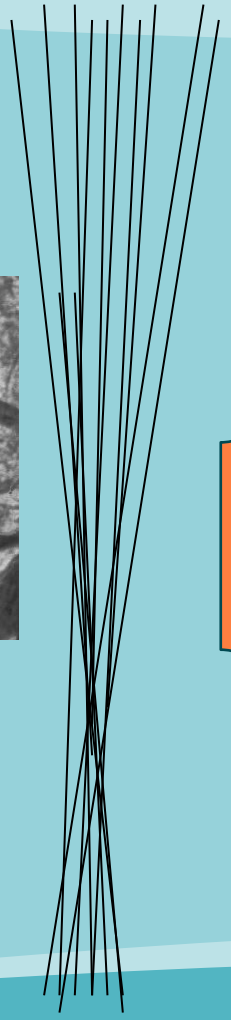
- Video Submission(s)
- In class

A repertoire excerpt will be part of each module assignment

Mindless Repetition vs Smart Practice



Neural Networks



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

Theory
- Harmonic analysis
- Form
- Cadences
- Phrases

Visual
- Rhythm: Counts on Score
- Patterns: Scales/Chords
- HT Score/Keyboard Notes
- ~~Geography~~
- Technique
- Fingering

Motor
- Finger memory

Aural
- Rhythm: counts with pulse
- Accompaniment: (Harmonic Progression)
- Melody
- HT Notes
- Pitches: solfege/intervals

Posture and Balance

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

Repetitions with random details

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
  - Repertoire and Chorales
  - Jazz Basics and Lead Sheets
  - Music theory applications
  - Technique
- 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 third semester of piano study
- Learn and perform standard repertoire at a minimum Level 3*
- Sightread at a minimum Level 1*
- Realize and perform lead sheets and harmonic progressions appropriate for the third semester of music theory

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

Why Piano??

PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS

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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: October 30

Weeks: Module	Module Test
1-3: Lead Sheets/Pop Progressions	Thursday, Sept. 10
4-6: Theory	Thursday, Oct. 1
7-9: Jazz Basics	Thursday, Oct. 22
10-12: Chorale Module	Thursday, Nov. 12
13: Scales/Arpeggios (HS or HT)	Thursday Nov. 19
14: Review Week	
15: Final Exam – Tuesday, December 8 – 8:00 – 10:00 a.m.	

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 Grade of C or better is required to pass the course

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

Video Submissions via Canvas

- Certain module assignments will be video submissions due by class time (8:00 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

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!

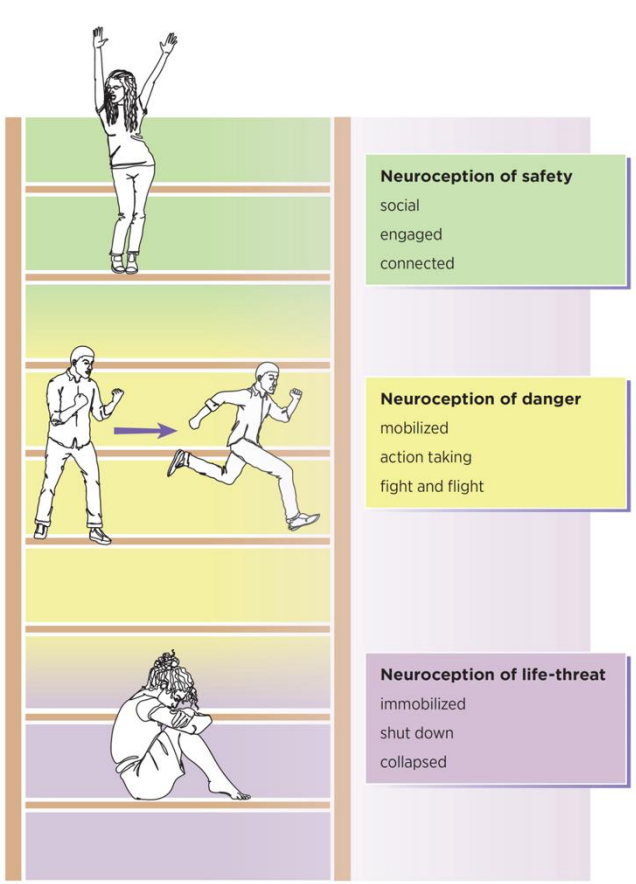
Nutrition and Sleep

Faith
Family
Friends
Fun

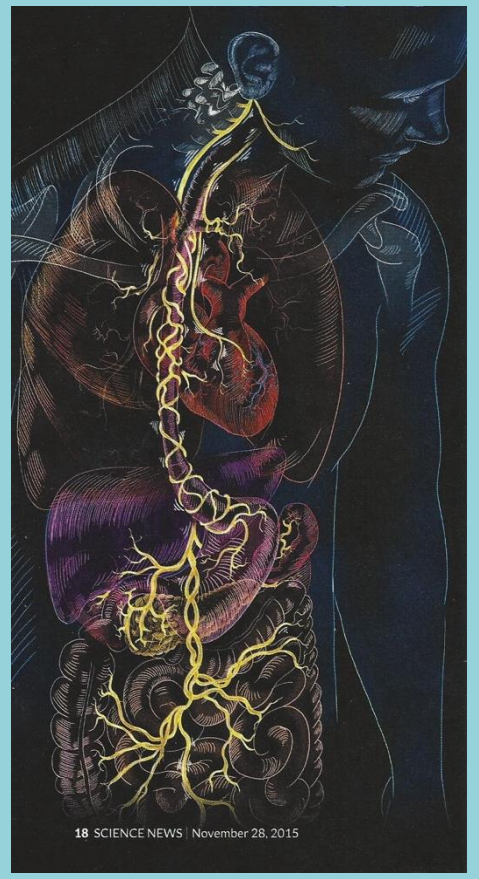
Practice and Classwork

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!