

A close-up photograph of piano keys, showing a row of black keys and a row of white keys. The keys are slightly out of focus, creating a sense of depth. A light blue curved line separates the image from the text below.

Muap 2001 Piano Proficiency

Day/Time: TBA

Vicki Conway, Instructor

Fall 2023

FAC 1018 or FAC 1211

vconway@uttyler.edu

Meet the Instructor: Ms. Vicki Conway



Hello! I'm Mrs. Conway, aka 'the dragon' as nicknamed by our recent graduate Bethany Woolman, who is now a medical student at UT Rio Grand Valley. 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, 3 dogs and 2 cats. I'm also a mom and grandma with 3 daughters, 4 granddaughters and 1 grandson. 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 a 'dragon', it's ok to let me know. Let's have some fun along the way!

WHY PIANO??

“There probably isn’t a single thing that my musical journey has benefited from more than playing piano.”
Dr. Sarah Roberts

PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS!!

- Provide accompaniment for elementary music classroom instruction and programs
- Use piano as supportive tool in middle school band programs to play pitches, melodies, and transposition
- Assist/teach pianists in high school jazz ensembles
- Rehearse individual or sectional voice parts in middle through high school choral programs
- Play keyboard for &/or lead a praise band
- Train and enhance hand independence for conducting skills
- Enhance score reading skills

“Everything I learned in Piano Proficiency was used at some point during my student teaching”

Gavin Hollingsworth,
BM
Instrumental Music
Education Fall
2022

Course Objectives & Learning Outcomes

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- Assess functional piano skills necessary for a successful career in any field of music and equivalent to the final exam of Muap 2112 Harmony & Keyboard IV.
- Areas of assessment
 - Sightread classical and chorale styles
 - Lead Sheets and Transposition
 - Incorporate Melody into Accompaniment
 - Harmonic Progressions
 - Jazz Standards

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Sightread classical styles at a minimum early intermediate level 3*
- Sightread a basic hymn or chorale
- Realize lead sheets, accompanying styles, and harmonic progressions appropriate for 4 semesters of music theory study
- Learn basic comping skills for Jazz Standards

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

Course Overview

5 Skill Modules

Standard Assessment of Sight Reading (SASR)

Each skills module spans a
2 - 3 week time period

No required textbook
All materials provided

Module
Introduction/
Class Drills

Progress based
feedback in
class &/or
video
submissions

Individual Module
Assessments and
corresponding
test area of
Proficiency Exam

Progress-Based Assessments

Harmony & Keyboard Grading Rubric All Modules and Proficiency Exam

Exceptional Performance (5)	Exceeds expectations (4/A)	Meets expectations (3/B)	Approaches expectations (2/C)	Not yet meeting expectations (1/D)	Missing (0/F)
Exceptional performance in accuracy, fluency, articulation details, fingerings, and musicality	Performance meets all stated goals and tempo expectations with only occasional errors in note accuracy, articulation, fingering, or rhythm	Performance demonstrates preparation and practice and can be performed within a reasonable amount of time with 70% accuracy	Performance demonstrates early stages of understanding and skill development suggesting that performance can meet expectations with more practice	Performance shows significant lack of preparation or attention to required details	Not yet submitted or assessed
Submitted/performed by the stated due date	Performance demonstrates confidence and excellent preparation on or after due date	Performance lacks overall continuity and contains several errors in notes, articulations, fingerings, or rhythm	Performance is extremely slow or significantly lacking in one or more elements of note accuracy, articulations, fingerings, or rhythm (if required)	Performance shows lack of understanding of assignment directions or goals	Assignment directions not followed
		Speed is too fast for stated assignment goals such as articulations, fingerings, or processing time/learning strategy	Speed is too fast causing constant mistakes and complete inattention to assignment details	Skill development is insufficient to complete assignment within a reasonable amount of time	

Minimum Course Requirements – Progress Based Learning

- Set aside a 30 minute block of time 3 - 5 days per week for practice. On campus and between classes is ideal! Short focused practices throughout the week are far more productive than fewer longer ones. Once you leave campus it will be harder to fit practicing in your schedule!
- *Come to every class even if you haven't practiced or feel completely unprepared. Many assignments will be done IN CLASS and certain assignments may be waived! The only time you should miss class is in case of illness. Please do not come if you have a contagious illness.*
- Perform each module requirements by the due date, regardless of your level of preparation. This qualifies you to retake or resubmit assignments in that module, but the class moves on*.
- *NOTE: Additional attempts to pass or improve a module score is allowed, but you must move on to the next module to stay current with the class. Video submissions may be required before scheduling, or in lieu of, an in-person reassessment.

Course Grading Criteria

A

- 4.0 – 5.0 Points
- 80%-100% Average

B

- 3.0 – 3.9 Points
- 60%-79% Average

C

- 2.0 – 2.9 Points
- 40% - 59% Average

D

- 1.0 – 1.9 Points
- 20% - 49% Average

F

- 0 – 0.9 Points
- 0% - 19% Average

Most assignments within each module will be completed as a group in class! Others must be played individually, earning a minimum grade of C in order to qualify to take that portion of the proficiency exam.

Students passing all 6 portions of the exam with a grade of C or better will receive credit (CR) for the course.

Students not passing all 6 skill areas of the exam will receive a grade of No Credit (NC) and will need to re-enroll in the course. However, any skill areas passed carry over and do not need to be repeated in subsequent semesters!

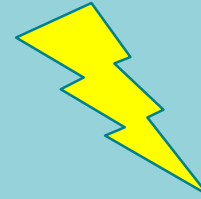
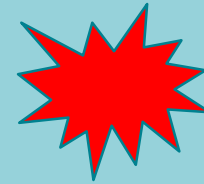
Course Calendar (Subject to Change)

Meeting submission deadlines is required to take that portion of the exam

- Census Date: September 1
- Weeks 1-3: Lead Sheet & Reading Skills
 - Submission Deadline: 5:00 p.m. Sunday Sept. 10
- Weeks 4-6: Theory Module
 - Submission Deadline: 5:00 p.m. Sunday Oct. 1
- Weeks 7-9: Jazz Basics Module
 - Submission Deadline: 5:00 p.m. Sunday Oct. 29
- Withdrawal Deadline: October 30
- Week 10-12 Chorale Module
 - Submission Deadline: 5:00 p.m. Sunday Nov. 19
- Week 13-14 Incorporate Melody into Accompaniment Module
 - Submission Deadline: 5:00 p.m. Sunday Dec. 3
- Week 15: Any Remaining Assessments

Additional Course 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
 - Posted beside office door after all applied lessons scheduled
 - By Appointment - send an email request with your available times
- Note that grade percentages are based on a 5 point scale so don't be alarmed if your course average is below 70%. Let me know if you have any concerns about your average or progress at any time during the semester.



FREE TUTORING!!!

- Jasper Scharp
 - 307-286-3113
 - jscharp@uttyler.edu