

ACCELERATED PIANO TECHNIQUE AND MUSIC THEORY I

COURSE SYLLABUS

Course: Accelerated Piano Technique and Music Theory I

Credit: One Carnegie Unit

Course Description

Accelerated Piano Technique and Music Theory is required for graduation as a vocal or instrumental music major. It is the first of two courses in basic theory, which is the prerequisite for all other theory classes. It also satisfies the Piano Lab I and the Theory I requirement for both vocal and instrumental majors.

Content Standards

DCPS music content standards make up the core skills, concepts and knowledge for both the Music Theory I and Piano Lab I components.

- the rudiments of music notation and structure: note names on the grand staff and piano keyboard, key signatures, time signatures, rhythm values, intervals, major triads, major and chromatic scales.
- sight-singing, dictation, and composition skills.
- course objectives for the Piano Lab I component: objectives designed to introduce students to basic piano fundamentals. The student learns familiarization with keyboard, left hand and right-hand coordination, note-reading skills, scales and chord playing as well as the learning of basic piano literature.

These standards are incorporated in the course outline below.

Course Outline

1. Identify and write notes on all lines and spaces of the treble and bass staves. Identification of all leger line notes above and below the staff in both treble and bass clefs, and location of these notes on the keyboard.
2. Identify and draw notes of all rhythmic values and their corresponding rests from whole notes to thirty-second notes.
3. Sing major scales, all forms of the minor scales and chromatic scales from memory: (1) using solfege syllables and scale degree numbers – for major scales/solfege syllables only for minor scales and chromatic scales, and (2) at sight using letter names, including accidentals (note:moveable “do” system will be used for all singing exercises).
4. Sing major triads from memory using solfege syllables and at sight using letter names.
5. Identify and notate all major key signatures within the Circle of Fifths.

6. Chant or clap rhythm patterns with all note values from whole notes to sixteenth notes and corresponding rests and equal divisions of the beat in 2, 3, 4, and 6 .

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(Ability to chant or clap thirty-second note patterns in compound meter) Ability to write beat placement under given rhythmic patterns in Simple and Compound meter.
7. Demonstrate the significance of both numbers in a time signature using note value equivalents in both Simple and Compound meter.
8. Identify and write simple intervals by number, from any given note.
9. Write major key signatures and scales using accidentals in all Major keys within the Circle of Fifths in treble and bass clefs.
10. Sight-sing simple melodies in major keys using solfege syllables and letter names.
11. Transpose melodies from one key to another.
12. Write simple melodies from dictation. Compose simple melodies with given guidelines
13. Write simple rhythms from dictation. Compose simple rhythms with given guidelines.
14. Write a chromatic scale beginning on the diatonic notes of a C Major Scale.
15. Identify and write half and whole steps as separate intervals and within a Major Scale.
16. Define and apply fundamental musical terms.
17. Demonstrate responsibility and commitment to music theory through regular attendance, participation, and preparation.

Materials: Theory notebook (3-ringed binder), pencil (with an eraser), and any materials given in class. Material check will be given during each class. Students must bring all materials to class. A designated number of points will be given during each meeting of the class for the material check.

Course Requirements

1. Students must be in class on time each day. Fifteen tardies will result in failure of the course. A note must follow all unexcused absences from home to support the absence. Five to nine unexcused absences will result in a grade level reduction for a given advisory. Ten or more unexcused absences within an advisory result in an automatic "F" for a given advisory.

2. Students must take all tests, quizzes, and final examinations. Make-up tests for any missed tests will be given only for excused absences.
3. Piano proficiency exams will be administered at the end of the 2nd and 4th Quarters. Skills to be assessed will be based on previous class keyboard assignments.
4. Students must turn in all class assignments at the end of the class and homework assignments on the designated due date. A student who has missed a class for any reason, including legitimate school performance, must make up all class and homework assignments that were missed.
5. Students must keep a separate theory notebook (3-ringed binder) with all class notes, completed assignments, and handouts. Notebook checks will be given throughout each advisory. A Notebook rubric will be given to each student listing the order of the assignments, and resources given in class.
6. Students must bring all required materials to class each day: pencil, eraser, music (when given in class) and all resources/handouts given in class. All work must be done in pencil.
7. Students may not eat, drink (except water), or chew gum in class. Students may not use cell phones, electronic devices or any items that will distract from instruction in class. Failure to comply with this guideline will affect the student's grade.
8. Students must participate in class. Sleeping or misbehaving in class will not be tolerated. This behavior will affect the student's overall grade.
9. Students must own or have access to a key board.
10. Students must keep their fingernails trimmed and at a length which will not affect hand position when playing the piano. Teachers will monitor and advise students to "trim their nails" should this requirement not be adhered to. Failure to comply with this guideline will affect the student's grade.
11. In compliance with the "Dress code guidelines" of the Duke Ellington School of the Arts (please refer to the 2018 – 2019 student handbook), hats (baseball hats, knit hats, fashion hats) are not allowed to be worn in the classroom.

Grading

Participation 10%

Practice & Application 50%

Assessment 40%

Grading Scale

The following grading scale will be used in evaluating and reporting each student's progress:

- A =93-100
- A- =90-92
- B+ =87-89
- B =83-86
- B- =80-82
- C+ =77-79
- C =73-76
- C- =70-72
- D+ =67-69
- D =64-66
- F =63 and below

I have received and read the Accelerated Piano Technique and Music Theory I Course Syllabus. I agree to meet all course requirements as listed.

Student Signature (Please print legibly)

Date

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Please return this signed document to the teacher.