

Piano Theory Course Syllabus

Course: Piano Theory

Credit: One Carnegie Unit

Course Description

Piano 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 up to two ledger lines above and below each staff, and locate them 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 from memory using solfege syllables and scale degree numbers, and at sight using letter names, including accidentals (note: moveable "do" system with minor tonic "la" will be used for all singing exercises).

4. Sing major triads from memory using solfege syllables and at sight using letter names.
5. Identify all major key signatures.
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
4 4 4 8
7. Demonstrate the significance of both numbers in a time signature using note value equivalents.
8. Identify and write simple intervals by number, from any given note.
9. Write major key signatures and scales using accidentals in keys up to 4 sharps and flats 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.
13. Write simple rhythms from dictation.
14. Write a chromatic scale.
15. Identify and write half and whole steps.
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.

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 unexcused absences will result in failure of the course.
2. Students must take all tests, quizzes, and final examinations. Make-up tests for any missed tests will be given only for excused absences. All tests must be signed by a parent/guardian.

3. Students must turn in all class assignments at the end of the class and homework assignments (signed by a parent/guardian) on the designated due date. A student who has missed a class for any reason, including legitimate school performances, must make up all class and homework assignments that were missed.
4. Students must keep a theory notebook (3-ringed binder) with all class notes, completed assignments and handouts.
5. Students must bring all required materials to class each day: pencil (with an eraser), theory notebook (3-ringed binder) and all given materials. All written work must be done in pencil.
6. Students may not eat, drink, or chew gum in class. Students may not bring radios, tape recorders, CD players, cell phones, MP3 players and any other devices to class. Use of these items is strictly prohibited.
7. Students must participate in class. Sleeping or misbehaving in class will not be tolerated.
8. Students must own or have access to a keyboard.
9. 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.

Grading:

Attendance	15%
Class participation	15%
Written class and homework assignments	30%
Tests and quizzes	20%
Final advisory examination	20%

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 Piano Theory Course syllabus. I agree to meet all course requirements as listed.

Student Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Please return this signed document to the teacher.