

**Elizabethtown College**  
**Dept. of Fine and Performing Arts**  
**Fall Semester 2015**

**COURSE SYLLABUS**

**Course Information**

Course: MU115 Fundamentals at the Keyboard; 4 credit hours  
Schedule: Tuesdays and Thursdays 12:30pm-1:50pm  
Location: ZUG 112

**Instructor Information**

Instructor: Dr. Kevin Shorner-Johnson  
Office: 108 Zug Hall  
Office phone: 361-1532  
E-mail: [shornerk@etown.edumailto:shornerk@etown.edu](mailto:shornerk@etown.edumailto:shornerk@etown.edu)  
Office Hours: Mondays 9:30-10:50pm; Many other hours available by drop-in or appointment. I am usually available in the 30 minutes after class.

**Title**

Fundamentals at the Keyboard

**Texts and Materials**

Lancaster, E. L. & K. D. Renfrow (1999). *Alfred's Piano 101: An exciting group course for adults who want to play piano for fun! (Book 1)* Alfred Publishing Co., Inc.  
ISBN: 0739002554

Recordings for piano listening can be purchased via iTunes or Amazon.

*Supplemental Books used, no purchase needed:*

Lancaster, E. L. & McArthur, V. (2003). *I used to play piano*. Alfred Publishing Co.  
ISBN: 0-07390-3594-0

**Course Description**

This course will provide students with the basic skills necessary to read and perform music at the keyboard. The course will focus on ear training, basic keyboard technique, sight-reading and musicianship. Instruction will occur in the digital piano laboratory in ZUG112. Daily practice is required.

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

1. Students will read and perform music at the keyboard.
2. Students will analyze music based on the elements of rhythm, pitch, form, and texture.

3. Students will identify and perform aural examples of melodies, intervals, chords, and rhythms.
4. Students will compose and improvise music at the keyboard.
5. Discuss concepts employed in the creation and analysis of like artworks.
6. Develop and articulate informed aesthetic judgments.
7. Create or perform artistic work representative of the discipline.
8. Express the intrinsic value of an artistic medium.
9. Give examples of the way in which creative art forms show and affirm human feelings, desires, experiences, and/or values.

### **Attendance Policy**

Students are expected to attend every class. Excessive absences or tardiness will result in a lowered grade. Absences for illness or other valid reasons will be excused only when Dr. Shorner-Johnson has received advance notice. An excused absence will require a written statement from your medical doctor, administrator/faculty member and a discussion with me. Absences will result in missed assignments and lowered participation grades.

### **Statement on School Closure**

If school is cancelled, I retain the right to replace lost class time with a virtual assignment. The virtual assignment will be communicated via Canvas. This would particularly occur if weather caused us to miss critical material or if we have had multiple weather-related absences.

### **Spirituality and Teaching**

My teaching has been heavily influenced by the ideas of Parker Palmer in the past year. To me this means that I increasingly see teaching and learning as a sacred space of community between students, teacher, and the ideas within a discipline. In relation to a discipline, I seek to practice and inspire wonder, reverence, and thoughtfulness for the diverse ideas and phenomena. In relation to students, I seek to practice and inspire relationship, space for diverse voices, space for autonomy, and deep listening. I also believe that every aspect of academic work has a relationship to ethics and morality. I seek to practice and inspire a continuous mindfulness about the ethical and moral implications of how we learn, what we learn, and how we represent what we learn. I seek to learn from the voices of marginalized as much if not more than I seek to learn from the voices of the empowered.

### **Grading Procedures**

Playing Quizzes (42%)

Worksheets (6%)  
Listening Journals (24%)  
Final Class Recital (12%)  
Mid-term Test (6%)  
Two Concert Reviews (6%)

### **Final Grade Check**

Current grades are maintained on Canvas Instructure (<https://canvas.instructure.com>) and are always maintained as up-to-date as possible. Because you have access to your grade, it is your responsibility to keep track of your progress. At the end of the semester, I will post grades as soon as possible following the final exam. I will not record the grades via JayWeb until the final day of submission, allowing you time to check grades for any mistakes or inaccuracies. After grades have been posted to JayWeb, grades are not changed.

### Grading scale:

A	93.4-100
A-	90-93.39
B+	86.7-89.99
B	83.4-86.69
B-	80-83.99
C+	76.7-79.99
C	73.4-76.69
C-	70-73.39
D+	66.7-69.99
D	63.4-66.69
D-	60-63.39
F	<60

### **Statement on Plagiarism**

Students are expected to adhere to the Standards of Academic Integrity as outlined in the College Catalog. Failure to adhere to these standards could significantly lower your grade resulting in a possible failing grade in this course.

### **Statement on Disability**

Elizabethtown College welcomes otherwise qualified students with disabilities to participate in all of its courses, programs, and activities. If you have a documented disability and require accommodations to access course material, activities, or requirements, you must:

1. Contact the Director of Disability Services, Lynne Davies, in the Center for Student Success, BSC 228, by phone (361-1227) or email [daviesl@etown.edu](mailto:daviesl@etown.edu).
2. Meet with me, the instructor, within two weeks of receiving a copy of the

accommodation letter from Disability Services to discuss your accommodation needs and their implementation

REMINDER: Students must bring to my attention accommodations they may use in order to complete this course. Students will be accommodated as law requires, but remember, by law, initiation must be made by the individual student, not the instructor.

### **Tentative Course Outline**

*Playing quizzes that will be video recorded with a reflection are denoted with an asterisk \**

#### **1 8/25 Identifying the beat, sol and mi**

*Book:* Unit 1

*Assignment:*

*Listening Journal:*

#### **2 8/27 Addition of the beat sol and mi**

*Book:* Unit 1 & 2

*Assignment:* PQ10

*Listening Journal:* Listening 1 by 5pm on Friday

#### **3 9/1 Beat grouping (meter); sol mi and la; music on staves; Finger Independence and hand position**

*Book:* Unit 3

*Assignment:*

*Listening Journal:*

#### **4 9/3 Beat grouping (meter); sol mi and la; music on staves; Finger Independence and hand position**

*Book:* Unit 3

*Assignment:* Pg. 18; PQ15

*Listening Journal:* Listening 2 by 5pm on Friday

#### **5 9/8 Beat division; sol, mi, la, mi-re-do; Finger independence & reading on the grand staff**

*Book:* Unit 4

*Assignment:*

#### **6 9/10 Beat division; introducing fa and ti; Intervals; Introducing two-hand performance**

*Book:* Unit 4

*Assignment:* Pg. 38; PQ 34, 37  
*Listening Journal:* Listening 3 by 5pm on Friday

**7 9/15 Beat division; introducing fa and ti; Intervals; Introducing two-hand performance**

*Book:* Unit 5

*Assignment:*

8 9/17 Dr. S-J gone, No class.

**9 9/22 Beat division; major scales; Key (home tone); Two hand performance; Articulations**

*Book:* Unit 5

*Assignment:*

**10 9/24 Beat division; major scales; Key (home tone); Two hand performance; Articulations**

*Book:* Unit 5

*Assignment:* Pg. 49; PQ 45 & 47

*Listening Journal:* Listening 4 by 5pm on Friday

**11 9/29 Dynamics and articulations; Key signatures; Clef Reading; Interval Performance**

*Book:* Unit 6 & 7

*Assignment:*

*Listening Journal:*

**10/1 Dynamics and articulations; Key signatures; Clef Reading; Interval Performance**

*Book:* Unit 6 & 7

*Assignment:* Pg. 66; PQ 51; PQ 61

*Listening Journal:* Listening 5 by 5pm on Friday

10/6 Fall Break, no class

**12 10/8 Form-phrases; style periods: Baroque vs. Classical**

*Book:* Unit 8

*Assignment:*

*Listening Journal:*

**13 10/13 Form-phrases; style periods: Baroque vs. Classical**

*Book:* Unit 8

*Assignment:* Pg. 69

*Listening Journal:*

**14 10/15 Midterm exam and midterm recital**

*Book:*

*Assignment:* Midterm Exam

*Listening Journal:*

**15 10/20 Harmony - I and V chords; Scale construction & performance; Chord positions**

*Book:* Unit 9

*Assignment:*

*Listening Journal:*

**16 10/22 Harmony - I and V chords; Scale construction & performance; Chord positions**

*Book:* Unit 9

*Assignment:* PQ 81\*

*Listening Journal:* Listening 6 by 5pm on Friday

**17 10/27 Dotted notes; Broken chords; Pedals; Chord positions**

*Book:* Unit 10

*Assignment:*

*Listening Journal:*

**18 10/29 Dotted notes; Broken chords; Pedals; Chord positions**

*Book:* Unit 10

*Assignment:* Pg. 94; PQ 92

*Listening Journal:* Listening 7 by 5pm on Friday

**19 11/3 Modality- Major vs. minor; Harmony I, IV, and V chords**

*Book:* Unit 11

*Assignment:*

*Listening Journal:*

**20 11/5 Modality- Major vs. minor; Harmony I, IV, and V chords**

*Book:* Unit 11

*Assignment:* pg. 118 (Jumping ahead in theory); PQ 100

*Listening Journal:* Listening 8 by 5pm on Friday

**FIRST CONCERT REVIEW DUE BY 10PM ON SUNDAY**

21 11/10 **Harmony I, IV, and V chords; Arpeggiating Hands**

*Book:* Unit 12

*Assignment:*

*Listening Journal:*

22 11/12 **Harmony I, IV, and V chords; Arpeggiating Hands**

*Book:* Unit 12

*Assignment:* PQ 107\*

*Listening Journal:* Listening 9 by 5pm on Friday: Youtube choose a pianist: Glenn Gould, Lang Lang, Helene Grimaud, Krystian Zimerman, Alfred Brendel, Emmanuel Ax due by 5pm on Friday

23 11/17 **Style periods: Romantic and Classical: Choose Final Exam Repertoire**

*Book:* Unit 13

*Assignment:*

*Listening Journal:*

24 11/19 **Intervallic leaps**

*Book:* Unit 13

*Assignment:* PQ 115

*Listening Journal:*

25 11/24 **The Blues/ Work towards Final Recital**

*Book:* Unit 15

*Assignment:*

*Listening Journal:*

26 11/26 Thanksgiving break, no class. **The Blues/ Work towards Final Recital**

27 12/1 **Preparing for final exam recital**

*Book:*

*Assignment:*

*Listening Journal:*

28 12/3 **Preparing for final exam recital**

*Book:*

*Assignment:* **Second concert review due on Friday by 5pm.**

*Listening Journal:*

**Final Exam: Tuesday December 8, 2015 at 11am.**

## Assignments

---

### Listening Journal

---

Complete a listening journal about a predetermined recording of music. In your review comment on and analyze the technique of the performer. Critique the music using your ear-training related knowledge of rhythm, pitch, form, and style. If you are at a loss for what to write, make comparisons between the work you are hearing and other works that you have heard. It is also a great idea to look up the background information about performers or composers. If you use background information, please cite your source (news media articles are ok, avoid wikipedia). Minimum word count 300 words. Due dates for listening journals are listed on the Canvas site. Rubric is posted on Canvas.

### CONCERTS

---

Students will attend two concerts. The concerts must be put on by the Elizabethtown College Music Department or Mount Gretna performing arts. A reflection/critique for each concert should a minimum of 400 words. Dates for concerts are listed online. Reflections are due by 5pm on Friday of the last week of class.

### RECITALS

---

Recitals are performance opportunities based upon 1-2 pre-selected pieces as determined by the student and the instructor. Performances are assessed on melodic and rhythmic accuracy, stage presence, and expressiveness.

### QUIZZES

---

Quizzes will be given on a weekly basis every Thursday. Quizzes will check student performance levels and student knowledge and provide helpful feedback. Quizzes may be performance-based and written. Some quizzes may be video recorded and require the student to submit a written reflection.

### DAILY

---



Daily assignments will be an assessment of the completion of written work and performance practice within the class. This daily grade will include an assessment of the practice journal described below. It is at the instructor's discretion if he wants to focus a daily grade on a specific performance or task.