



MUS 136
Class Piano A
Course Syllabus: Spring 2026

Instructor Information

Instructor:	Libby Vanatta, instructor
Office Location:	Music Building 230
Office Hours:	See schedule posted outside of office door or set up appointment.
Phone:	903-886-5286
University Email Address:	libby.vanatta@etamu.edu
Preferred communication:	Email
Reply response time:	within 24 hours

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact the instructor via email or set up an appointment to address your concerns as soon as possible. Contact information for adjunct instructors or teaching assistants associated with the course will be given at the first class meeting and can be found on D2L.

Course Information

Course Description

This course is designed for instrumental and vocal music majors and minors as an introduction to keyboarding skills, including scale and chord construction, harmonic progressions, transposition, sight-reading, score reading, and accompanying.

Student Learning Outcomes

In this course, students will:

- 1) Play all major scales one octave, hands together, at a steady tempo
- 2) Play all major arpeggios, one octave, hands together, at a steady tempo
- 3) Play all major chord progressions with inversions: I-IV-I-V7-I
- 4) Harmonize/transpose melodies using block, broken, and arpeggiated accompaniment patterns.
- 5) Perform a two-handed accompaniment to a given melody.
- 6) Perform a prepared piece, using correct fingering, hand position, pedal, and demonstrating appropriate development of personal musicianship.

Required Textbook

Alfred's Group Piano for Adults book 1, 2nd edition – Lancaster and Renfrow

A digital copy of the book is available for purchase and is the only acceptable option for digital use. Illegal copies/scans of the book are not to be used in the class.

Course Requirements

Instructional Methods: Required Practice of Piano

Students are expected to practice daily for a minimum of thirty minutes. It is almost impossible to “cram” at the last minute and pass a piano exam. You are not only expected to play the elements of your exam well, but to do so in a performance setting. Daily preparation is the only way to ensure that nerves do not get the best of you!

Assessments

Assessment type, percentage of final grade, and relationship to student learning outcomes

Quizzes	10%	SLO 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
Exam 1	20%	SLO 4, 5, 6
Exam 2	20%	SLO 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
Exam 3	50%	SLO 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

Grading Scale

A = 90%-100%

B = 80%-89%

C = 70%-79%

D = 60%-69%

F = 59% or below

Students MUST pass the final exam with a 70% to pass the course.

Students MUST pass the course with a 70% to continue to MUS 140.

Course Calendar

Week 1-4	Regular instruction and quizzes	Week 5	Exam 1
Week 6-10	Regular instruction and quizzes	Week 11	Exam 2
Week 12-14	Regular instruction and quizzes	Week 15	Exam 3

Course and University Procedures / Policies

Syllabus Change Policy

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance

Attendance Policy

Attendance is essential to pass this course. The first three absences will not count against the student. All absences after three will result in a loss of 50 points from the final point total – this is equivalent to half of letter grade. If a student has a note verifying an absence is due to serious illness, doctor’s visit, or university trip, then the absence will be excused. Never assume that an absence is excused! Bring documentation whenever possible. Tardiness after four will result in an absence for that day. Students leaving the classroom before class is dismissed will receive an absence for that day.

NO FOOD OR DRINK IS ALLOWED IN THE PIANO LAB AT ANY TIME!

Late Assignments and Missed Exams

Late work will not be accepted. During the semester, there will be 8 quizzes. Each quiz is worth 12.5 points. Missed quizzes will not be made up for unexcused absences. Quizzes will not be rescheduled in the situation of lack of preparation due to an absence in the previous class. Students are responsible for keeping up with class assignments even in the case of an absence. You must be in attendance for all exams. Exams will not be made up if missed except for instances of medical emergency, university cancellation, or prearrangements made in the case of university-sponsored trips.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES AND STATEMENTS

School of Music Mission Statement

The School of Music at East Texas A&M University promotes excellence in music through the rigorous study of music history, literature, theory, composition, pedagogy, and the preparation of music performance in applied study and ensembles to meet the highest standards of aesthetic expression.

University Mission Statement

East Texas A&M University provides a personal educational experience for a diverse community of life-long learners. Our purpose is to discover and disseminate knowledge for leadership and service in an interconnected and dynamic world. Our challenge is to nurture partnerships for the intellectual, cultural, social, and economic vitality of Texas and beyond.

ETAMU Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance](#) webpage and [Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01](#). <http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>
<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf>

Academic Integrity

Students at East Texas A&M University are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

UNDERGRADUATE POLICIES

[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03](#)

[Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/documents/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyForm.pdf>

Students with Disabilities

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

East Texas A&M University

Velma K. Waters Library Room 162

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Email: studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

East Texas A&M University Supports Students' Mental Health

The Counseling Center at East Texas A&M, located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers counseling services, educational programming, and connection to community resources for students. Students have 24/7 access to the Counseling Center's crisis assessment services by calling 903-886-5145. For more information regarding Counseling Center events and confidential services, please visit www.tamuc.edu/counsel

Student Conduct and Tenets of Common Behavior

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment.

The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the Current University Student Guidebook

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum: <https://www.britannica.com/topic/netiquette>

Campus Concealed Carry Statement

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun.

Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

For a list of locations, please refer to the [Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus](#) document and/or consult your event organizer. Web url: _

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M- Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903- 886-5868 or 9-1-1.

Nondiscrimination Notice

East Texas A&M University will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

Technology Requirements

LMS:

All course sections offered by East Texas A&M University have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are technical requirements

LMS Requirements:

<https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements>

LMS Browser

Support: https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm

Zoom Video Conferencing Tool

https://inside.tamuc.edu/campuslife/CampusServices/CITESupportCenter/Zoom_Account.aspx?source=universitymenu

Access and Navigation

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@etamu.edu.

Note: Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a ETAMU campus open computer lab, etc.

Communication and Support

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your Instructor.

Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found here:

<https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport>

Health and Wellness

As an Institutional Member of the National Association of Schools of Music, East Texas State A&M University supports the Association's commitment to student health and wellness. The following web address provides links to information for resources related to physical and mental well-being, as well as assists in offering preventative measures that students can take to avoid serious and/or chronic conditions:

[Musician Health and Safety - East Texas A&M University](#)

This course content is aligned with the standards established by the Texas Education Code, covering areas such as Music, the Commissioner's Rules, Pedagogy and Professional Responsibilities, Technology, and English Language Proficiency. To review these standards, please visit the Music Education Program D2L Shell and select "Standards and Objectives."