



Syllabus for Beginning Class Piano I (Music 24A)

Course Information

Semester & Year: Fall 2022

Course ID & Section #: E053499

Instructor's name: Ed Macan

[if synchronous] Day/Time of required meetings: Monday/Wednesday 1:15 – 2:10 (on October 19 and December 7, 1:15-2:40; on December 14, 1:00 – 3:00)

[if in-person] Location: Creative Arts Bldg. (CA) 104

[if needed] Number of proctored exams: 0

Course units: 1.0

Instructor Contact Information

Office location or *Online: CA122

Office hours: M/W 3-4 pm or by appointment

Email address: ed-macan@redwoods.edu

Catalog Description

A course of instruction in piano in both group and individual formats. The course introduces students to the keyboard, rhythm notation and counting, note reading in the grand staff, fingering technique, simple chord patterns, basic elements of interpretation (tempo, dynamics, phrasing), and development of two-hand independence.

Course Student Learning Outcomes *(from course outline of record)*

1. Accurately realize pitch and rhythm content from grand staff notation in performance while maintaining a steady tempo.
2. Distinguish between legato and detached articulation directives in performance while demonstrating correct fingering technique and the ability to follow fingering instructions.
3. Demonstrate sufficient right hand/left hand independence to simultaneously maintain separate rhythms in the two hands, project the melody louder than the accompaniment, and maintain different articulations in the two hands when so directed.
4. Exhibit sensitivity to dynamics indications in performance.

Commented [EM1]:

Prerequisites/co-requisites/ recommended preparation

N/A

Accessibility

Students will have access to online course materials that comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and College of the Redwoods policies. Students who discover access issues with this class should contact the instructor.

College of the Redwoods is also committed to making reasonable accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. If you have a disability or believe you might benefit from disability-related services and accommodations, please contact your instructor or [Disability Services and Programs for Students](#) (DSPS). Students may make requests for alternative media by contacting DSPS based on their campus location:

- Eureka: 707-476-4280, student services building, 1st floor
- Del Norte: 707-465-2324, main building near library
- Klamath-Trinity: 530-625-4821 Ext 103

During COVID19, approved accommodations for distance education classes will be emailed to the instructor by DSPS. In the case of face to face instruction, please present your written accommodation request to your instructor at least one week before the first test so that necessary arrangements can be made. Last-minute arrangements or post-test adjustments cannot usually be accommodated.

Support for online learners during COVID-19

In response to COVID-19, College of the Redwoods moved the majority of its courses online to protect health and safety. As the faculty and students adjust to this change, clear communication about student needs will help everyone be successful. Please let me know about any specific challenges or technology limitations that might affect your participation in class. I want every student to thrive.

Evaluation & Grading Policy

[Should include info such as final grade calculations, rubrics, late assignment policy, and other grading practices]

Admissions deadlines & enrollment policies

Fall 2022 Dates

- *Classes begin: 8/20/22*
- *Last day to add a class: 8/26/22*
- *Last day to drop without a W and receive a refund: 9/2/22*
- *Labor Day (all-college holiday): 9/5/22*
- *Census date: 9/6/22 or 20% into class duration*
- *Last day to petition to file P/NP option: 9/16/22*
- *Last day to petition to graduate or apply for certificate: 10/27/22*
- *Last day for student-initiated W (no refund): 10/28/22*
- *Last day for faculty-initiated W (no refund): 10/28/22*
- *Veteran's Day (all-college holiday): 11/11/22*
- *Fall break (no classes): 11/21/22-11/26/22*
- *Thanksgiving (all-college holiday): 11/23/22-11/25/22*
- *Final examinations: 12/10/22-12/16/22*
- *Semester ends: 12/16/22*
- *Grades available for transcript release: approximately 1/6/23*

Students who have experienced extenuating circumstances can complete & submit the **Excused Withdrawal Petition** to request an Excused Withdrawal (EW) grade instead of the current Withdrawal (W) or non-passing (D, F & NP) grades. The EW Petition is available from the Admissions and Records Forms Webpage. Supporting documentation is required.

Academic dishonesty

In the academic community, the high value placed on truth implies a corresponding intolerance of scholastic dishonesty. In cases involving academic dishonesty, determination of the grade and of the student's status in the course is left primarily to the discretion of the faculty member. In such cases, where the instructor determines that a student has demonstrated academic dishonesty, the student may receive a failing grade for the assignment and/or exam and may be reported to the Chief Student Services Officer or designee. The Student Code of Conduct ([AP 5500](#)) is available on the

College of the Redwoods website. Additional information about the rights and responsibilities of students, Board policies, and administrative procedures is located in the [College Catalog](#) and on the [College of the Redwoods website](#).

Disruptive behavior

Student behavior or speech that disrupts the instructional setting will not be tolerated. Disruptive conduct may include, but is not limited to: unwarranted interruptions; failure to adhere to instructor's directions; vulgar or obscene language; slurs or other forms of intimidation; and physically or verbally abusive behavior. In such cases where the instructor determines that a student has disrupted the educational process, a disruptive student may be temporarily removed from class. In addition, the student may be reported to the Chief Student Services Officer or designee. The Student Code of Conduct ([AP 5500](#)) is available on the College of the Redwoods website. Additional information about the rights and responsibilities of students, Board policies, and administrative procedures is located in the [College Catalog](#) and on the [College of the Redwoods website](#).

Inclusive Language in the Classroom

College of the Redwoods aspires to create a learning environment in which all people feel comfortable in contributing their perspectives to classroom discussions. It therefore encourages instructors and students to use language that is inclusive and respectful.

Setting Your Preferred Name in Canvas

Students have the ability to have an alternate first name and pronouns to appear in Canvas. Contact [Admissions & Records](#) to request a change to your preferred first name and pronoun. Your Preferred Name will only be listed in Canvas. It does not change your legal name in our records. See the [Student Information Update form](#).

Canvas Information

If using Canvas, include navigation instructions, tech support information, what Canvas is used for, and your expectation for how regularly students should check Canvas for your class.

Log into Canvas at <https://redwoods.instructure.com>

Password is your 8 digit birth date

For tech help, email its@redwoods.edu or call 707-476-4160

Canvas Help for students: <https://www.redwoods.edu/online/Help-Student>

Canvas online orientation workshop: <https://www.redwoods.edu/online/Home/Student-Resources/Canvas-Resources>

Community College Student Health and Wellness

Resources, tools, and trainings regarding health, mental health, wellness, basic needs and more designed for California community college students, faculty and staff are available on the California Community Colleges [Health & Wellness website](#).

[Wellness Central](#) is a free online health and wellness resource that is available 24/7 in your space at your pace.

Students seeking to request a counseling appointment for academic advising or general counseling can email counseling@redwoods.edu.

Student Support Services

The following online resources are available to support your success as a student:

- [CR-Online](#) (Comprehensive information for online students)
- [Library Articles & Databases](#)
- [Canvas help and tutorials](#)

- [Online Student Handbook](#)

[Counseling](#) offers assistance to students in need of professional counseling services such as crisis counseling.

Learning Resource Center includes the following resources for students

- [Academic Support Center](#) for instructional support, tutoring, learning resources, and proctored exams. Includes the Math Lab & Drop-in Writing Center
- [Library Services](#) to promote information literacy and provide organized information resources.
- [Multicultural & Diversity Center](#)

Special programs are also available for eligible students include

- [Extended Opportunity Programs & Services \(EOPS\)](#) provides financial assistance, support and encouragement for eligible income disadvantaged students at all CR locations.
- The TRIO Student Success Program provides eligible students with a variety of services including trips to 4-year universities, career assessments, and peer mentoring. Students can apply for the program in [Eureka](#) or in [Del Norte](#)
- The [Veteran's Resource Center](#) supports and facilitates academic success for Active Duty Military, Veterans and Dependents attending CR through relational advising, mentorship, transitional assistance, and coordination of military and Veteran-specific resources.
- Klamath-Trinity students can contact the CR KT Office for specific information about student support services at 530-625-4821

BEGINNING CLASS PIANO I (MUSIC 24A)

(Syllabus updated 08 - 22)

Class meets @ M W 1:15 – 2:10 p.m.

Ed Macan, Ph.D.

e-mail: ed-macan@redwoods.edu

Office hours: M/W 3-4 pm in CA122 or by appointment

TEXTS: Palmer, Willard, Morton Manus, Amanda Lethco. *Alfred's Basic Adult Piano Course, Level One*. Van Nuys, California: Alfred Publishing Co., 1983. This text is available through amazon.com (https://www.amazon.com/Alfreds-Basic-Adult-Piano-Course/dp/0882846167/?encoding=UTF8&pd_rd_w=fT7wZ&content-id=amzn1.sym.5fe95cd4-8512-42fa-bf21-63d83b898785&pf_rd_p=5fe95cd4-8512-42fa-bf21-63d83b898785&pf_rd_r=EKN6E3X3X8V5E1B9QGF&pd_rd_wg=xYXAL&pd_rd_r=b16d6f16-9f33-4590-b4bc-3643d3b5eb67&ref_=pd_gw_ci_mcx_mr_hp_atf_m) for \$10.79, please procure it as soon as possible, no later than Wednesday, August 31.

COURSE DESCRIPTION. This course is designed for the beginning keyboard student; students who play fluently with both hands and read music with some fluency should enroll in Music 24B, 25A, or 25B (depending on level of attainment) instead. During the early weeks of the semester, students will gain familiarity with the keyboard; with basic rhythm notation; with pitch notation in both the treble and bass clefs; and with fingering directions and basic fingering technique. By the end of the semester, students will demonstrate the ability to (1) accurately realize pitch and rhythm content from grand staff notation in performance while maintaining a steady tempo; (2) distinguish between legato and detached articulation directives in performance while demonstrating correct fingering technique and the ability to follow fingering instructions; (3) demonstrate sufficient right hand/left hand independence to simultaneously maintain separate rhythms in the two hands, project the melody louder than the accompaniment, and maintain different articulations in the two hands when so directed; and (4) exhibit sensitivity to dynamics indications in performance. Music 24A is a one half lecture, one half lab course, and therefore alternates classroom and individual instruction.

GRADING. Grading will be a composite of three factors—**lab participation**, **recital participation**, and **progress**—each of which counts towards one-third of the final grade.

(1) Lab Participation.

As per its course outline, Music 24A, Beginning Class Piano I, is a one-unit course that is one-half lecture, one-half lab. The first four class meetings are 100% lecture; during the first class meeting I address the syllabus, and in the next three I present foundational information regarding introductory musical concepts, the basics of music notation, and the foundations of keyboard technique. It is vital that you be present at these four lectures, on August 22, August 24, August 29, and August 31, as you will be lacking critical information going forward if you are not. If you do miss any of those four lectures, you must first read the lecture, which you will find on the "Pages" section of the Music 24A Canvas page, then take the make-up quiz for the lecture(s) that you missed, which you will find in the "Quizzes" section of the Music 24A Canvas page. **Anyone who has missed ANY of these four lectures and has not taken the make-up quiz/quizzes for the lecture/lectures s/he missed by Friday, September 2 at 5 p.m. may be dropped from the course for non-participation.**

After Friday September 2, the day-to-day activities of the course will reflect its one-half lecture/one-half lab configuration. I will lecture approximately the first ten minutes of each class meeting. I ask that you do your best to be present by 1:15 pm, as you may miss the lecture if you are late. I will spend approximately the next 40 minutes giving individual lessons, while those students not involved in individual lessons will remain in CA104 practicing, with headsets on and external speakers off, so as to not disturb other students who will also be practicing. I will return to the classroom and give a brief five-minute lecture at the end of class before dismissal.

One third of your final grade for this course will be for lab participation. You will receive 10 participation points for each class meeting for which you are present the entire time. If you miss the opening lecture of a given class meeting but are present for the remainder, or if you are present at the opening lecture of a given class meeting but leave before the final lecture, you will receive 5 points. You will receive 0 points for any class you miss. You will have the option of cancelling out up to three lecture absences during the semester by reading and listening to the lecture for the class session you missed on the "Pages" section of the Music 24A Canvas page, then taking the quiz for that lecture, which you will find in the "Quizzes" section of the Music 24A Canvas page; this must be done within one week of the lecture in order to get the 10 points for that lecture. At the end of the semester, your lab participation grade will be assigned as follows: 270-300 points is an A, 240-265 is a B, 210-235 is a C, 180-205 is a D, and below 180 is an F.

You can track your participation points throughout the semester by using the Music 24A Canvas page's "Attendance" tool, which will show whether you were present for a given class meeting (10 points), late (5 points), or absent (0 points).

NOTE: Any student who misses four consecutive lectures through the end of week #10 without contacting me at some point during the period of absence is liable to be dropped from the course for non-participation.

(2) Recital Participation.

Another one-third of your final grade will be based on your recital participation. We will have three recitals: Wednesday, October 19 (from 1:15 to 2:40 pm), Wednesday, December 7 (from 1:15 to 2:40 pm), and Wednesday, December 14 (from 1:00 to 3:00 pm). For Music 24A students, the expectation is three pieces per recital. I understand some students suffer from stage fright, so a less-than-stellar performance at the recital will not necessarily negatively impact a student's grade, as long as the student has been working consistently throughout the semester, as manifested in private lessons. However, if a student performs poorly because s/he has not regularly attended class and/or has shown signs of not practicing regularly (evidenced in private lessons), then the recital performance will be a consideration in factoring the student's progress grade. If you miss the Final Recital, your recital participation grade is docked by two full grades; if you miss the Mid-Term or Practice Recital the week before finals, it's docked by one. Keep in mind that the more you play in front of people, the easier it becomes. [A note on recital etiquette: plan to stay until all students have finished playing. Recitals may exceed the ordinary 55-minute time block that otherwise governs Music 24A class meetings.] A student receives ten participation points for each recital that they participate in, so recital attendance also affects the lab participation grade.

(3) Progress.

The last one-third of your final grade is based on **progress**. I will be looking both at **quantity**--how much material you cover during the course of the semester--and **quality**--how well you master the material you have covered. Ideally, you want to strike a balance. All quantity and no quality is not good: there is no point of covering the whole book if you are not really mastering the pieces that you play. I would much rather you play fewer pieces but fully master the pieces you do play; as I hear you play individually over the course over the semester, I will assess whether you are progressively mastering the technical and musical problems raised by the various pieces in the book. When assigning a grade for quality of musicianship, I use the following scale:

- A: Student demonstrates complete mastery of all, or nearly all, of the course's principal concepts (i.e., the student learning outcomes listed in the "Course Description" paragraph).
- B: Student demonstrates complete mastery of many of the course's principal concepts, and adequate mastery of all of them.
- C: Student demonstrates adequate mastery of most of the course's principal concepts.
- D: Student is unable to demonstrate adequate mastery of several of the course's principal concepts.
- F: Student demonstrates mastery of few or none of the course's principal concepts.

While quality is the primary factor in assigning the progress grade, quantity is considered as well: learning a small amount of material perfectly but not doing anything else may indicate over-limited ambitions. A key element here is practice: without regular practice, improvement is not going to happen, and you should *not* plan to do all your practice during the two hours per week we meet in class. If you really plan to improve, plan to put at least one to two hours per week outside of class into practicing the piano. Regular practice is the key! It is much better to practice twenty minutes a session, three times a week, than to put in one two-hour session every other week.

[Note: there are nine practice rooms in the Creative Arts building, each with an upright acoustic piano, including four Bostons, three Yamahas, and a Kawai. If you do not have access to an acoustic piano at home, I strongly urge you to spend some time practicing on these pianos. Practice rooms are available on a first-come, first-serve basis, and are available whenever the Creative Arts building is open, generally 8am-9pm Mondays through Thursdays and 8am-5pm on Fridays.]

My assessment of your progress grade comes primarily from your recital performance, but individual lessons also contribute to this grade, especially as regards the quantity portion of the grade.

All final grades are letter grades, as follows: A, A-, B+, B, B-, C+, C, D, F. Final grades will be posted on Web Advisor, usually the Monday of the week after finals week. There is a Canvas page for this course, and grades are posted on it as they are earned. Please be aware the Canvas grade page format does not conform to my grading system in all details and while the running grade tallies you see on Canvas are reasonable approximations of your grade at a given point in time, your final grade appears on Web Advisor, not Canvas, and may not be identical to the grade the Canvas grade page indicates is your final grade.

CLASS SCHEDULE (subject to change in the event of instructor illness, pandemic, county-wide blackout, or other disaster).

08-22.	Introduction to the course; Introduction to the keyboard	
08-24.	Reading the treble, bass staves	
08-29.	Rhythm notation	10-24. p. 25, the slur; simultaneous slurring and separation between RH/LH
08-31.	Basics of finger and hand technique; pp. 9-12	10-26. pp. 26-27, syncopation; C major-F major-G major progressions 10-31. pp. 26-27, continued
09-07.	p. 13	11-02. pp. 28-29
09-12.	p. 14, dynamics markings	11-07. pp. 30-31, G position
09-14.	p. 15, playing two notes at once	11-09. pp. 30-31, continued
09-19.	p. 16	11-14. pp. 33, the sharp symbol, alternations between slurring and separation
09-21.	p. 17, playing with two hands	11-16.
09-26.	p. 17, concluded	11-28. pp. 35, G major-D7 progressions in triple meter
09-28.	pp. 18-19, the C major triad	11-30. pp. 32, alternations between slurring and separation, syncopation
10-03.	pp. 18-19, concluded	12-05.
10-05.	pp. 20-21, C maj.-G maj. progressions	12-07. PRACTICE FINAL RECITAL
10-10.	pp. 20-21, concluded	12-14. FINAL RECITAL, 1:00 p.m.
10-12.	pp. 22-23, syncopation, right hand melody	
10-17.	p. 24, triple meter, octave shifts	
10-19.	MID-TERM RECITAL	

NOTE: Your continued enrollment in this class after the end of the second week of the semester indicates that you have read, understood, and agreed to be bound by the terms of this syllabus. Please be aware that if you miss four consecutive class meetings at any point in the semester through the end of the tenth week, you may be dropped from the class. In order to be readmitted to the class after you have been dropped, you will have to justify your readmittance to me, and present a credible plan for passing the course with a “C” or higher. Also, be aware you will not be allowed to participate in any recital for which you have missed the previous four consecutive class meetings. If you plan to remove yourself from the class roster, remember that Friday of the tenth week (October 27) is the deadline for dropping classes. Please be aware that in accordance with college policy, incompletes will be given only in highly unusual circumstances, most often for unforeseeable medical emergencies. An extensive workload, academic or otherwise, will not be considered sufficient cause to grant an incomplete.

NOTE: College of the Redwoods complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act in making reasonable accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. Please present your written accommodation request at least one week before the first test so that necessary arrangements can be made. No last-minute arrangements or post-test adjustments will be made. If you have a disability or believe you might benefit from disability related services and may need accommodations, contact Disabled Students Programs and Services. Students may make requests for alternative media by contacting DSPS.