

DEREE COLLEGE SYLLABUS FOR:

MU 1011 PIANO LAB I
(Updated Spring 2012)

US CR: 3/0/3

PREREQUISITES: None

**CATALOG
DESCRIPTION:**

Introduction to the keyboard and the fundamentals of reading music at the piano. Students develop elementary keyboard techniques through group instruction and individual practice.
Does not satisfy the humanities requirement.

RATIONALE:

This course is designed for students with little or no keyboard skills. It is an introduction to the keyboard and basic notation. Emphasis is placed upon the understanding of the relationship between theory and practice in music and the reconstruction of notated music into sound. This course supports the understanding of music theory and prepares the student for all modules in the Music major.

LEARNING OUTCOMES: As a result of taking this course, the student should be able to:

1. identify musical notation on the grand staff and interpret symbols used in western music notation.
2. read understand basic rhythmic and melodic patterns and demonstrate them on the keyboard.
3. demonstrate elementary keyboard skills and techniques through the studied material, playing hands together within the pentachords of C, G, F, Am, Dm.
4. play major scales and harmonic minor scales in one octave, hands separately, starting on white keys; arpeggios of equivalent scales and their tonic triads in one octave, root position, hands separately.

**METHOD OF
TEACHING
AND LEARNING:**

In congruence with the learning and teaching strategy of the College, the following tools are used:

- Group and individual practical guiding instructions and demonstrations
- Practical application of skills reinforced by written work of notation at every stage (Class and homework exercises) reviewed in class

- Office hours: students are encouraged to make full use of the office hours of their instructor, where they can ask questions, see their assigned work results and/or go over lecture material
- Use of a Blackboard site, where instructors post lecture notes, assignment instructions, announcements and additional resources
- Practice sessions at the online learning centres of McGraw-Hill, which are designed to reinforce taught material
- Individual practice of a minimum 7-8 hours per week outside the designated class hours
- Attendance to two live piano performances to be discussed in class

ASSESSMENT:

Assessment <i>Performance assessments will be recorded and evaluated on fluency and accuracy of pitch and rhythm, technical control, realisation of performance directions and progress.</i>	Type	Final Course Marks	Word Limit	Learning Outcomes Assessed
Mid-term examination <u>Written assessment:</u> 20% <u>Performance assessment:</u> repertoire 50% scales/arpeggios/triads 30%	summative	40		1,2,3
Portfolio of notation exercises and participation in class discussions	formative	0		1,2,4
Final examination 2- hour cumulative <u>Written assessment:</u> 20% <u>Performance assessment:</u> repertoire 50% scales/arpeggios/triads 30%	summative	60		1,2,3,4

REQUIRED MATERIAL: Barratt, C. 1997. *The Classic Piano Course*, Omnibus Ed: books 1, 2, 3, Chester Music, London

Palmer, W. & Manus M. & Lethco A. 1994. *The Complete Book of Scales, Chords, Arpeggios and Cadences*: Includes All the Major, Minor (Natural, Harmonic, Melodic) & Chromatic Scales - Plus Additional Instructions on Music Fundamentals, Alfred Publishing Company, U.S.A.

FURTHER READING:

Ferguson, H. ed. 2010. *A Keyboard Anthology, First Series, Book I*, ABRSM, UK.

Hinson, M. 2004. *The Pianist's Dictionary*, Indiana University Press, Indiana

White, G. 2010. *Music First*, 6th edition, McGraw-Hill, New York

SOFTWARE**REQUIREMENTS:**

Use of internet skills for access to online learning centres and music databases

COMMUNICATION**REQUIREMENTS:**

Standard English for participation in class discussions.

WWW RESOURCES:

<http://www.mhhe.com/musicfirst6> (McGraw Hill online learning center)
<http://www.uk-piano.org/history/history.html> (UK piano page)
http://imslp.org/wiki/Main_Page (public domain music library)
<http://www.mmb.org.gr> (Music Library of Greece)

INDICATIVE CONTENT:

1. Posture: how to sit correctly: hand position and finger action, wrists, forearms, upper arms
2. Keyboard orientation
3. Notation: the concept of pitch and rhythm in music; the staff, the clefs, the notes, the grand staff, ledger lines, accidentals (sharp and flat signs); the beat, duration of tones, rests, stems, flags, beams, dotted notes, ties, meter and time signatures.
4. Five finger training on the pentachords of C, G, F, Am, Dm.
5. Pieces on the single and grand staff in elementary level, practice intervals in given fingering
6. Performing styles and techniques: staccato, legato, basic phrasing
7. Major and harmonic minor scales starting on white keys, in one octave, hands separately at a minimum speed MM60 per crotchet
8. Arpeggios of equivalent scales MM60 per crotchet and their triads, in root position only, hands separately
9. Practice and performance of studied repertoire