

PELLISSIPPI STATE TECHNICAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
MASTER SYLLABUS

CONTEMPORARY PIANO STYLES I  
MUS 1781

**Class Hours: 0.0**

**Credit Hours: 2.0**

**Laboratory Hours: 1.0**

**Date Revised: Spring  
00**

**Catalog Course Description:**

Individual instruction in keyboard jazz, blues, pop and rock for students with intermediate piano skills. Daily practice and workbook assignments are required. May be repeated for credit.

**Entry Level Standards:**

Student should have basic skill level in reading treble and bass clefs and be familiar with the major scales. A strong desire to learn to perform is essential.

**Prerequisites:**

Consent of instructor; audition may be required.

**Textbook(s) and Other Reference Materials Basic to the Course:**

*Keyboard Harmony for Today*, Joel Fairstein, 1990, Apieron Music, Knoxville. Instructor may assign other materials as needed.

**I. Week/Unit/Topic Basis:**

<b>Week</b>	<b>Topic</b>
1-15	Students will learn triads and 7th chords in all keys, chord symbol interpretation, and voice leading. These techniques will be applied throughout the semester to several pieces in various contemporary styles. The emphasis will be on mastering the fundamentals necessary for improvisation.
16	Final Exam Period

**II. Course Objectives\*:**

- A. Demonstrate knowledge of playing the piano at intermediate level. I, II, III, IV
- B. Evidence an understanding of music notation, the basic elements of music, and related terminology. III, IV
- C. Acquire an appreciation for quality performance relating to contemporary styles. I, II, III
- D. Experience the humanizing effect of music and examines capacity for affecting personal

development and self-expression. I, II, III

- E. Apply a disciplined method of approach in the pursuit of long-term goals. II, IV

\*Roman numerals after course objectives reference goals of the Liberal Arts department.

### III. Instructional Processes\*:

Students will:

1. Master appropriate repertoire and perform selected pieces as a final project, applying the skills developed in lessons to an actual musical performance. *Problem Solving and Decision Making Outcome, Active Learning Strategy, Transitional Strategy*
2. Interact with the instructor in evaluating technical skills and in discussing emotional content and personal reactions to the music being studied. *Communication Outcome, Personal Development Outcome, Cultural Diversity and Social Adaptation Outcome, Active Learning Strategy*
3. Develop written reports of recitals attended, emphasizing the correlation between information covered in class and the observation of principles in actual practice. *Communication Outcome, Cultural Diversity and Social Adaptation Outcome, Active Learning Strategy*
4. Keep a daily journal of practice time spent outside the studio and discuss with the instructor the quality and quantity of time spent in preparation for lessons. *Personal Development Outcome, Communication Outcome, Active Learning Strategy*

\*Strategies and outcomes listed after instructional processes reference Pellissippi State's goals for strengthening general education knowledge and skills, connecting coursework to experiences beyond the classroom, and encouraging students to take active and responsible roles in the educational process.

### IV. Expectations for Student Performance\*:

Upon successful completion of this course, the student should be able to:

1. Demonstrate technical fluency in the performance of selected repertoire. A, B, C, D, E
2. Recognize artistic excellence in music heard at recitals and in portions of his/her own assigned music. C, D
3. Apply knowledge, terminology, and technical skills learned in lessons to actual performance. A, B
4. Plan and monitor the effectiveness of personal practice schedules. D, E
5. Recognize the emotional effect(s) of musical experiences. C, D
6. Evaluate strengths and weaknesses in piano performance. B, C
7. Enjoy the personal accomplishment of achieving a quality performance of selected repertoire pieces. C, D, E
8. Analyze works from appropriate literature by comparing and contrasting forms, styles, and ideas. B, C

\*Letters after performance expectations reference the course objectives listed above.

## **V. Evaluation:**

### A. Testing Procedures: 20% of grade

At the end of the semester the student must present a polished performance of one memorized piece and one additional unmemorized piece. Additional material and pertinent technical exercises can be included at the teacher's discretion if the student's background and potential warrant it.

### B. Laboratory Expectations: 70% of grade

Five hours of outside practice per week are a minimal requirement for this course. At each lesson during the semester the student is required to perform for the instructor and to apply suggestions for improvement in subsequent lessons. The average of the weekly lesson grades reflects the student's weekly preparation and technical/artistic improvement.

### C. Field Work: 10% of grade

During the semester the student is required to attend two live performances of contemporary keyboardists during the semester. The keyboardist can appear as a soloist or as part of a group. A one-page paper in which the student evaluates the performance and applies concepts studied in class, should be turned in at the lesson following each performance.

## **VI. Policies:**

### Attendance Policy:

Pellissippi State Technical Community College expects students to attend all scheduled instructional activities. As a minimum, students in all courses must be present for at least 75 percent of their scheduled class and laboratory meetings in order to receive credit for the course. This applies to BOTH excused and unexcused absences. Departmental policy states that teachers will not teach make-up lessons unless the instructor has to cancel a lesson or unless the student has to miss a lesson in order to participate in a school function. In the event that a student's involvement in a school function necessitates his missing a regular lesson, it is the student's responsibility to inform the instructor one week in advance and to arrange for rescheduling at that time. Rescheduled lessons will be at a mutually convenient time.