MUSP 11A Course Outline as of Fall 2026

CATALOG INFORMATION

Dept and Nbr: MUSP 11A Title: CLASS PIANO 1
Full Title: Class Piano 1
Last Reviewed: 5/5/2025

Units		Course Hours per Week		Nbr of Weeks	Course Hours Total	
Maximum	2.00	Lecture Scheduled	2.00	17.5	Lecture Scheduled	35.00
Minimum	2.00	Lab Scheduled	1.00	6	Lab Scheduled	17.50
		Contact DHR	0		Contact DHR	0
		Contact Total	3.00		Contact Total	52.50
		Non-contact DHR	0		Non-contact DHR	0

Total Out of Class Hours: 70.00 Total Student Learning Hours: 122.50

Title 5 Category:	AA Degree Applicable
Grading:	Grade Only
Repeatability:	00 - Two Repeats if Grade was D, F, NC, or NP
Also Listed As:	
Formerly:	MUSCP 11A

Catalog Description:
This course is designed for students who are just starting their piano journey and want to study in a rigorous academic environment. Students will develop essential keyboard techniques including: fluency reading notes and rhythms, constructing and playing chords, the basics of improvisation, and performing beginning-level piano literature. (The curriculum of MUSP 11A corresponds to the materials of MUSC 2A.)

Prerequisites/Corequisites:

Recommended Preparation:
Course Completion of MUSC 1 and Concurrent enrollment in MUSC 2A and MUSC 3A

Limits on Enrollment:

Schedule of Classes Information:
Description: This course is designed for students who are just starting their piano journey and want to study in a rigorous academic environment. Students will develop essential keyboard techniques including: fluency reading notes and rhythms, constructing and playing chords, the basics of improvisation, and performing beginning-level piano literature. (The curriculum of

MUSP 11A corresponds to the materials of MUSC 2A.) (Grade Only)
Prerequisites/Corequisites:
Recommended: Course Completion of MUSC 1 and Concurrent enrollment in MUSC 2A and MUSC 3A
Limits on Enrollment:
Transfer Credit: CSU;UC.
Repeatability: Two Repeats if Grade was D, F, NC, or NP

ARTICULATION, MAJOR, and CERTIFICATION INFORMATION:

AS Degree:	**Area**			Effective:	Inactive:
CSU GE:	**Transfer Area**			Effective:	Inactive:
IGETC:	**Transfer Area**			Effective:	Inactive:
CSU Transfer:	Transferable	Effective:	Fall 2009	Inactive:	
UC Transfer:	Transferable	Effective:	Fall 2009	Inactive:	

CID:

Certificate/Major Applicable:
Both Certificate and Major Applicable

COURSE CONTENT

Student Learning Outcomes:
At the conclusion of this course, the student should be able to:
1. Read and perform notes and rhythms at the keyboard.
2. Play scales and primary chords in several major and minor keys.
3. Read and play beginning-level piano repertoire.

Objectives:
At the conclusion of this course, the student should be able to:
1. Play piano with both hands with appropriate technique.
2. Read bass and treble clefs.
3. Demonstrate chords and chord progressions.
4. Read and perform melodies, intervals, chords, and rhythm.
5. Play major, minor, augmented, diminished and seventh chords, and arpeggios.
6. Play 1-octave (minimum) major scales in keys up to 4 sharps and 2 flats.
7. Play 1-octave (minimum) minor scales in keys up to 2 sharps and 2 flats.
8. Sight-read with both hands at a beginning level.
9. Perform beginning-level piano repertoire.
10. Play a basic 12-bar blues.

Topics and Scope:

(Taught as fully-integrated lecture/lab)
I. Technique and Theory
   A. Using of firm attack of the fingers and the weight of the arm
   B. Basic use of the damper pedal

C. Changing dynamics
D. Legato vs. staccato
E. Blocked intervals within the octave
F. Major scales in keys up to 4 sharps and 2 flats
G. Minor scales in keys up to 2 sharps and 2 flats
H. Primary triads (I, IV, V) and V7 chords in each key studied
I. Major, minor, augmented, diminished triads (blocked and broken)

II. Music Reading
A. Bass and treble clefs
B. Rhythmic notation in simple and compound meters
C. Melodies, intervals, and chords with both hands
D. Beginning-level piano repertoire

III. Functional Skills
A. Harmonizing a melody with blocked primary chords
B. Improvising short melodies in five-finger patterns
C. Transposing melodies in five-finger patterns
D. Analyzing music for form, rhythms, pitch, and fingering
E. Playing basic 12-bar Blues using five-finger patterns

IV. Repertoire and Performance
A. In-class performance of assigned pieces that use the elements listed above
B. Developing confidence in solo performance

V. Developing effective practice routines

All Topics are covered in the lecture and lab portions of the course.

Assignment:

Assignments are sequenced to develop skill in technique, sight reading, harmonizing melodies, transposition, improvisation, and performance of repertoire.
Lecture-Related and Lab-Related Assignments:
1.Techniques
a. All major and minor five-finger patterns in various rhythms
b. Major and minor scales, hands together (one octave)
c. Chord progressions using I, IV, V, and V7 chords
d. Major, minor, augmented, and diminished triads, blocked and broken, hand over hand
2. Sight read beginning-level pieces
3. Functional Skill: Harmonizing, transposing and improvising melodies
4. Repertoire: Prepare a minimum of one assigned piece for midterm and final exams
5. Attendance and participation

Methods of Evaluation/Basis of Grade:

Writing: Assessment tools that demonstrate writing skills and/or require students to select, organize and explain ideas in writing.

None, This is a degree applicable course but assessment tools based on writing are not included because problem solving assessments and skill demonstrations are more appropriate for this course.	Writing 0 - 0%

Problem Solving: Assessment tools, other than exams, that demonstrate competence in computational or non-computational problem solving skills.

Harmonizing melodies, transposition, improvisation	Problem solving 20 - 30%

Skill Demonstrations: All skill-based and physical demonstrations used for assessment purposes including skill performance exams.

Sight reading, technique evaluations, in-class performances, midterm and final exam	Skill Demonstrations 60 - 75%

Exams: All forms of formal testing, other than skill performance exams.

None	Exams 0 - 0%

Other: Includes any assessment tools that do not logically fit into the above categories.

Attendance and participation	Other Category 5 - 10%

Representative Textbooks and Materials:
Essential Keyboard Repertoire, Volume 1. Olson, Lynn Freeman. Alfred. 2006. (classic).
Instructor prepared repertoire and materials.