

GRAYS HARBOR COLLEGE
SYLLABUS
2004-2006

MUSIC 117, 118, 119: FUNDAMENTALS OF PIANO TECHNIQUES I, II, III – 1 credit each

I. INSTRUCTOR: *Mrs. Phyllis Pieffer*

Office: 538-4188 Office Hours: T, W, Th 8:00-9:00 a.m., between classes or by appointment

Home Phone: 537-6863 Please do not call between the hours of 3:00 – 7:00 p.m. as I teach in my independent studio during that time. Email: ppieffer@ghc.ctc.edu.

II. PREREQUISITE: No prerequisite for Music 117. For Music 118, and Music 119, successful completion of the previous class with a C or higher or permission of the instructor.

III. TEXT: Alfred's Piano 101 by E. L. Lancaster/Kenon D. Renfrow. Books 1 and 2.

IV. COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course is designed for music majors and other students desiring basic keyboard skills. It equips the student with essential tools for developing musical knowledge and understanding in keyboard theory, musical creativity through improvisation and harmonization, sight reading and rhythmic solidity through ensemble playing, and ear-training through playing familiar songs by ear. Students become acquainted with repertoire from all periods, styles, and composers.

MUSIC 117 is a beginning course which covers the relationship of the grand staff notation to the piano keyboard, basic rhythm notation, major and minor five-finger patterns, triads, formulating major scales, improvisation, and playing by ear. Music 118 covers the continuation of major scales, formation of relative minor scales, triad inversions, seventh chords, chord symbols, continued improvisation, lead lines, and sight reading skills. Music 119 introduces augmented and diminished triads, chromatic and whole tone scales, more difficult rhythmic patterns and notation, and appropriate repertoire.

V. COURSE OBJECTIVES:

This course is designed to enable students to improve their abilities in the following areas. Letters cited after the individual outcomes refer to Grays Harbor College's five desired student abilities (D – Disciplinary Learning; L – Literacy; C – Critical Thinking; S – Social/Personal Responsibility; I – Information Use).

1. Completion of Alfred Group Piano text in one year- approximately ten units each quarter. (DL)
2. Development of functional skills at the keyboard, that is to be able to sight-read keyboard music adequately, improvise and play lead lines with accompaniment, and play selected repertoire. (DLCI)
3. Development of the ear through playing, listening, and critiquing. (DCS)
4. Discovery of the joy of making music by oneself and with a group. (DS)
5. Ability to analyze and evaluate music. (DC)

VI. METHODOLOGY:

1. Classes meet for two separate hours per week. Weekly assignments will be distributed between the two hours.
2. A soft cover folder is required for class assignments, handout sheets, etc.
3. Regular attendance is expected of all students. Absences cannot be made up.

VI. EVALUATION: Weekly classes will be evaluated and graded on preparation of material, completion of weekly goals, attitude and interest. Weekly work will be averaged and represent 66 2/3% of the final grade. Students are graded individually with consideration given to individual goals and capabilities. A final performance of selected repertoire and technique will represent 33 1/3%. Class attendance is considered in the grading. Grading will follow the Grays Harbor College standard as stated in the college catalog.

VII. Piano Lab and Practice Rooms: Piano lab keyboards may be used for practice when classes and lessons are not in session in Room 221. Practice pianos are also available in rooms 226, and 228 and 229.