REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS (must be purchased by the 2nd week of class)

- Matz, Carol. (1998) *The FJH Classic Note Speller, Bk. 1*
- Matz, Carol. (1998) *The FJH Classic Note Speller, Bk. 2*

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Elementary piano.

EXPECTED LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon completion of these courses, students should be able to:

- Understand the fundamentals of music reading
- Demonstrate basic musicianship skills
- Demonstrate healthy and productive practice habits at the piano
- Perform elementary level repertoire with comfort and confidence
- Identify, use, and define important musical terms
- Read at sight elementary level literature

METHODS FOR ASSESSING EXPECTED LEARNING OUTCOMES

The expected learning outcomes for this course will be assessed through:

- Note Speller / Sight Reading Assignments ......................... 30%
- In-class Performance Grades ........................................ 50%
- Final Playing Skills Assessment ................................. 20%
GRADING

Final grades are assigned based on the following scale:

A = 100 – 90%
B = 89 – 80%
C = 79 – 70%
D = 69 – 60%
F = Below 60%

Please be aware that grades are not rounded up in this course and that extra credit will not be made available.

GRADING RUBRIC FOR PERFORMANCES

Performances will be graded according to the following guidelines:

• An “A” performance (100 – 90%) exhibits thorough preparation and understanding of the material. Playing is secure, comfortable, and an appropriate performance tempo is adhered to. Attention is paid to details of articulation, dynamics, and phrasing.

• A “B” performance (89 – 80%) exhibits adequate preparation. The tempo is basically steady but some details of articulation, dynamics, and phrasing need attention. Technique is solid, but may seem a bit tense or uncomfortable.

• A “C” performance (79 – 70%) exhibits adequate preparation. The tempo is generally steady, but some details of articulation, dynamics, and phrasing need attention. Technique seems tense and uncomfortable.

• A “D” performance (69 – 60%) exhibits inadequate preparation. Tempo is uneven and technique is awkward or uncoordinated.

• An “F” performance (Below 60%) exhibits unacceptable work.

PRACTICE

As a general guideline, you should expect to practice approximately 20 minutes each day, Monday through Friday. Keep in mind that your practice needs may vary based on previous experience and natural physical ability.

At the beginning of the semester, each student will be responsible for signing up for a daily practice time-slot. Sign up sheets will be posted on each practice room door.
ATTENDANCE

Success in this course depends on regular attendance and practice. Experienced has proven (many times over!) that those students who attend class regularly perform much better than those who do not.

You will be allowed two absences for the semester without penalty, no questions asked. After that, every unexcused absence will lower your final course grade by 5%. Excused absences will only be granted for documented medical or family emergencies; for religious or cultural obligations; or for university-sanctioned events. Common cold-type illnesses will not be excused. Consistent lateness to class will be treated as an absence. Three tardies will be considered an absence.

Students who know they will require special accommodation for attendance or assignments for any of these reasons should inform me of the fact as far ahead of time as possible.

You are still responsible for the material you miss if you are absent, whether you are excused or not. Upon returning to class, you have one week to complete the work you missed. After a week has elapsed, all missed assignments will receive a grade of 0.

FINGERNAILS

To play the piano well and with confidence, fingernails must be kept very short. There can be no exceptions.

DROP / WITHDRAWING

Students are responsible for initiating a drop or withdraw, not the instructor.

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA) STATEMENT

Midland College is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. Any student who, because of a disabling condition, may require some special arrangements in order to meet course requirements should contact the instructor as soon as possible to make the necessary accommodations.

OBSERVANCE OF RELIGIOUS HOLY DAYS

Texas House Bill 256 requires institutions of higher education to excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day. The student shall also be excused for time necessary to travel. An institution may not penalize the student for the absence and allows for the student to take an exam or complete an assignment from which the student is excused. No prior notification of the instructor is required.