**COURSE INFORMATION**

**Course Name:** MVK 3173-11855 Commercial Class Piano, 1 credit

**Course Prerequisite(s):** MVK 2121 Class Piano 3, non-piano primary music majors only

# Course Logistics:

* Term:
* Meeting Times:

**Instructor**: Mr. David Rossow, Senior Instructor of Music

[drossow@fau.edu,](mailto:drossow@fau.edu,) (561) 297-1327, AL 229

**Office Hours**: Monday from 11am-12pm in person or online via Canvas. As circumstances may occasionally prevent me from being available during these times, it is best to email me in advance. If I am not available, I will do my best to set a meeting with you as soon as possible.

**Course Description:** MVK 3173 is the fourth of four class piano courses designed to assist non-piano music majors prepare for the piano proficiency requirement. This course develops rudimentary keyboard skills and practice strategies focusing on modes, chord progressions, chord symbols, and related material. Piano class is a group lab environment; consequently, individual coaching time will be limited. The instructor’s priority is testing students ready to pass proficiencies.

**\*Students must pass the entire Piano Proficiency Exam (PPE) prior to application for graduation adhering to the following timelines:**

* *Performance Majors (BM) -* must complete the PPE prior to application for recital
* *Music Education Majors (BME) -* must complete the PPE prior to application for student-teaching
* *Commercial Music (BM, all tracks) and Bachelor of Arts (BA) Majors -* must complete the PPE by the penultimate semester

**OBJECTIVES & OUTCOMES**

**Course Objectives:** Upon successful completion of this course students will complete all required

MVK 3173 proficiencies including:

1. Dorian mode
2. Blues scales
3. iib5-V7-i chord progressions
4. Major 6/9 voicings
5. ‘So What’ voicings
6. Slash voicings
7. Sight-reading in two formats:
   * + Play the correct chord based on the chord symbol given
     + Melody in RH with appropriate chord in the LH
8. Two prepared jazz or pop standards up to standard by the end of the term.

**MATERIALS**

* **Required Texts:** *MVK Class Piano Series* course pack available in the FAU bookstore. It must be put in a three-ring binder!
* **Headphones:** Standard mini adapter plug. Must be brought to class or you will not be allowed to test.

**GRADING AND ATTENDANCE POLICIES**

# Course Evaluation Methods:

* + **Attendance**
  + Students are required to attend two labs per week.
  + Two tardies or leaving early = One absence.

# Absences

* + Absences are excused only in the case of an emergency, provided the instructor is notified before the class. In cases of illness, an official doctor’s note must be presented to the instructor.
  + Students scheduled to participate in music department activities that conflict with a scheduled piano class must provide proper documentation from the supervising official in advance. Failure to do so will result in a marked absence.
  + Any performance date conflicts anticipated during the semester should be presented to the instructor as per above, within the first two weeks of the term. Forgeries are considered a serious infraction and will be treated accordingly by the department chair.
  + Students must attend the class piano section they are enrolled in unless given permission otherwise.

# Testing Procedure

* Testing will be held during class time on an individualized basis.
* The instructor will maintain the official exam sheet and sign off on each item passed by a student.
* The official exam sheet will be the record by which your grade and academic status for the course will be determined. A copy of the exam sheet is provided on Blackboard. **It is strongly suggested that you have the instructor sign off on your copy as a back up.**
* Final Exam – There will be a sign up sheet posted during the last week of classes. You will have a maximum of ten minutes to complete any unfinished requirements. Do not procrastinate! The final exam time is not meant for you to finish an entire semesters worth of work!
* The PPE is offered three times per semester for students fitting the following criteria:
* *Transfer Students* – Any student who has transferred from another university or college must take the transfer examination. For Fall semester entrance, it will be offered the week prior to the start of classes. For Spring semester entrance, it will be offered during drop/add week.
* *Students NOT enrolled in any of the Class Piano courses* - can only take the PPE midterm exam which will be given during the eighth week of the semester. Any student enrolled in a class piano course will not be allowed to take this exam!
* *Students enrolled in any of the Class Piano courses* - can complete additional categories of the exam during the scheduled final exam time for each class. Only students enrolled in the class will be able to sign up for final exam times. You will only have fifteen (15) minutes to test so make sure you are fully prepared!

**Grading Policy:** Grading: S/U based on:

# Attendance and Weekly Demonstrated Progress 25% Meeting all Proficiencies for the semester up to standard. 75% Total 100%

* + - Final Exam will count toward the completion of proficiency items. All proficiency requirements must be satisfied in order to receive a satisfactory grade for the class.

# Make-Ups/Late Work/Incompletes Requirements:

* Since testing occurs every class period, it is your responsibility to practice outside of class if it is not possible to attend.
* Instructors are not required to coach or test students outside of class time unless specifically arranged.
* If you are experiencing any other large- scale issues, contact the instructor immediately to formulate a resolution (if possible). Notifying your instructor after the fact will not be sufficient to warrant a resolution unless there was no other option.
* A grade of Incomplete will be assigned only in the case of extreme emergency or illness.

**COURSE POLICIES:**

**Course Requirements:** Students are expected to attend class, participate during sessions and to practice outside of class. The complete proficiency requirements must be attained before graduation can be certified. Requirements may be completed in advance. In this case, the student need not enroll in the entire sequence of four courses.

**Credit and Time Requirements:** Federal regulations, FAU and our accrediting body the National Association of Schools of Music have determined the following formula to represent the amount of work represented per credit hour: for each credit hour in a class, the combined contact hours in class and out-of-class student work should equal three hours. In the cases of applied music lessons, each individual area will provide specific out-of-class expectations that will lead to student success in the applied lesson. Large ensembles may meet additional hours beyond this formula to accommodate the rigors of the repertoire scheduled for performances.

**Course Communication Policy:** This course will be run in the test program of CANVAS. All materials, communication, etc will take place in Canvas (not Blackboard) at the following address: <http://canvas.fau.edu>

* Announcements
  + You are responsible for reading all announcements posted by the instructor. Check the announcements each time you login to be sure you have read all of them since your last login session.
* Course-related Questions
  + First read the syllabus to see if your answer is there.
  + Email is the best means of question-related communication
* Email & Message Policy
  + All electronic communication must originate from a valid FAU email address
  + Except for Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays, instructors will respond to messages generally within 24 hours.
* If this course does not appear in your Canvas list, it is likely that you are not fully registered. If you do not have Canvas, you will not receive emails, announcements, or materials for class. Make sure you set-up your preferences in regards to course notifications via Canvas. Details on how to do this can be found in the course welcome module.

**Classroom Etiquette:**

* Students are expected to refrain from the use of handheld Internet or texting devices during class and may only use computers to aid in note taking. Should a student be found in violation of this etiquette, they will be asked to leave class and take the absence.
* Cell phones should be turned off.
* Students are asked to sit in the chairs in a proper manner and keep feet from residing on other furniture.
* Out of courtesy to other students and to the professor, students are asked to arrive in a timely manner.
* No food or drink (except bottled water) is permitted.
* Please be courteous of the space and pick up after yourself when you leave.
* Talking, texting or any other disruptive behavior will result in dismissal from that particular class and an absence recorded

**Health and Safety:** Students are encouraged to access the FAU Department of Music Handbook or our website [www.fau.edu/music](http://www.fau.edu/music) to read the Department’s guidelines towards hearing and performance health and safety. <http://www.fau.edu/music/pdf/HEALTH%20AND%20SAFETY%20INFORMATION%20AND%20RECOMMENDATIONS%20FOR%20STUDENT%20MUSICIANS.pdf>

**UNIVERSITY POLICIES**

**Students with Disabilities:**

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA), students who require reasonable accommodations due to a disability to properly execute coursework must register with Student Accessibility Services (SAS)—in Boca Raton, SU 133 (561-297-3880); in Davie, LA 203 (954-236-1222); or in Jupiter, SR 110 (561-799-8585) —and follow all SAS procedures.

**Religious Accommodation:**

* In accordance with rules of the Florida Board of Education and Florida law, students have the right to reasonable accommodations from the University in order to observe religious practices and beliefs with regard to admissions, registration, class attendance and the scheduling of examinations and work assignments.
* Students who wish to be excused from coursework, class activities, or examinations must notify the instructor in writing ***two weeks in advance*** of their intention to participate in religious observation and request an excused absence. The instructor will provide a reasonable opportunity to make up material from excused absences.
* Any student who feels aggrieved regarding religious accommodations may present a grievance to the director of Equal Opportunity Programs. Any such grievances will follow Florida Atlantic University’s established grievance procedure regarding alleged discrimination. <http://www.fau.edu/provost/files/religious2011.pdf>

**Incomplete Policy**:

A grade of Incomplete will be assigned only in the case of extreme emergency or illness. This grade will only be assigned when such a situation precludes the students’ ability to complete the Final Performance. If such a situation should occur, the student should contact the instructor prior to the start of the performance and should be in EXTREME cases only. Should this occur, the student will be required to complete the course the next time it is offered as no make up for a collaborative performance is possible or reasonable.

**Code of Academic Integrity**:

Students at Florida Atlantic University are expected to maintain the highest ethical standards. Dishonesty is considered a serious breach of these ethical standards, because it interferes with the University mission to provide a high quality education in which no student enjoys an unfair advantage over any other. Dishonesty is also destructive of the University community, which is grounded in a system of mutual trust and places high value on personal integrity and individual responsibility. For full details of the FAU Code of Academic Integrity, see University Regulation 4.001at [http://wise.fau.edu/regulations/chapter4/4.001\_Code\_of\_Academic\_Integrity.pdf.](http://wise.fau.edu/regulations/chapter4/4.001_Code_of_Academic_Integrity.pdf)

**COURSE SCHEDULE:**

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| Weeks 1 - 2 | Blues Scales |
| Weeks 3 - 4 | Dorian Scales |
| Weeks 5 - 6 | Voicings – Major 6/9, ‘So What’, and Slash |
| Weeks 7 - 8 | iib5-V7-I chord progressions, all 12 keys |
| Weeks 9 - 11 | Prepared Piece 1 |
| Weeks 12 - 14 | Prepared Piece 2 |
| Weeks 15 | Sight-Reading |

**Official University Holidays (NO CLASSES)**

September 5th (M)– Labor Day

October 10-11th (M/T)– Fall Break

November 11th (F) – Veteran’s Day

November 24-27th (R-Sun) - Thanksgiving Recess

Last Day of Classes – Tuesday, December 6th

Reading Day – Wednesday, December 7th

**Final Exam:** M (Dec 7) 7:45am - 10:15am