

Course Syllabus

[Jump to Today](#)



Basic Musicianship

MUSIC 105

Music Hall 024, Tuesdays and Thursdays 2:10–3:00pm

Music Hall 034, Wednesdays 1:10–2:00pm

Instructors

Dr. Gregory Oakes

goakes@iastate.edu (<mailto:goakes@iastate.edu>)

Music Hall 215

Office Hours: Thursdays 10:00am and by appointment

Dr. Janci Bronson

jbronson@iastate.edu

(<mailto:jbronson@iastate.edu>) Music Hall 051

Office Hours: by appointment

Course Description

Through this course, the student will become familiar with the basic elements of musical notation, terminology, and structure. The student will understand the fundamentals of pitch, rhythm, meter, and harmony. The goal of the course is to create a strong basis of general musical familiarity and conversance through understanding the structure of music and putting it into practical application by playing it on the piano.

Learning Outcomes

Theory

By the end of the term, students will demonstrate functional fluency in

- Rhythm
- Scales
- Key signatures
- Basic stylistic elements of music

Students will demonstrate their achievement both through an original composition and a final exam at the end of the term.

Piano

- Play the piano with proper piano technique.
- Apply music theory to the piano by playing scales, chords, and arpeggios.
- Display the skills necessary to sight-read, and practice & perform piano repertoire.
- Read chord lead sheets to create accompaniments.

Students will demonstrate their achievement through two playing exams and a final exam at the end of the term

Supplies

White, Gary C. *Music First*. Available at the Campus Bookstore.

Alfred's Piano 101, Book 1

Bastien Music Flashcards

Blank staff paper (available to print from www.blanksheetmusic.net
(<https://www.blanksheetmusic.net>))

Notebook

Pencils

Metronome (MetronomeOnline.com [\(https://www.metronomeonline.com/join/\)](https://www.metronomeonline.com/join/))

Communication

Students must obtain an e-mail account and check it regularly. By default, the university-assigned e-mail address will be the one used. Weekly classroom assignments, SMART Board files, grades, exam and quiz information, and other important announcements will frequently be posted on Canvas and/or sent to students' Iowa State University e-mail address. Students are responsible for all included

content by checking both locations regularly.

Practice

- Students may reserve a daily time to practice on one of the pianos within the Music Hall practice rooms. Schedule online: <https://www.music.iastate.edu/schedule-practice-rooms-and-webex-rooms-s21-here-0> (<https://www.music.iastate.edu/schedule-practice-rooms-and-webex-rooms-s21-here-0>)
- Daily effective practice is vital in order to be successful in class piano
- Students should practice a minimum of 20-30 minutes, 5 days per week
- Frequent shorter practice sessions throughout the week are more beneficial than a few large blocks of practice time for your technical and musical development
- Practice on an acoustic piano and if necessary on an electronic piano with a full keyboard and weighted keys

Piano Lab Practice & Piano Tutors

The piano lab will be open twice weekly for additional individual practice and/or assistance from qualified music education majors who have completed the music major class piano sequence. *The last 15-20 minutes of each class will be reserved for students to perform on the grand piano for one another.* This will allow students to gain experience playing on a grand piano and to gain comfort performing for others. *Maximum of 12 students in the piano lab at a time.* **Spring '21 piano tutor TBA.**

Classroom Policies

- No food or drinks are allowed in the piano lab.
- Keep only your required materials at your piano. Other materials should be kept away from your piano and out of the aisles.
- Cell phones and other electronic devices should only be used during class for reading electronic course materials and taking notes.
- If you are ill, please wipe your piano, headset, and bench with a disinfecting wipe at the end of class.
- At the end of every class, place headsets on hook underneath piano, turn off piano, and place bench underneath piano.

Assessment

Final grades will consist of

Theory Portion (60% of final grade)

20% Homework—timeliness and accuracy.

25% Theory Mid-Term Exam. Questions may involve material from the text and classes.

20% Final Composition Project

35% Theory Final Exam

Piano Portion (30% of final grade)

33% Piano Exam 1

33% Piano Exam 2

34% Piano Final Exam

Attendance (10% of final grade)

Participating in class discussions & staying on task. Your attendance is expected at all classes.

Written documentation for excused absences must be received no later than two class periods following the absence. No documentation will be accepted once finals have begun. If you do miss for an excused reason, contact the professor as soon as possible. One unexcused absence will not count against your grade. Each subsequent unexcused absence will lower your grade for that portion (theory or piano) by one grade increment (i.e. A- to B+). 2 tardies equal 1 unexcused absence. Quizzes and exams will not be made up for an unexcused absence. In the case of an excused absence, it is the student's responsibility to contact the professor and make arrangements to make up missed work. If you do miss a class, you are responsible for obtaining all class notes, handouts, etc. from your classmates and by consulting Canvas. Any assignments turned in late will be marked down one full letter grade for each day past the due date.

The following percentage scale will determine grades for the class:

93%–100% A

90%–92% A–

87%–89% B+

83%–86% B

80%–82% B–

77%–79% C+

73%–76% C

70%–72% C–

67%–69% D+

63%–66% D

60%–62% D–

0%–59% F

Free Expression

Iowa State University supports and upholds the First Amendment protection of [freedom of speech](https://www.studentconduct.dso.iastate.edu/know-the-code-resources/resources-for-students/harassment-and-free-speech/free-speech) and the principle of [academic freedom](https://www.iowaregents.edu/plans-and-policies/board-policy-manual/39-academic-freedom) in order to foster a learning environment where open inquiry and the vigorous debate of a diversity of ideas are encouraged. Students will not be penalized for the content or viewpoints of their speech as long as student expression in a class context is germane to the subject matter of the class and conveyed in an appropriate manner.

Academic Dishonesty

The class will follow Iowa State University's policy on academic dishonesty. Anyone suspected of academic dishonesty will be reported to the [Dean of Students Office](http://www.dso.iastate.edu/ja/academic/misconduct.html).

Accessibility Statement

Iowa State University is committed to assuring that all educational activities are free from discrimination and harassment based on disability status. Students requesting accommodations for a documented disability are required to work directly with staff in Student Accessibility Services (SAS) to establish eligibility and learn about related processes before accommodations will be identified. After eligibility is established, SAS staff will create and issue a Notification Letter for each course listing approved reasonable accommodations. This document will be made available to the student and instructor either electronically or in hard-copy every semester. Students and instructors are encouraged to review contents of the Notification Letters as early in the semester as possible to identify a specific, timely plan to deliver/receive the indicated accommodations. Reasonable accommodations are not retroactive in nature and are not intended to be an unfair advantage. Additional information or assistance is available online at www.sas.dso.iastate.edu, by contacting SAS staff by email at accessibility@iastate.edu, or by calling 515-294-7220. Student Accessibility Services is a unit

in the Dean of Students Office located at 1076 Student Services Building.

COVID-19 health and safety requirements

The following new language developed in collaboration with the Academic Continuity Workgroup, Dean of Students Office, and Faculty Senate Executive Board, is to be included verbatim in the syllabus for any course you teach having an in-person (face-to-face) component.

The health and safety syllabus language distributed previously has been revised to reflect the change in Iowa State University's face covering policy. The following language supersedes the template distributed in SVPP COVID-19 Communication #15 on July 22, 2020.

COVID-19 health and safety requirements

Students are responsible for abiding by the university's [COVID-19 health and safety expectations](https://www.dso.iastate.edu/guidance-for-supporting-community-expectations-during-covid-19-pandemic) (<https://www.dso.iastate.edu/guidance-for-supporting-community-expectations-during-covid-19-pandemic>)

. All students attending this class in-person are required to follow university [policy](#)

([https://web.iastate.edu/sites/default/files/safety/COVID-](https://web.iastate.edu/sites/default/files/safety/COVID-19/fall/ISU%20COVID%20face%20covering%20policy.pdf)

[19/fall/ISU%20COVID%20face%20covering%20policy.pdf](https://web.iastate.edu/sites/default/files/safety/COVID-19/fall/ISU%20COVID%20face%20covering%20policy.pdf)) regarding health, safety, and face coverings:

- wear a cloth face covering in all university classrooms, laboratories, studios, and other in-person instructional settings and learning spaces. Cloth face coverings are additionally required to be worn indoors in all university buildings, and outdoors when other people are or may be present where physical distancing of at least 6 feet from others is not possible. Students with a documented health or medical condition that prevents them from wearing a cloth face covering should consult with [Student Accessibility Services](https://sas.dso.iastate.edu/) (<https://sas.dso.iastate.edu/>) in the Dean of Students Office.
- ensure that the cloth face covering completely covers the nose and mouth and fits snugly against the side of the face.
- practice physical distancing to the extent possible.
- assist in maintaining a clean and sanitary environment.
- not attend class if you are sick or experiencing symptoms of COVID-19.
- not attend class if you have been told to self-isolate or quarantine by a health official.
- follow the instructor's guidance with respect to these requirements. Failure to comply constitutes disruptive classroom conduct. Faculty and teaching assistants have the authority to deny a non-compliant student entry into a classroom, laboratory, studio, conference room, office, or other learning space.




These requirements extend outside of scheduled class time, including coursework in laboratories, studios, and other learning spaces, and to field trips. These requirements may be revised by the university at any time during the semester.

In accordance with university policy, instructors may use a face shield while they are teaching as long as they are able to maintain 8 feet of physical distance between themselves and students during the entire instructional period. Some form of face covering must be worn at all times in learning spaces regardless of the amount of physical distancing.


Faculty may refer matters of non-compliance to the Dean of Students Office for disciplinary action, which can include restrictions on access to, or use of, university facilities; removal from university housing; required transition to remote-only instruction; involuntary disenrollment from one or more in-person courses; and other such measures as necessary to promote the health and safety of campus.

It is important for students to recognize their responsibility in promoting the health and safety of the Iowa State University community, through actions both on- and off-campus. The university's faculty asks that you personally demonstrate a commitment to our [Cyclones Care campaign](https://www.care.iastate.edu/) (<https://www.care.iastate.edu/>). Iowa State University's faculty support the Cyclones Care campaign and ask you personally to demonstrate a commitment to our campaign. Your dedication and contribution to the campaign will also protect your family, classmates, and friends, as well as their friends and families. Our best opportunity for a successful fall semester with in-person learning and extramural activities requires all of us to collaborate and fully participate in the Cyclones Care campaign.

Course Summary:

Date	Details	
Tue Jan 26, 2021	 Introduction, Chapter 1: Pitch Introduction, Chapter 1: Pitch Introduction, Chapter 1: Pitch	2:10pm to 3pm
Thu Jan 28, 2021	 Chapter 2: Rhythm Chapter 2: Rhythm Chapter 2: Rhythm	2:10pm to 3pm
	 Chapter 1 Homework	due by 2:10pm

<https://canvas.iastate.edu/courses/78761/assignments/1313632>


 **Chapter 3: Simple Meter**
[https://canvas.iastate.edu/calendar?
event_id=381331&include_contexts=course_78761](https://canvas.iastate.edu/calendar?event_id=381331&include_contexts=course_78761)

2:10pm to 3pm

Tue Feb 2, 2021

 **Chapter 2 Homework**
<https://canvas.iastate.edu/courses/78761/assignments/1313633>

due by 2:10pm


 **Chapter 4: Compound Meter**
[https://canvas.iastate.edu/calendar?
event_id=381317&include_contexts=course_78761](https://canvas.iastate.edu/calendar?event_id=381317&include_contexts=course_78761)

2:10pm to 3pm

Thu Feb 4, 2021

 **Chapter 3 Homework**
<https://canvas.iastate.edu/courses/78761/assignments/1313634>

due by 2:10pm


 **Chapter 5: Sharps, Flats, and
Naturals**
[https://canvas.iastate.edu/calendar?
event_id=381322&include_contexts=course_78761](https://canvas.iastate.edu/calendar?event_id=381322&include_contexts=course_78761)

2:10pm to 3pm

Tue Feb 9, 2021

 **Chapter 4 Homework**
<https://canvas.iastate.edu/courses/78761/assignments/1313635>

due by 2:10pm


 **Chapter 6: Major Scales/Major
Keys**
[https://canvas.iastate.edu/calendar?
event_id=381327&include_contexts=course_78761](https://canvas.iastate.edu/calendar?event_id=381327&include_contexts=course_78761)

2:10pm to 3pm

Thu Feb 11, 2021

 **Chapter 5 Homework**
<https://canvas.iastate.edu/courses/78761/assignments/1313636>

due by 2:10pm

 **Chapter 7: Minor Scales/Minor
Keys**
[https://canvas.iastate.edu/calendar?
event_id=381330&include_contexts=course_78761](https://canvas.iastate.edu/calendar?event_id=381330&include_contexts=course_78761)

2:10pm to 3pm

Tue Feb 16, 2021

 **Chapter 6 Homework**
<https://canvas.iastate.edu/courses/78761/assignments/1313637>

due by 2:10pm

 [Chapter 7 Homework](#)
(<https://canvas.iastate.edu/courses/78761/assignments/1313638>) due by 2:10pm

Thu Feb 18, 2021

 [Key Signatures](#)
(<https://canvas.iastate.edu/courses/78761/assignments/1313645>) due by 2:10pm

Tue Feb 23, 2021

 [Composition Melody](#)
(<https://canvas.iastate.edu/courses/78761/assignments/1313643>) due by 2:10pm

Wed Feb 24, 2021

 [Piano Exam #1](#)
(<https://canvas.iastate.edu/courses/78761/assignments/1313646>) due by 1pm

Thu Feb 25, 2021

 [Review](#)
(https://canvas.iastate.edu/calendar?event_id=381314&include_contexts=course_78761) 2:10pm to 3pm

Tue Mar 2, 2021

 [Midterm Exam](#)
(https://canvas.iastate.edu/calendar?event_id=381318&include_contexts=course_78761) 2:10pm to 3pm

 [Theory Mid-Term Exam](#)
(<https://canvas.iastate.edu/courses/78761/assignments/1313651>) due by 2:10pm

Thu Mar 4, 2021

 [Harmonization](#)
(https://canvas.iastate.edu/calendar?event_id=381319&include_contexts=course_78761) 2:10pm to 3pm

Tue Mar 9, 2021

 [Chapter 8: Intervals](#)
(https://canvas.iastate.edu/calendar?event_id=381323&include_contexts=course_78761) 2:10pm to 3pm

 [Chapter 9: Chords](#)
(https://canvas.iastate.edu/calendar?event_id=381315&include_contexts=course_78761) 2:10pm to 3pm

Thu Mar 11, 2021

 [Chapter 8 Homework](#)
(<https://canvas.iastate.edu/courses/78761/assignments/1313639>) due by 2:10pm

 [Chord Progression](#)

<https://canvas.iastate.edu/courses/78761/assignments/1313641>) due by 2:10pm

Tue Mar 16, 2021

**Chapter 9 Homework**

<https://canvas.iastate.edu/courses/78761/assignments/1313640>)

due by 2:10pm

Thu Mar 18, 2021

**Planning Melody and Harmony Together**

https://canvas.iastate.edu/calendar?event_id=381324&include_contexts=course_78761)

2:10pm to 3pm

Tue Mar 23, 2021

**First Draft of Composition**

<https://canvas.iastate.edu/courses/78761/assignments/1313644>)

due by 2:10pm

Wed Mar 24, 2021

**Piano Exam #2**

<https://canvas.iastate.edu/courses/78761/assignments/1313647>)

due by 1pm

Tue Mar 30, 2021

**Chapter 10: The Harmonic System**

https://canvas.iastate.edu/calendar?event_id=381328&include_contexts=course_78761)

2:10pm to 3pm

Thu Apr 1, 2021

**Chapter 10 Homework**

<https://canvas.iastate.edu/courses/78761/assignments/1313631>)

due by 2:10pm

Thu Apr 8, 2021

**Modifying Melodies and Harmonies for Better Compositions**

https://canvas.iastate.edu/calendar?event_id=381320&include_contexts=course_78761)

2:10pm to 3pm

Tue Apr 13, 2021

**Revising and Rewriting Compositions**

https://canvas.iastate.edu/calendar?event_id=381316&include_contexts=course_78761)

2:10pm to 3pm

Thu Apr 15, 2021

**Continue Composition Revisions**

https://canvas.iastate.edu/calendar?event_id=381325&include_contexts=course_78761)







2:10pm to 3pm

Tue Apr 20, 2021

**Composition Final Version**

<https://canvas.iastate.edu/courses/78761/assignments/1313642>)

due by 2:10pm

Thu Apr 22, 2021	 <u>Class Performance of Compositions</u> (https://canvas.iastate.edu/calendar?event_id=381329&include_contexts=course_78761)	2:10pm to 3pm
Tue Apr 27, 2021	 <u>Review</u> (https://canvas.iastate.edu/calendar?event_id=381321&include_contexts=course_78761)	2:10pm to 3pm
Wed Apr 28, 2021	 <u>Piano Final Exam</u> (https://canvas.iastate.edu/courses/78761/assignments/1313648)	due by 1pm
Thu Apr 29, 2021	 <u>Review</u> (https://canvas.iastate.edu/calendar?event_id=381326&include_contexts=course_78761)	2:10pm to 3pm
Mon May 3, 2021	 <u>Theory Final Exam</u> (https://canvas.iastate.edu/courses/78761/assignments/1313650)	due by 12pm
	 <u>Roll Call Attendance</u> (https://canvas.iastate.edu/courses/78761/assignments/1313649)	
