

De Anza College

Music 18-A: Intermediate Piano I, Spring 2025 (CRN # 48203)

Prof. John David Thomsen

Time and Place: Friday 9:30-12:20 (A-29)

E-Mail: thomsenjohn@fhda.edu **email is the best way to contact me.**

Voicemail: 650-949-7899 (Press ## then ext. 3160)

Office Hours: Friday, 9:00-9:30 and Thursday, 12:00-12:30 in A-29

Required Texts: “The Joy of First Classics” and “The Joy of First Year Piano”, (Both edited by Denes). **Other materials may also be used depending on each student’s ability.**
Please note that we will discuss where to find online public domain material. Additional PDFs created by the instructor will also be made available to students.

Important Dates:

First day of instruction at De Anza College is April 11th (Attendance is required)

Last Day to Drop without a “W” recorded, April 20th.

Last Day to Add the class, April 20th.

Last Day to Drop with a “W” recorded, May 30th.

The final will take place on June 27th, at 9:15. No work accepted after the Final

---Important---

Syllabus assignment is due on April 11th (Hard-Copy). If you do not submit the syllabus assignment by the due date, you will be dropped from the class.

Prerequisites: Successful completion of Music 12-C or similar class at another college.
(Students should have the ability to read treble and bass clef very well).

Student Learned Outcome (SLO): Students will demonstrate accurate piano technique on major and minor scales, given arpeggios and major minor and primary triads in root position. Additionally, the student will demonstrate a more advanced understanding of interpretation and historical contexts of Baroque and Classical piano literature.

Class Participation: Students are **strongly** encouraged to participate in class time discussions, performing and other activities that will take place during the regularly occurring class time. Classroom activities will include performing for your colleagues, assessment of colleague performances as well as ensemble practice. Again, will not receive points for attending class but classroom discussions and activities are an essential part of this piano class.

Practice: Students are expected to practice an average of at least 30 minutes each day (3+ hours per week). On campus practice rooms will be available. Students are recommended to have access to an acoustic or electronic keyboard, but this is not required.

Homework/Assignments (5 points each): Homework will be assigned weekly and will make up a major portion of your final grade in the class. The homework topic and assignments will be reviewed during class. We will spend time during class reviewing each assignment and practicing these pieces together. Be sure to observe the due dates for each assignment as well as assignment details. These details may include specific performance instructions as well as submission details. All assignments may be uploaded on the canvas platform for credit, but this is not required. All late assignments may receive no more than half credit (1 minute late to one week). **Late assignments will not be accepted more than one week after the due date.** Be sure to check your grade for each assignment and read any comments from the instructor.

Midterm and Final (15 points each): Students will have one midterm performance and one final performance. **The format for the midterm and final will be a performance for your colleagues and instructor during class.** The specific work will be assigned by the instructor. The work performed for either the midterm or final does not need to be memorized.

Extra credit: Extra credit assignments will be offered during the quarter, but extra credit assignments should not be used in lieu of general homework assignments.

Weekly Assignments: Canvas will include the weekly assignments, as well as important PDFs and assignment details. Your instructor will make available all the important PDFs to you through Canvas. When using Canvas, it is the student's responsibility to review and read carefully the material made available in the modules if submitted online. Please always check due dates for assignments as well as assignment details. **Assignments may be submitted by uploading the assigned material through the Canvas platform but, this is not required.** Check your grade for every assignment and read the comments from your instructor. You may have missed something when you submitted your assignment.

Rubric for performance assignments: Piano Performances: Accurate notes (50%) and Accurate rhythm/continuity (50%). The rhythm must also include good continuity. Good continuity means playing with a steady tempo without hesitation or pauses.

5 pts A perfect or near perfect performance The student has performed the assignment with 90%-100% accuracy of notes and rhythm/continuity	4 pts Passing performance Notes and rhythm/continuity are approaching 90% accuracy but not quite there.	3 pts Not a passing performance Student can play through the entire piano composition but notes and rhythm/continuity are less than 70% accurate.	2 pts Work in progress The student is still working on the composition and is not able to play through the entire work. Student is only able to perform 20-40% of the composition.
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Scale Assignments:

5 pts Full Marks Notes and fingering are 100% accurate and student demonstrates good continuity (with or without the metronome).	4 pts Passing performance Student plays with accurate notes and fingering but does not demonstrate continuity (with or without the metronome).	3 pts Work in Progress Student demonstrates the incorrect fingering and/or wrong notes for the scale. Additionally, student does not demonstrate good continuity.	0 pts No Marks Student either demonstrates the wrong assignment or the scale is unrecognizable.
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Rubric for Midterm and Final Performance:

Rhythm/Continuity of performance: 50% (Be sure to pick a comfortable tempo.)

Accuracy of notes: 50%. Other aspects of the performances such as articulation, dynamic variation and other nuances will be taken into consideration when assessing more advanced student performances.

The student has performed the assignment with 90%- 100% accuracy of notes and rhythm/continuity	Notes and rhythm/continuity are approaching 90% accuracy but not quite there.	Notes and rhythm/continuity are at least 70% accurate.	The student can play through the entire piano composition, but notes and rhythm/continuity are less than 70% accurate. Student may be given an opportunity to submit another video performance for a higher possible grade if improvements have been made.
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Drop Policy: Dropping a course is the responsibility of the student. Students are enrolled in the course until they have followed the drop procedure. The instructor will not drop a student after the first day of instruction. The only exceptions to this are hospitalization (This requires a note from a doctor on letter head with contact information), death or incarceration all of which will need proof by documentation. Forgetting to drop the class is not a serious situation that qualifies for a late drop. If a student no longer attends class from the “W” drop date, an FW (Failure to withdraw) will be recorded. Late drops require a signature from the dean with written documentation of the serious circumstance. The most important thing to do if a situation does arise is to communicate with your instructor immediately.

Receiving an "INC": In the event of an emergency situation, whereby a student misses the final, the last assignment or something of that nature, students can receive an incomplete so that the missing work may be made-up within a time frame discussed between the instructor and the student. An incomplete will not be granted because of poor classroom performance or missed classroom participation. Additionally, the missing work must be completed by the following quarter of the academic year and must include some written documentation for the change of grade from the recorded incomplete. Forgetting the time or date of the final does not qualify as an emergency. You will not be granted an “INC” if you forget to show for the final. To receive an incomplete, you must have already completed at least 75% of the class work.

Grading:

All grading is based on homework, performance quizzes as well as the midterm and final performances. The midterm and final are performances for the class and not just the instructor.

A	100% -94%	A-	<94% --90%	
B+	<90%--87%	B	<87%--84%	B- <84%--80%
C+	<80%--77%	C	<77%--70%	
D+	<70%--67%	D	>67%--64%	D- <64%--60%
F	<60%--0.0%			

INC: To receive an INC the student must have completed 75% of the work and have documentation proving the serious circumstance.

FW: A failure to withdraw grade will be recorded instead of an F if a student no longer attends a class after the last day to drop with a “W” recorded.

EW: Excused Withdrawal can also be requested by the student. This is outlined by the school at <https://www.deanza.edu/admissions/withdrawals.html>.

Weekly Topics/Assignments:

Please note a more detailed description of each topic can be found on the Canvas page. **Please note that we will often review other related material not detailed in this calendar or on Canvas. This material is to help each student develop their technical, reading or ensemble skills.**

Performance assignments are due each Friday if performed during class. Students also have the option of uploading their performance assignment on Canvas (online) by the following Sunday. Students are expected to review each assignment **before** the class meeting.

Week 1: For our first class meeting we will do a quick syllabus review. Assessment piece due: In-person performance due April 11th. (Online upload due the following Sunday). Syllabus assignment is due April 11th (HARD COPY ONLY). **You must show up to class.**

Week 2: Articulation assignment. In-person performance due April 18th (online upload due the following Sunday).

Week 3: Sixteenth note assignment. In-person performance due April 25th (online upload due the following Sunday).

Week 4: Scale assignment (E, D, C, G harmonic minor). In-person performance due May 2nd (online upload due the following Sunday).

Week 5: Midterm performance preparation on May 9th. This will be a practice performance of your midterm composition. Please do not skip this lesson with your instructor.

Week 6: Midterm performance. In-person performance May 16th. THE MIDTERM MUST BE PERFORMED DURING CLASS. (We will review new scales each week after the midterm)

Week 7: Compound meter assignment. In-person performance due May 23rd (online upload due the following Sunday).

Week 8: Transposition assignment. In-person performance due May 30th (online upload due the following Sunday) Note that we will continue to review scales during class each week.

Week 9: Scale performance (Scales using all black keys) In-person performance for both assignments due June 6th (online upload due the following Sunday).

Week 10: Irregular/Mixed meter assignment. In-person performance for both assignments due June 13th (online upload due the following Sunday).

Week 11: Final performance preparation on June 20th. This will be a practice performance of your midterm composition. Please do not skip this lesson with your instructor.

Week 12: Final Performance. This will be a live recital performance for your colleagues and instructor during class. June 27th (9:15).

Academic Integrity: Please note that your instructor does not expect any student to cheat in this piano class. However, you should be aware of the college Academic Integrity Policy and its consequences for students. The college follows the legal opinion set forth by the California Community Colleges' legal department which limits the consequences of an act of academic dishonesty to a failing grade on the activity, assignment, or test involved.

Disruptive Behavior: The college will enforce all policies and procedures set forth in the *Standards of Student Conduct* (see catalog). Any student disrupting the class may be asked to leave that class. This means that a student will be removed from any Zoom class if they engage in disruptive behavior. Administrative follow-up may result.

Disabled Student Services:

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, De Anza College is committed to providing equitable access to learning opportunities to students with documented disabilities (e.g. mental health, attentional, learning, chronic health, sensory, or physical issues).

You can meet with a Disabilities Support Services (DSS) counselor or Learning Disability (LD) Specialist to discuss any accommodations or specific learning needs you may have. If you have a disability-related need for reasonable accommodations or services in this course, you will need to provide the instructor with a Test Accommodation Verification (TAV) form from the DSS office.

Students are expected to give 5 (five) days-notice of the need for accommodations. Students with disabilities may obtain this form by contacting their DSS counselor or LD Specialist at (408) 864-8753.

Other important links and contact information:

Online Resource Hub for Students (You will be able to find information on using Canvas as well as Zoom from this page):

<https://www.deanza.edu/online-ed/students/remoteteaching.html>

Student Success Center: <http://deanza.edu/studentsuccess/>

De Anza College Disability Support Programs & Services: assistance for students with disabilities, <http://www.deanza.edu/dsps/>

Academic Integrity at De Anza College:

https://www.deanza.edu/gov/academicsenate/academic_integrity.html