

De Anza College

Music 12-A: Class Piano I, Winter 2025 (CRN # 38197)

Prof. John David Thomsen

Time and Place: Thursday, 12:30-3:20, 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: Thursday, 12:00-12:30 and Friday, 9:00-9:30 in A-29

Recommend Materials: Electronic Keyboard or Piano. The keyboard does not have to be a full 88 key piano, but the key size must be full size. Practice rooms are available.

Required Texts: "The Joy of First Year Piano" by Denes Agay. Please note that we will discuss where to find other 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 January 9th (Attendance is required)

Last Day to Drop without a "W" recorded, January 19th.

Last Day to Add the class, January 20th.

Last Day to Drop with a "W" recorded, February 28th

The final will take place on March 27th. No work accepted after March 27th

---Important---

Syllabus assignment is due on January 9th (Hard-Copy). If you do not submit the syllabus assignment by March 9th, you will be dropped from the class.

Student Learned Outcome (SLO): The successful student will demonstrate the basic knowledge of music notation enabling them to find pitches to be played on the keyboard and for the amount of time suggested by standard proportional durations. The successful student will be able to play major and minor scales up to four sharps and flats with a high degree of accuracy.

Class Participation: Students are **strongly** encouraged to participate in class 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.

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 but it is strongly suggested that students have outside access to an acoustic or electronic keyboard with full size keys but not necessarily a keyboard with all 88 keys.

Homework/Assignments: Written and performance 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 assignments together. Be sure to observe the due dates for each assignment as well as assignment details. All late assignments may receive no more than half credit. **Late assignments will not be accepted more than one week after the due date.** Assignments are generally worth 5 points each.

Rubric for performance assignments:

Piano Performance from “Joy of First Year Piano”: 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.

<p>5 pts A perfect or near perfect performance The student has performed the assignment with 90%-100% accuracy of notes and rhythm/continuity</p>	<p>4 pts Passing performance Notes and rhythm/continuity are approaching 90% accuracy but not quite there.</p>	<p>3 pts Not a passing performance Student can play through the entire piano composition, but notes and rhythm/continuity are less than 70% accurate.</p>	<p>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.</p>
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Scale Assignments:

<p>5 pts Full Marks Notes and fingering are 100% accurate and student demonstrates good continuity (with or without the metronome).</p>	<p>4 pts Passing performance Student plays with accurate notes and fingering but does not demonstrate continuity (with or without the metronome).</p>	<p>3 pts Work in Progress Student demonstrates the incorrect fingering and/or wrong notes for the scale. Additionally, student does not demonstrate good continuity.</p>	<p>0 pts No Marks Student either demonstrates the wrong assignment or the scale is unrecognizable.</p>
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Midterm and Final (10 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 in the virtual classroom.** The specific works will be assigned by the instructor. The work performed for either the midterm or final does not need to be memorized.

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.

Extra credit: Extra credit assignments will be offered during the quarter. Extra credit assignments should not be used in lieu of general homework assignments. Extra credit assignments are generally worth the same as the other weekly assignments (5 points).

Receiving an "INC": In the event of an emergency, 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%--74%	C-	<74%--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>.

Assignments: Please verify the due dates for every assignment. If you prefer to upload your assignment, double check the due dates online. Uploaded assignments are generally due two days after the in-class due date. We will review every assignment (written or performance) during class. All assignments are generally worth 5 points or a fraction of depending on your performance. The general rubrics (grading criteria) will be discussed during class and are posted online. All late assignments may receive no more than half credit. **Late assignments will not be accepted more than two weeks after the due date. No work will be accepted after the final performance**

Calendar

Assignments are generally due each Thursday with an option to upload to Canvas by the following Sunday.

Weeks 1 and 2: Pitch notation assignments #1 and #2, Clapping assignments #1 and #2. Piano performance, page 11 (Review during class only), and page 12 (for a grade) from “Joy of First Year Piano”. In-person performance due January 16th (online upload due following Sunday).

Week 3: Piano performance, page 15 from “Joy of First Year Piano”. Pitch notation assignments #3, Clapping assignments #3. In-person performance due January 23rd (online upload due following Sunday).

Week 4: Piano performance, page 16 **or** page 13 from “Joy of First Year Piano”. Pitch notation assignment #4. In-person performance due January 30th (online upload due following Sunday).

Weeks 5: C major Scale Performance. All scales are performed two octaves (ascending and descending) and performed hands separately. Pitch notation assignment #5. We will also spend time reviewing the sharps scales. In-person performance due February 6th (online upload due following Sunday).

Week 6: Practice midterm performance for instructor only. **Extra credit assignment:** Page 14 “Pleading Child” or Page 22 “Hebrew Melody”. In-person performance due February 13th (online upload due following Sunday).

Week 7: **Midterm performance.** Pick one of the following pages 17, 18, 19, 20, or 21 from “Joy of First Year Piano” **In-person performance due February 20th.** **THE MIDTERM MUST BE PERFORMED DURING CLASS.** (We will review new scales each week after the midterm)

Week 8: Open Lab time. No assignments due this day BUT we will spend time reviewing the scales. **Extra credit assignment:** Page 23-or- Page 26 (Either piece). In-person performance due February 27th (online upload due the following Sunday).

Week 9: Page 29 from “Joy of First Year Piano”. In-person performance due March 6th (online upload due following Sunday). We will also continue to review scales each week.

Week 10: Page 25 from “Joy of First Year Piano”. Scale performance: Pick two of the following scales: G, D, A, or E major scale. In-person performance due March 13th (online upload due following Sunday). All scales are performed two octaves (ascending and descending) and performed hands separately. ---**Extra credit assignment:** Page 28-or- Page 31 (Both pieces). In-person performance due March 13th (online upload due the following Sunday).

Week 11: Practice Final performance for instructor only. Flat Scales Performance: Pick two of the following scales: F, Bb, Ab, or Eb major scale. In-person performance due March 20th (online upload due following Sunday). All scales are performed two octaves (ascending and descending) and performed hands separately. -- Practice final performance for instructor only IN-PERSON.

Week 12: **Final In-Person Performance (Thursday, March 27th at 11:30):** Students will pick one piece from the following for the final performance: Pages 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 42, 43, or 45 from “Joy of First Year Piano”. ----**No work will be accepted after the final.**----

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/academic_senate/academic_integrity.html