COURSE OBJECTIVE:
In the Beginning Keyboard course, students will develop skills in piano performance in these areas: elementary-level technique, elementary to early-intermediate music reading skills, rhythmic skills, major and minor scales, chords, and arpeggios, and piano pieces.

Pre-Requisite class: None

Class meets UW System Shared Learning Goals No. 1 & 3.
1. Knowledge of Human Cultures and the Natural World including breadth of knowledge and the ability to think beyond one’s discipline, major, or area of concentration. This knowledge can be gained through the study of the arts, humanities, languages, sciences, and social sciences.
3. Effective Communication Skills including listening, speaking, reading, writing, and information literacy.

This class satisfies Arts GER because it will teach you to:
Arts GER (A) Definition: (a).1. “A branch of learning focusing on the conscious use of skill and creative imagination in the production of artistic objects or performance that stress values that stand outside conventional ideas of utility”
  
  Criterion: (b). 1. “Demonstrate comprehension of historical, philosophical, theoretical, or aesthetic perspectives commonly used in the understanding of a specific art.”
  
  Criterion: (b). 2. “Apply knowledge of artistic principles, conventions, methods, and practices through the study of works of art.”

Outcome #1: The student will develop and demonstrate proper keyboard technique and knowledge of basic music reading and application as it applies to piano performance.

Outcome #2: The student will perform and examine piano literature at the fundamental stages of mastery from a variety of musical periods, and will apply appropriate phrasing, dynamics and interpretation.

IMPORTANT DATES: GER OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT: Final exam
Section 202 (MW 1:00-2:15) Friday December 22, 12:30-2:30.
Section 203 (MW 11:00-12:15) Saturday December 16, 10-12 AM.
Failure to attend will result in an “F” grade.

CLASS POLICIES:
Class begins promptly and attendance will be taken. Students are expected to attend all classes. When you are in class I must have your undivided attention. Absolutely no cell phones or computer use during class.

Time Commitment: The student should commit 46 hours of in-class lecture, presentation, and performance, and approximately 96 hours (total) in reading, outside assignments, and studio practice toward successful completion of this course.

It is your responsibility to:
1. Come to class on time and stay until the very end.
2. Bring a notebook and pen or pencil to each class. A 3-ring binder is recommended for organizing the many handouts of this class.
3. Buy the music books listed and bring them with you to the first class.
4. Practice the assignments outside of the class meeting time (2 hours for every hour of class, or roughly 1 hour DAILY practice).

REQUIRED TEXT:
You must purchase the textbook for this course. It is listed below, and is available for purchase at the UWM virtual bookstore.

ISBN 978-1-60904-117-5 (CD is NOT required, and used is acceptable)
GRADING:

**Attendance and Participation 30%:
After 2 absences, attendance points will only be given for absences that are approved BEFOREHAND by me. If you end up stuck in traffic or your pet dragon dies, text or email me BEFORE class begins. Each additional absence will lower your attendance grade by 3 points out of 30 for each absence, including the first two forgiven absences. I.e., if you miss 3 classes with no excuses, your attendance grade will be 21/30, C-. 4 classes is 18/30 or D-.

**Quizzes: 40%
Biweekly quizzes will be a combination of written work and playing pieces from the textbook or weekly assignments. Number of quizzes may vary.

**Final Exam 30%
A performance of two pieces: Fur Elise (either simple or advanced version) and a second piece of your choice; the second piece may be chosen from pages 121-124 from the textbook or can be any piece of your choosing that is approved by me for its level of difficulty. The final will occur in my office on a 9' Steinway grand piano, Music 421.

GER OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT: Final exam – performance of two pieces (see final exam rubric below)

Performance Quizzes and Final graded on: Notes, fingering, and rhythm accuracy, as well as articulation (staccato/legato) and dynamics when relevant. See attached rubric.

Grading scale:
A: 92-100
A-: 90-92
B+: 87-89
B: 83-86
B-: 80-82
C+: 77-79
C: 73-76
C-: 70-72
D+: 67-69
D: 63-66
D-: 60-62
F: Below 60

**Extra credit—2 points per performance: I will make a list of piano performances taking place on campus. Attend the concert and write a short reflection on the performance (e.g. what pieces you liked the best, why, what surprised you, what you would liked to hear more of, what you didn’t like). Email it to me within ONE WEEK of the performance for the points (NO exceptions). Max 3 performances.

INCOMPLETE:
Students may be eligible for an incomplete. The incomplete must be resolved by the eighth week of the next semester. If the incomplete is not resolved, it will become an “F”. It is the student’s responsibility to contact the professor in order to set up an appointment for reconciliation of the incomplete.

The following is an important link for all pertinent university information: [http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/Secu/Syllabus-Links.pdf](http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/Secu/Syllabus-Links.pdf)
**FINAL EXAM – GER ASSESSMENT:**
You will have fifteen minutes to take your exam.
You may practice in Room 270 before your exam. The exam will be held in Room 421
If you do not show up for the exam, you could receive an “F” for the course.
You will perform two piano pieces as determined by the professor. These pieces will be chosen by the midterm date of the course.

**Final Exam GER Assessment based on Rubric:**

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<tr>
<th>GER ASSESSMENT:</th>
<th>4</th>
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<tr>
<td>Scoring Level</td>
<td>Exceptional A 17-20 points</td>
<td>Distinctive B 13-16 points</td>
<td>Successful C 9-12 points</td>
<td>Substandard D 5-8 points</td>
<td>Failing F 0-4 points</td>
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**Presentation**
- Student's performance indicates regular and sustained practice outside of class, with great attention to areas of difficulty.
- Student's performance indicates some practice outside of class, but with little attention to areas of difficulty.
- Student's performance indicates there is very little practice outside of class.
- Student’s performance indicated there’s no practice outside of class.

**Technique, (Hand Position, note accuracy and fingerings).**
- Performer exhibits consistent accuracy, control. Utilizes efficient hand position and good fingerings.
- Good most of the time, occasional problems. Few errors in either accuracy or finger choices.
- Good some of the time. Fingerings and/or hand positions are sometimes not followed, causing accuracy problems.
- Fair, consistent problems. Student is inaccurate in notes and/or inaccurate in choice of fingers.
- Student fails to achieve the majority of the correct notes and plays in a consistently inefficient hand position using incorrect fingers.

**Rhythm**
- The beat is steady and the rhythms are accurate.
- The beat is steady and the rhythms are mostly accurate. There are a few duration errors, but these do not detract from the overall performance.
- The beat is somewhat inconsistent. Rhythm problems occasionally detract from the overall performance.
- The beat is somewhat erratic. Frequent or repeated duration errors detracting from the overall performance.
- No rhythmic accuracy. Lack of internal pulse.

**Dynamics, Articulation (staccato/legato), and Interpretation**
- Performance exhibits a wide range of appropriate dynamics and articulations.
- Performance exhibits a consistent dynamic range most of the time. Most articulations observed.
- Dynamic variation and articulation differences apparent, but range is limited.
- Some dynamic changes attempted. Little attempt at articulations.
- Little or no dynamic change, and no articulations observed.