MUS 146 GROUP PIANO LEVEL I

COURSE SYLLABUS

General Goals

I. Development of keyboard skills sufficient to play elementary repertoire. Emphasis is on elements of musical form: rhythm, melody, harmony, texture, dynamics, and color.

II. The use of the piano as a means of expression: interpretation of the music itself.

III. The use of the piano as a functional teaching instrument: sight-reading, transposition, harmonization, accompanying, and improvisation.

Course Procedure

Successful progress will ensue if regular practice occurs. Numerous grades on a variety of assignments will keep the student aware of the instructor's response to his/her work. The day by day effort accumulates in such a way that the final jury is meant as an outgrowth of the semester's work.

Course Content

I. Literature
   A. *Alfred's Group Piano For Adults*, Book I, by E.L. Lancaster and Kenon D. Renfrow.

II. Patterns for Keyboard Technique

   A. Single note patterns
      1. Penta-scales: major and minor
      2. Major scales: hands separately, two octaves

   B. Chord patterns
      1. Chord sequence: I IV^{6}_{4} I V^{6}_{4} V^{4}_{3} I

      2. Key signature and orientation to tonality: Circle of fifths.

III. Creative and Functional Use of Patterns

   A. Sight-reading
   B. Harmonization
   C. Pianistic variation to block chord accompaniment
   D. Improvise simple question and answer phrases using sequence and inversion
   E. Transposition of single-line melodies

Proficiency Requirements (combination of the midterm and final exams)

I. Literature

A. Four pieces from various stylistic periods taken from the text (two pieces for the midterm exam and two pieces for the final exam). One of these pieces must be memorized.

II. Technique

A. Major scales: hands separately with traditional fingerings, two octaves.

B. Chord sequence: I IV^{6}_{4} I V^{6}_{4} V^{4}_{3} I

III. Melodies and Harmonizations

A. Four harmonizations will prepared during the semester (two during midterm exam; two during final exam). These harmonizations should be in different keys, including one in a minor key, and should display a variety of accompaniment patterns. Memorization is required.

IV. Sight-Reading

A. A melody moving from one hand to the other.

B. Given a melody, harmonize it with appropriate chords in block position. This This harmonization will include the chords I IV and V^{7}.

V. Transposition

A. A melody in either hand within the scope of an octave.