MUP 466: Advanced Piano Pedagogy

Instructor: Dr. Mario Ajero  
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Office: FA 309 (Fine Arts Building)  
Office Hours: MW (1-2), TR (Between classes), F (10-11, 2-3), or email for appointment  
Department: Music  
Class meeting place: BOYT 223 Piano Lab (Boynton Building) & FA 309 (Fine Arts Building)  
Class meeting times: Mondays & Wednesdays 2:00-2:50 pm

STUDENT OBJECTIVES:  
The objectives of the third semester of piano pedagogy include gaining knowledge through readings, lectures, research, discussions, and practical experience in teaching piano students and evaluating one’s own teaching through video and peer feedback.

SEMESTER HOUR JUSTIFICATION  
(4 credits) typically meets two times each week in 50-minute segments for 15 weeks. Students have weekly assignments that include a mixture of readings, observations, and writing. These activities average at a minimum 4 hours of work each week outside of classroom hours. Students are also expected to teach piano students outside of normal classroom times as part of their practicum. They should expect weekly conferences outside of classroom hours with the instructor to discuss lesson planning and feedback on instruction. These teaching activities and conferences will average a minimum of 2 additional hours of work each week outside of classroom hours.

REQUIRED MATERIALS:  
Transformational Piano Teaching, by Derek Kealii Polischuk (ISBN: 9780190664664)  
Celebration Series Piano Repertoire & Etudes Levels 5 & 6 (2015 edition)  
The Piano Magazine: Clavier Companion (1-year, 4 issues - $24.00 print/digital subscription for collegiate subscribers)

RECOMMENDED MATERIALS:  
The Well-Tempered Keyboard Teacher, by Marienne Uszler, Stewart Gordon, Scott McBride Smith (2nd edition)

REQUIRED PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATION:  
Music Teachers National Association (MTNA) – mtna.org  
Collegiate Membership - $26.00 (includes $19 national member fee, $0 Texas State Association fee, $7 Nacogdoches MTA fee, and free subscription to American Music Teacher Magazine)

ATTENDANCE:  
Attendance to all classes is required. More than three unexcused absences will result in the final grade being lowered by 5%. Subsequent unexcused absences will lower final grades by an additional 3%. The instructor will excuse absences at his discretion. Proper documentation will be required for requests to excuse an absence. All students are expected to arrive to class on time ready with their textbook. Repeated tardiness will lower students’ final grade and could lead to failure of the course.
GRADING:
12% *Observation Reports* – 4 Total Reports. Observe a balance in variety of private lessons and group classes for beginner, intermediate, and advanced pianists.

12% *Practicum Teaching* – You will be assigned to teach students periodically through the semester. Teaching may involve college group piano students in courses for music majors and non-music majors and students in SFA Music Prep. Your teaching will be discussed in class and evaluated through either an in-person observation by the instructor or a review of a video that you prepare. You will also be graded on your lesson planning, organization, and how effectively students progress.

10% *Teaching Materials, Repertoire, & Etude reports* – You will periodically be assigned teaching materials to analyze their effectiveness and musical value. Repertoire will be examined for their technical, reading, and musical challenges. Students should expect to practice assigned repertoire outside of class in order to model exemplary performances for class reports and future students.

16% *Pedagogy Research Paper* – Write an 8-10 page paper (about 2500 words) on a topic related to piano pedagogy. Examples of topics may include but are not limited to: performance anxiety, effective practice techniques, educational psychology, etc. The goal is to produce a document that would benefit pianists and piano teachers from your research. Multiple sources should be referenced and included in a formal bibliography.

10% *Oral Presentation of your Research Paper* – 10-minute presentation on your pedagogy research paper. Discuss the main tenets of your research and how they can be applied to the teaching of piano students.

8% *Piano Studio Website* - Create your own functional website to provide a service or advertise your current or future independent piano studio.

16% *Other assignments and class participation* – Smaller homework assignments may include reading reflections, discussion posts, mini-presentations, critiques of classmates’ teaching, and service projects.

16% *Final Exam*
**Academic Integrity (A-9.1)** Academic integrity is a responsibility of all university faculty and students. Faculty members promote academic integrity in multiple ways including instruction on the components of academic honesty, as well as abiding by university policy on penalties for cheating and plagiarism.

Definition of Academic Dishonesty Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes but is not limited to (1) using or attempting to use unauthorized materials to aid in achieving a better grade on a component of a class; (2) the falsification or invention of any information, including citations, on an assigned exercise; and/or (3) helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism. Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were your own. Examples of plagiarism are (1) submitting an assignment as if it were one's own work when, in fact, it is at least partly the work of another; (2) submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from an Internet source or another source; and (3) incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one's paper without giving the author due credit.

Please read the complete policy at [http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_integrity.asp](http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_integrity.asp)

**Withheld Grades Semester Grades Policy (A-54)** Ordinarily, at the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F. If students register for the same course in future terms the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average.

**Students with Disabilities**
To obtain disability related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, and Room 325, 468-3004 / 468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to [http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/](http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/).