Instructor: Dr. Mario Ajero
Email: ajeromp@sfasu.edu
Phone: (936) 468-1389 (office) ; (936) 205-1881 (mobile/text/iOS)
Office: FA 309 (Fine Arts Building)
Office Hours: MWF (12:00-2:00), TR (between classes)
Department: Music
Class meeting place: Boynton 223 or FA 309 (Fine Arts Building)
Class meeting times: MW (2:00-2:50 p.m.)

Description of Course:
The objectives of the second semester of piano pedagogy include gaining knowledge and practical experience with elementary to intermediate methods and piano repertoire, and evaluating one’s own teaching through video and peer feedback. Two semester credit hours, this class typically meets twice each week (Mondays/Wednesdays) in 50-minute segments for 15 weeks. There will also be an examination during final exam week that takes up to two hours to complete. Students have significant weekly reading and repertoire assignments, are expected to submit written assignments and give multiple presentations and teaching demonstrations. One major class presentation requires students to review a significant collection or anthology of intermediate piano repertoire. There are also two video projects that require students to create two 4-10 minute digital videos covering an intermediate piano piece. Students will also teach in a public masterclass for the local music teachers association. There are also two required professional service responsibilities included in the coursework. These activities average approximately 6 hours of work each week to prepare outside of classroom hours.

REQUIRED MATERIALS:

*Other reading material will be posted on Desire2Learn or put on reserve in the library

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 books and other required materials. Repeated tardiness will lower students’ final grade and could lead to failure of the course.

Grading Scale:
Assignments are graded on a 100% scale:

A = 90.00% and above
B = 80.00% to 89.99%
C = 70.00% to 79.99%
D = 60.00% to 69.99%
F = Below 60.00%
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

Acceptable Student Behavior

Classroom behavior should not interfere with the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or the ability of other students to learn from the instructional program (see the Student Conduct Code, policy D-34.1). Unacceptable or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Students who disrupt the learning environment may be asked to leave class and may be subject to judicial, academic or other penalties. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including electronic, classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The instructor shall have full discretion over what behavior is appropriate/inappropriate in the classroom. Phones and mobile devices should be turned off and put away. The only acceptable use of devices is to check grades and comments on D2L. Students who do not attend class regularly or who perform poorly on class projects/exams may be referred to the iCare Early Intervention Program. This program provides students with recommendations for resources or other assistance that is available to help SFA students succeed.

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
ASSIGNMENTS:

15% Intermediate Repertoire Collection/Anthology Presentation – Give a 15-minute presentation on a significant intermediate piano repertoire collection or anthology. The collection of music will be assigned to you by the instructor. Performing a significant cross-section of the music is required along with presenting the strengths and weaknesses of the collection including the music’s appeal and value to a specific demographic of students.

10% Masterclass Teaching - Give a 15-20 minute masterclass to late elementary to intermediate piano student on April 6 10:00 am - 12:00 pm.

10% Teaching Demos – You will be assigned to give teaching demonstrations to either classmates or a visiting elementary or intermediate piano student. You will be graded on your lesson planning, its effectiveness, and your ability to communicate both verbally and non-verbally ways to improve the students’ performance.

10% Professional Service - Observe and assist with TMTA Theory Test for local Nacogdoches MTA (Feb. 9 10:00-11:30 am or Feb. 11 7:00-8:30 pm) and Monitor for at least one hour for local Nacogdoches MTA Baroque & Classical Festival (Feb. 22 3:00-6:00 pm or Feb. 23 9:00 am - 12:00 pm)

10% Article Reviews – 2 Written summaries from a piano pedagogy-related periodical such as American Music Teacher, Clavier Companion, or Piano Pedagogy Forum.

20% Video Project – You will produce two 4-10 minute digital videos covering an intermediate piano piece. The video will include a quality model performance of the piece along with teaching tips that will help students play the work as musically and efficiently as possible.

10% Observation Reports and other assignments - 4 Total Reports. (You will observe and write reports on classmates’ teaching demonstrations, group piano classes, or private lessons) Smaller homework assignments will include reading assignments and written reflections to be submitted.

15% Final Exam