MUAP 5364 - PIANO PEDAGOGY

Instructor: Dr. Mario Ajero
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Office Hours: MW (11-12, 1-2), TR (9-11), F (10-12), or email for appointment
Department: Music
Class meeting place and time: BOYT 223, MW 2:00-2:50 pm

PURPOSE OF THE COURSE:
1. Develop knowledge of teaching repertoire, focusing on beginners, elementary and intermediate level students.
2. Be able to effectively apply teaching techniques and skills for various types of teaching scenarios.

REQUIRED MATERIALS:

Alfred's Group Piano for Adults Book 1 (2nd edition) by Lancaster & Renfrow (Alfred Publishing Company)

*At least two piano teaching methods for Methods Presentation/Project

Membership to Music Teachers National Association, Texas Music Teachers Association, and Nacogdoches Music Teachers Association: mtna.org

RECOMMENDED MATERIALS:


PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOME:
The student will demonstrate knowledge of applicable solo materials, an orientation to the fundamentals of pedagogy as pertaining to the instrument or area of study, and comprehensive capabilities in preparing and performing a solo at a high level.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOME:
The student will demonstrate knowledge and understanding of how to incorporate piano teaching materials and methods by comparing and critiquing piano methods in written assignments and oral reports. The student will also gain practicum experience in teaching piano students.

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.
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. Students who do not attend class regularly or who perform poorly on class projects/exams may be referred to the Early Alert 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:

10% Observation Reports - 4 Total Reports. (You will observe and write a report on Group Piano Classes, private lessons, online lessons, or early childhood music classes)

15% Practicum Teaching - You will be evaluated on your practicum instruction of piano students in group piano classes, private lessons, or a combination of both. You will be evaluated on your lesson planning, the progress of students, and your ability to incorporate effective pedagogical methods within the context of the lessons

15% Research Paper/Article - 2000-2500 word paper or article that could be published in a piano pedagogical publication. It should address a topic or problem related to the field of teaching piano.

10% Presentation of Research - Prepare a 15-20 minute presentation of your research that could be given at a piano pedagogy conference. You should prepare visual aids such as a PowerPoint or Keynote slideshow and you will be graded on your effectiveness to engage the audience.

15% Elementary Methods Project Presentation - You will give a presentation comparing various elementary piano methods (i.e. Faber & Faber Piano Adventures, Succeeding at the Piano, Hal Leonard Student Piano Library). You will be graded on the clarity of your presentation, how you bring out the strengths and weaknesses of the method, visual aids such as handouts and PowerPoint/Keynote slides, and performance of educational material to demonstrate scope of the series.

20% Assignments, Discussions, and class participation - Other homework assignments may include teaching philosophy statements, short essays, mini-presentations, article reviews, lesson plans, and mini-lesson demonstrations.

15% Final Exam - Exam that will cumulatively cover material from the whole semester.
Course Topics Overview (Subject to change. Check Desire2Learn for updates.)

Developing a Teaching Philosophy
Teaching Beginner and Elementary Students
Beginning Methods
Principles of Learning
Teaching Rhythm and Reading
Teaching Technique and Musical Sound Development
Elementary Performance and Study Repertoire
Group Piano Instruction
Developing Musicality in students
Teaching the Variety of Touches at the Keyboard
Teaching Preschoolers
Technology in the Piano Studio
Business of Piano Teaching

FINAL EXAM: TBD during Final Exam week