MUAP 4466
Advanced Piano Pedagogy

Time: TBD  Location: Griffith Fine Arts Building Room 320  Credit Hours: 4.0

Instructor: Dr. Mario Ajero
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Office: Griffith Fine Arts Building Room 314
Phone: 936-468-1389 (Office), 936-205-1881 (Mobile)
Class Location: Griffith Fine Arts Building Room 320
Office Hours: MWF 12:00 - 2:00 pm, TR 9-11 am, or email for appointment

Course Description:
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 feedback.

Course Contact Hours & Practice/Study Hours
Class typically meets twice each week in 50-minute segments for approximately 15 weeks. Students should expect minimum of 6 hours of work each week outside of classroom hours. Students may also be required to observe group classes or private lessons and teach outside of classroom hours that may average approximately 2 hours per week.

Program Learning Outcome:
• Students will demonstrate proficiency in their degree track by completing projects, preparing performances, creating original content, and mastering skills as appropriate for their field.

Course Learning Outcomes
• Understand, create, and implement age- and level-appropriate materials, lesson plans, sequencing, and pacing.
• Identify effective strategies for diverse learners
• Analyze materials from intermediate to early advanced piano repertoire
• Guide students through healthy technical development from beginning through advanced levels.
• Demonstrate an ability to appropriately design, implement, and analyze appropriate praise, feedback, questions, and non-verbal feedback.
• Develop a basic understanding of business practices and opportunities for the independent teacher.

Required Materials & Membership:
Text: A subscription to Piano Magazine. Sign up either digital only or digital + print. https://pianoinspires.com/subscribe/

Collegiate Membership of MTNA (Music Teachers National Association):
https://www.mtna.org/MTNA/JoinAndRenew/Membership/Collegiate_Membership.aspx
Join MTNA, Texas Music Teachers Association (TMTA), Nacogdoches MTA, & SFASU Collegiate chapter. (Comes with subscription of American Music Teacher)

Attendance:
Regular and punctual class attendance is vital to your success in this course. You are allowed two unexcused absences throughout the semester for any reason. After this, each additional unexcused absence will lower your final grade by one unit (i.e. B+ to B). Three tardies (more than 10 minutes late
without a valid excuse) will result in an unexcused absence. Excused absences, with the exception of an emergency (less than 24 hours notice), should be communicated in advance and will be approved by me. It is your responsibility to complete any missed assignments within two weeks of your absence. Assignments missed due to an unexcused absence may be made up at the instructor’s discretion. Please communicate with me if you feel that an issue inside or outside of class is affecting your ability to be successful in this course.

Grading Scale:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>94-100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87-90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83-87</td>
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<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80-83</td>
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<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77-80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>73-77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70-73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>60-70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>&gt;60</td>
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</tbody>
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Minuses and Pluses are indicators of how close students are to letter grade thresholds. When the final grade is calculated, the letter grade on your transcript will not include minuses or pluses (i.e., A- equals A, B+ equals B, B- equals B, etc.).

Course requirements:

1. All written assignments should be word-processed, Times New Roman 12 font, with correct grammar, spelling, and syntax. All written work should be proofread before submitting to our D2L Brightspace Course Management Site.

2. Written assignments and presentations are due on the date/time stated on the D2L Brightspace Calendar. Late assignment grades will be reduced by one half grade for each day it is late (i.e., A becomes A-; B+ becomes a B).

Assignments:

1. **Student Teaching, Evaluation, and Reflection:** You will given regular teaching assignments (as logistics allow) which may include tutoring, private instruction, or group instruction of piano students. Periodic journal entries, instructor observation, self-evaluation, and class presentations on student progress will occur during the semester. Grades will be based upon lesson evaluations, lesson planning, observations, and attendance. Videos of teaching will be submitted at various times in the semester. In-person or additional video observations may be requested.

2. **Course Readings/Videos, Class Discussion, & Written Assignments:** All reading and video assignments will be available on D2L Brightspace. These readings/videos will support class discussion and prepare you for written assignments. Please thoughtfully consider readings and class discussion as you prepare your assignments.

3. **Professional Teacher Observations:** You will observe at least two different teachers this semester. Observations should go beyond the general format of the lesson and dig into topics of communication, feedback, questioning, and non-verbal communication. At least one teacher should be from the SFA Music Preparatory Division.

4. **Research Presentation:** Presentation and written document on a pedagogy-related topic suitable for publication and presentation at a music teachers conference.

5. **Repertoire Evaluation and Performance:** Performance and evaluation of standard intermediate literature. A high level of practice and performance is expected.

6. **Teaching Reflections:** A two/three-page end-of-semester reflection on your semester teaching and Philosophy of Teaching Statement.
Grading:

**Student Teaching:**
- Journal Entries (12) 60
- Video and Self-Evaluation (20 pts. X 3) 60
- Individual Meetings with Instructor (5 pts. X 2) 10

**Professional Teacher Observations** (20 pts. X 2) 40

**Written D2L Brightspace Discussion Responses** (10 pts. X 8) 80

**Research Project** 50

**Intermediate Literature Presentation** 50

**Class Participation** 50

**Final Teaching Reflection** 50

**Philosophy of Teaching Statement** 50

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**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 promptly may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to [http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices](http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices)

**Withheld Grades Semester Grades Policy (5.5)**
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 coursework 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 to compute the grade point average. For additional information, go to [https://www.sfasu.edu/policies/course-grades-5.5.pdf](https://www.sfasu.edu/policies/course-grades-5.5.pdf)
**Academic Integrity (4.1)**

The Code of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity outlines the prohibited conduct by any student enrolled in a course at SFA. It is the responsibility of all members of all faculty, staff, and students to adhere to and uphold this policy.

Articles IV, VI, and VII of the new Code of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity outline the violations and procedures concerning academic conduct, including cheating, plagiarism, collusion, and misrepresentation. Cheating includes, but is not limited to: (1) Copying from the test paper (or other assignment) of another student, (2) Possession and/or use during a test of materials that are not authorized by the person giving the test, (3) Using, obtaining, or attempting to obtain by any means the whole or any part of a non-administered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program, or using a test that has been administered in prior classes or semesters without permission of the Faculty member, (4) Substituting for another person, or permitting another person to substitute for one’s self, to take a test, (5) Falsifying research data, laboratory reports, and/or other records or academic work offered for credit, (6) Using any sort of unauthorized resources or technology in completion of educational activities.

Plagiarism is the appropriation of material that is attributable in whole or in part to another source or the use of one’s own previous work in another context without citing that it was used previously, without any indication of the original source, including words, ideas, illustrations, structure, computer code, and other expression or media, and presenting that material as one’s own academic work being offered for credit or in conjunction with a program course or degree requirements.

Collusion is the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing academic assignments offered for credit or collaboration with another person to commit a violation of any provision of the rules on academic dishonesty, including disclosing and/or distributing the contents of an exam.

Misrepresentation is providing false grades or résumés; providing false or misleading information in an effort to receive a postponement or an extension on a test, quiz, or other assignment for the purpose of obtaining an academic or financial benefit for oneself or another individual or to injure another student academically or financially.
Student Wellness and Well-Being
SFA values students’ overall well-being, mental health and the role it plays in academic and overall student success. Students may experience stressors that can impact both their academic experience and their personal well-being. These may include academic pressure and challenges associated with relationships, emotional well-being, alcohol and other drugs, identities, finances, etc.

If you are experiencing concerns, seeking help, SFA provides a variety of resources to support students’ mental health and wellness. Many of these resources are free, and all of them are confidential.

On-campus Resources:
The Dean of Students Office (Rusk Building, 3rd floor lobby)
www.sfasu.edu/deanofstudents
936.468.7249
dos@sfasu.edu

SFA Human Services Counseling Clinic Human Services, Room 202
www.sfasu.edu/humanservices/139.asp
936.468.1041

The Health and Wellness Hub - “The Hub” (corner of E. College and Raguet St.)
To support the health and well-being of every Lumberjack, the Health and Wellness Hub offers comprehensive services that treat the whole person – mind, body and spirit. Services include:
- Health Services
- Counseling Services
- Student Outreach and Support
- Food Pantry
- Wellness Coaching
- Alcohol and Other Drug Education

www.sfasu.edu/thehub
936.468.4008
thehub@sfasu.edu

Crisis Resources:
- Burke 24-hour crisis line: 1.800.392.8343
- National Suicide Crisis Prevention: 9-8-8
- Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1.800.273.TALK (8255)
- Crisis Text Line: Text HELLO to 741-741